About this Release

Preventing and treating heart disease is a national clinical priority for Scotland. Over 7,500 people died from coronary heart disease in Scotland in calendar year 2012. There were over 19,300 new cases of coronary heart disease in financial year 2012/13.

This ‘Heart Disease Indicators’ publication presents a selection of indicators for the period 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013 by health board of residence of the patient. Information is provided for a range of cardiovascular-related conditions and procedures in Scotland, including congestive heart failure (CHF), heart attacks, angioplasty and coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG).

The measures used include mean and median length of stay, proportion of emergency readmissions within 30 days of discharge from hospital, mortality within 30 days of discharge from hospital and in-hospital mortality.

Key Points

- This publication is a technical report that is designed to be used as a resource by health boards. The heart disease indicators have the potential to inform improvements in the quality of care and patient experience.

- For the majority of the 18 indicators within this publication, the data points for all health boards show variation that is within expected boundaries relative to the Scottish average.

- Six of the indicators contain data points for some health boards that show variation outside the expected boundaries. These may be worthy of further consideration using local expert knowledge. Although there are some outliers, the majority of health boards lie within the expected boundaries for these indicators.
The six indicators that show variation outside the expected boundaries relate to the average length of stay in hospital for admissions involving heart attack, angioplasty and coronary artery bypass grafts.

Background

The indicators contained within this report are based on the measures recommended in the Heart Disease Improvement Programme National Overview, published in September 2011 by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. These indicators were chosen as they have the “potential to inform improvements in the quality of care and patient experience”.

It is important to note that the indicators in this publication cannot be used alone as a basis for making reliable judgements about the quality of clinical care. Attempting to do so could easily lead to incorrect conclusions being drawn. Instead, the indicators serve as flags or pointers, drawing attention to areas worthy of further consideration. Local and expert knowledge is required to interpret the data meaningfully.

In addition to this publication, the annual Heart Disease Statistics publication will be released by ISD later in 2014.

Contact

Andrew Deas
Principal Information Analyst
andrew.deas@nhs.net
0131 275 7030

Charles Guthrie
Senior Information Analyst
charles.guthrie@nhs.net
0131 275 6340

Alex Henriquez
Information Analyst
ahenriquez@nhs.net
0141 275 7999

Further Information

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