Publication Summary

Improving ethnic data collection for equality and diversity monitoring
April 2013 – March 2015
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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 January – March 2015.

Key Points
- For Scotland as a whole there has been a steady improvement in the recording of ethnic group over the last two years. However completeness of recording for inpatient and day case records (SMR01) for the last quarter remained at 82% and for new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) dropped by 1 percentage point to 73%.

- Increased recording of code ‘98’ – ‘Refused/Not provided’ in SMR01 and SMR00 data has been seen in some Boards from 2012 onwards and is shown in lighter shading in the graphs below. 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; January - March 2015.
Figure 2: Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of treatment; January - March 2015.

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. Reliable information on the ethnic group of people admitted to hospital in Scotland is essential to reduce inequalities and ensure services are delivered fairly.

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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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