Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme
2018 National Report

A Management Information publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division presents the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme 2018 Annual National Report. This includes data, from the Scottish Stroke Care Audit, describing the quality of stroke care in each acute hospital, grouped by NHS Board, during 2017, measuring each hospital against Scottish Stroke Care Standards (2016).

Main Points

During 2017 over 9,000 patients were admitted to hospital with a final diagnosis of stroke and included in the Scottish Stroke Care Audit.

- Across Scotland, the measure of appropriate care has improved from 61% in 2016 to 64% in 2017. The majority of health boards have seen improvement over this time, but all health boards remain below the 80% standard.
- Only 13 patients in 2017 underwent mechanical thrombectomy, a technique to physically remove the clot to open up the artery. Based on comparisons with other countries, an estimated 600 patients with severe ischemic stroke could benefit from such a service, but currently no centres in Scotland can offer stroke thrombectomy.
- The total number of patients receiving thrombolysis increased in 2017 to its highest level since 2009 - 12.9% of ischemic stroke patients (19 per 100,000 of population).
- The standard of 80% patients receiving thrombolysis within 1 hour of arrival at hospital has been exceeded in two hospitals in 2017, the first time any hospital has achieved this standard.
Background

The SSCA monitors the quality of care provided by the hospitals in all Health Boards by collating data collected by the stroke Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs). Appropriate care is measured using the stroke care bundle, which comprises four key components: admission to a stroke unit, swallow screen, brain scan and aspirin. Not all patients are eligible for all four components.

These data are used by the Scottish Government to monitor progress against the Scottish Stroke Care Standards (2016) and the Scottish Stroke Improvement Plan (2014). Health Boards are expected to identify aspects of their stroke services which do not meet the Scottish Standards and to work with their stroke MCNs to improve their standards of care locally.

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Further Information

For more information on Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme and for the full report please see the Scottish Stroke Care Audit website. For related topics, please see the Scottish Healthcare Audits section of our website. A tableau dashboard will be available on publication day.

The next release of this publication will be July 2019.

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.