National Diabetes Foot Care Audit (NDFA) Hospital Admissions Report 2014-2016

England and Wales

Published 12 October 2017

The four findings below show a relationship between ulcer severity and all types of hospital admission. This highlights the importance of early expert assessment of new diabetic foot ulcers, which the NDFA has shown is associated with lower ulcer severity.

1. Any admission
   People with severe ulcers are more likely to be admitted to hospital than people with less severe ulcers (61 vs 40 per cent).

2. Foot disease
   People with severe ulcers were three times as likely to have a foot disease admission (34 vs 10 per cent).

3. Revascularisations
   12 per cent of people with severe ulcers had revascularisation, three times as many as those with less severe ulcers.

4. Amputations
   8 per cent of people in the NDFA had amputations; three quarters of major amputations involved people with severe ulcers.

The full annual report and local level reports can be found at: http://www.digital.nhs.uk/pubs/ndfa-HAR1416

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This report looks at hospital inpatient activity during the 6 months following first expert assessment by the specialist foot care service for an active diabetic foot ulcer.

Results are reported for: all hospital admissions, foot disease admissions, length of stay, revascularisation and amputation.

Consequently the audit recommends that … services should try to establish local pathways that minimise the time taken to be seen by an expert multidisciplinary foot treatment team.