Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to September 2010. Post-operative Data: Experimental Statistics Data Quality Note

The data quality note will be updated in the event of issues arising post-publication. A summary of changes made will appear in the table below. For the most recent version of this data quality note, please refer to HESonline [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

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<td>'Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in England – April 2009 to September 2010. Post-operative Data: Experimental Statistics Data Quality Note’ published</td>
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Please note this data is provisional and subject to changes and revisions each month. It should be treated as an estimate until the final annual publication.

PROMs publication

Following the first publication of post-operative scores in September 2010, this is the latest monthly update from the Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) programme. This publication builds upon the published pre-operative data and considers the change in patients’ self-reported health status for the four common elective surgical procedures in the PROMs programme: groin hernia surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement and varicose vein surgery. Analysis covers the period from April 2009 to the end of September 2010 and includes pre-operative questionnaires that all English providers treating NHS patients have been asked to collect from patients who wish to participate and post-operative questionnaires returned by patients following their surgery. Not all patients undergoing the relevant operations returned questionnaires for a variety of reasons.

Experimental dataset

The report is classed as experimental statistics as it contains new official statistics that are undergoing evaluation. Its aim is to provide an overall summary and presentation of the key findings based on the data available rather than to provide a detailed interpretive analysis. Detailed analysis of the data has been commissioned by the Department of Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Publishing the post-operative PROMs questionnaire data as experimental statistics enables:
• initial findings to be presented for discussion and further investigation;
• information on data coverage and quality to be made available to encourage local action to improve these areas;
• users to comment on methodology and their needs for analysis. Statistical and casemix adjustments to the PROMs data, developed by contractors¹ on behalf of the Department of Health, are being applied in this publication in advance of a planned cycle of further refinement to the methodology.

¹ CHKS Ltd in conjunction with Northgate Information Solutions Ltd.
Data quality considerations

A full list of data quality considerations including coverage, missing values, ambiguous values and demographics is contained within the PROMs guide, which is available to download from HESonline [www.hesonline.nhs.uk].

Data completeness

Monthly provisional data may be incomplete or contain errors which have not been investigated or adjusted yet. The number of eligible episodes and questionnaires received may change for previous months due to updated clinical coding and delayed submission of questionnaires. In general, counts from the monthly provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final annual dataset. The tables in Annex 1 display the most recent counts. Over time these will be updated to show the month-on-month change.

As part of the continued verification of questionnaires, it is possible for questionnaires to be identified as ineligible. Ineligible questionnaires are those which should not have been administered. This may be because the recipient of the questionnaire is not due to have/has had a procedure, or, that they have previously completed a questionnaire. These questionnaires have therefore not been included within any counts and any responses from these questionnaires have not been included within any analysis. As such, a decrease in the number of pre-operative questionnaires may be seen in some months.

POIS audit

Approximately 80 providers were involved from April 2009 to September 2009 in the Patient Outcomes in Surgery (POIS) audit for orthopaedic procedures. Data from the POIS Audit is now included within the PROMs data set. As such an increase has been seen in the participation rate when compared to last month. Further details around the POIS audit are included in the PROMs guide, which is available to download from HESonline [http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1295].

Known provider issues in HES: coverage issues

PROMs data is linked to HES inpatient data. HES inpatient data in the PROMs dataset is cumulative and includes all finalised linked episodes from 2009-10 and provisional linked episodes from 2010-11. The HES 2009-10 Month 14 Inpatient Data Quality Note noted that the following organisations have been identified as having shortfalls/missing data or specific data quality issues with their HES inpatient data. Their data should interpreted with caution.

### Organisations with HES inpatient shortfalls/missing data in the HES 2009-10 Month 14 Inpatient Data Quality

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<th>Months affected</th>
<th>Approx. total number of records missing</th>
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The HES 2010–11 Month 7 Inpatient Data Quality Note noted that the following organisations have been identified as having shortfalls/missing data or specific data quality issues with their HES inpatient data. Their data should interpreted with caution.
Organisations with HES inpatient shortfalls/missing data in the HES 2010–11 Month 7 Inpatient Data Quality Note

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Known issues in PROMs: coverage issues

Due to the festive period and adverse weather in December 2010, the number of pre- and post-operative questionnaires sent out and returned was affected. This has had the effect of reducing the pre-operative participation rate and increasing the post-operative return rate. These issues have been addressed and the corrective impact will be seen over the forthcoming months.
## Annex A - Data completeness tables

### Eligible HES episodes

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### Pre-operative questionnaires

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2 These figures are based upon episode start date. The majority of data from April 2009 to March 2010 has been finalised and will not change. HES episodes ending from April 2010 onwards are currently provisional and are subject to change.
### Questionnaires linked to episodes

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<td>11,565</td>
<td>10,021</td>
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<td>8,898</td>
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### Post-operative questionnaires returned

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<th>Jun-09</th>
<th>Jul-09</th>
<th>Aug-09</th>
<th>Sep-09</th>
<th>Oct-09</th>
<th>Nov-09</th>
<th>Dec-09</th>
<th>Jan-10</th>
<th>Feb-10</th>
<th>Mar-10</th>
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3 These figures are based on questionnaires linked to HES episodes using an algorithm that compares a number of different combinations of patient identifiers. This methodology may be revised or enhanced for future publications. The counts are based upon the pre-operative questionnaire completion date.

4 The counts are based upon the pre-operative questionnaire completion date.