Fit notes issued by GP practices: December 2014 – March 2017
Experimental Statistics

Registered patient coverage

Of 207 CCGs - 70 had more than 95% coverage and 25 had less than 5%

62.4%
England level patient coverage in March 2017.

There are four GP system suppliers providing fit note data. Of these TPP provided no data for practices using their system.

The full dataset is available here: http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/fitnotesmar17

5,603,986 fit notes issued by included practices (62.1 per cent) in 2016-17.

Coverage - proportion of patients aged 18 to 65 years old registered at GP practices included in these data.

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Author: Primary Care Domain, NHS Digital
Responsible Statistician: Kathryn Salt
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Fit notes

1 fit note per 48 patients aged 18 to 65, were issued by GPs on average per month in 2016-17.

6.5% of fit notes reported in 2016-17 were classified as **May be Fit** for work. More than 4 in 5 of these recommended an adaptation in the workplace, working hours or duties.

33.6% of fit notes were for 5 weeks or longer in 2016-17.

31.3% of fit notes with a known diagnosis were for **mental and behavioural disorders** in 2016-17 compared to 18.0 per cent for **diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue**.

Fit notes for **diseases of the respiratory system** show a clear seasonal variation.

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Episodes

An episode is the same period of sickness covered by one or more fit notes.

Proportion of episodes with >1 fit note and a known diagnosis

58.5% of episodes comprise 1 fit note in 2016-17, a decrease from 59.1 per cent in 2015-16.

6.7% of episodes comprise 5 or more fit notes in 2016-17, an increase from 5.8 per cent in 2015-16.

21.5% of mental and behavioural episodes are for more than 12 weeks, compared to 2.8 per cent for diseases of the respiratory system in 2016-17. Whilst the proportion for all episodes was 14.7 per cent.

Distribution of episode duration for top 4 fit note diagnoses