Findings from Balance of Care / Continuing Care Census

Census held 31 March 2014
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About this Release

This report presents findings from the annual Balance of Care/NHS Continuing Health Care census held on 31st March 2014. It is important to note that these data represent a snapshot of the position at a certain point in time. The figures do not present the total number of individuals who were in receipt of Continuing Care over the whole year.

Since this census was carried out an independent review of NHS Continuing Care has been published, commissioned by the Scottish Government (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/2480). This makes a number of recommendations about how this type of care is provided including recommendations about the data collection method. The Scottish Government have accepted the recommendations and committed to review the current guidance in time for implementation from April 2015. Therefore, this will be the final publication of the Continuing Care census under the current guidance and ISD will work with the Scottish Government on the best method to measure Continuing Care under the revised guidance.

Key Points

Patients who are receiving NHS Continuing Health Care as a result of a decision made under the terms of the NHS Continuing Health Care guidance are recorded as Category A patients.

- At March 2014, 1,634 Category A patients were reported as receiving NHS Continuing Health Care The figures have shown a decrease of 5% (77 patients) from the March 2013 census.
- At March 2014, 78% of Category A patients were aged 65 years and over.

Patients who do not specifically meet the criteria for NHS Continuing Health Care but who have been in hospital for over one year and for whom no estimated date of discharge has been set are recorded as Category B patients.

- At March 2014, there were 521 patients who did not meet the criteria for NHS Continuing Health Care but who have been in hospital for over one year and for whom no estimated date of discharge has been set (Category B); this is a decrease of 7% (41 patients) from last year.
- 21% of Category B patients were aged 65 years and over.
Figure 1 Patients reported in Scotland to the Balance of Care / Continuing Care Census, March 2009 to March 2014

Background
Any individual of any age, with any illness or disability, may be entitled to NHS Continuing Health Care. It is entirely dependent on whether an individual is eligible according to their assessed needs and not on a particular disease, diagnosis, condition or age.

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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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