About this Release

This release describes progress towards improving the completeness of ethnic group recording in acute hospital discharge records (SMR01) and new outpatient appointment records (SMR00). The two graphs below relate to the quarter July – September 2013.

Key Points

- For Scotland as a whole there has been a steady improvement in the recording of ethnic group over the last two years. Completeness of recording has improved 12 percentage points to 78% for inpatient and day case records (SMR01) and by 20 percentage points to 67% for new outpatient appointment records (SMR00).

- Increased recording of code ‘98’ – ‘Refused/Not provided’ in SMR01 and SMR00 data has been seen at some Boards over the last four quarters. This variation is being investigated locally.

Figure 1: Percentage of hospital discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; July - September 2013.
Background
The NHS Scotland Quality Strategy commits the NHS in Scotland to “understanding the needs of different communities, eliminating discrimination, reducing inequality, protecting human rights and building good relations by breaking down barriers that may be preventing people from accessing the care and services that they need”. The UK Government’s Equality Act requires public authorities to collect equality characteristics such as ethnicity to demonstrate that they are meeting the public sector equality duty.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website

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Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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