**Scottish Atlas of Variation**

Exploring geographical variation in the health & care system in Scotland.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland (Experimental)
Publication date: 29 January 2019

**About this release**

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) introduces experimental statistics for the second iteration of the Scottish Atlas of Variation and presents population rates for three surgical procedures: tonsillectomy, cholecystectomy, and hernia.

In addition, same day surgery rates are also provided based on the British Association of Day Surgery (BADS) methodology.

Information is reported at Health Board of Residence and Local Authority level for financial years 2013/14 – 2017/18.

**Main Points**

**Tonsillectomy**

- In 2017/18 there was a 2.0-fold variation in the rate of tonsillectomy procedures across NHS Boards, ranging from 57.7 to 118.3 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 76.4.

- Elective adult tonsillectomy same day surgery rates across NHS Boards in 2017/18, ranged from 0% to 100% and the corresponding Scotland figure was 43.9%. The BADS aspirational goal is 90%.

- Elective paediatric tonsillectomy same day surgery rates across NHS Boards in 2017/18, ranged from 0% to 82.4% and the corresponding Scotland figure was 35.3%. The BADS aspirational goal is 70%.

**Cholecystectomy**

- In 2017/18 there was a 2.2-fold variation in the rate of cholecystectomy procedures across NHS Boards, ranging from 105.0 to 226.8 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 140.7.

- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy same day surgery rates across NHS Boards in 2017/18, ranged from 6.7% to 60.3% and the corresponding Scotland figure was 32.8%. The BADS aspirational goal is 75%.
Hernia

- In 2017/18 there was a 1.6-fold variation in the rate of hernia procedures across NHS Boards, ranging from 160.4 to 250.4 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 194.9.

- Primary repair of inguinal hernia same day surgery rates across NHS Boards in 2017/18, ranged from 35.5% to 89.7% and the corresponding Scotland figure was 72.6%. The BADS aspirational goal is 95%.

Background

The Scottish Atlas of Variation aims to highlight geographical variation in the provision of health services and associated health outcomes. It is designed to facilitate discussion and raise questions about why differences exist and promote quality improvement through this conversation.

The Scottish Atlas of Variation is an important tool to contribute to eliminating unwarranted variation, realising Realistic Medicine and support reducing harm and waste within the health service. The tool is designed to highlight variation and no judgement on the performance or inferences on quality of care of one geographical area against another should be concluded.

Please see the Introduction section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the interactive dashboard. The data from this publication is available to download from our ISD web page along with user guide, methodology and metadata documents.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.