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This document should be referenced by those using Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data sets to be aware of data quality known issues found on HES Admitted Patient Care database

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## Contents

### Background
- HES Data Dictionary 4
- Critical care data 4

### Issues – Field Specific
- Operative Procedure fields 4
- Age at CDS Activity Date / Age on Admission 5
- Age fields 5
- Delivery place type (actual) 5
- CCG of Responsibility 5

### Issues – Provider Specific
- Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (RJD) 6
- Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust (RY1) 6
- Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust (RY9) 6
- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust (RJ6) 7
- Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RC9) 7
- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust (RCF) 7
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RQM) 7
- Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RTG) 7
- Coverage Issues 8

### Other notes or findings
- Extract date not consistent across all providers 9
- Delivery and Birth Episodes 10

### Feedback
10
Background

Data Quality Notes highlight any specific known issues with the data to be considered when analysing the data. The HES Data Quality Notes are designed for HES system users and those requesting extracts.

This document accompanies Hospital Episode Statistics for Admitted Patient Care Data - April 2014 to March 2015.

HES Data Dictionary

The HES Data Dictionary is published on the HSCIC website below. Please send any data dictionary queries to enquiries@hscic.gov.uk referencing HES data dictionaries in the subject.

http://www.hscic.gov.uk/chesdatadictionary

Critical care data

Adult critical care summary information for 2008-09 – 2013-14 is available on the HSCIC website: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/statisticsa-

Issues – Field Specific

The following issues have been identified in the Annual Refresh (AR) data:

Operative Procedure fields

OPCS codes: codes no longer included for OPCS 4.7

OPCS 4.7 has been introduced into HES for the 2014-15 data year. Amongst the changes in OPCS 4.7 are a number of codes that are no longer used.

It has been decided to retain these retired codes for data analysis while Providers adjust to the transition of submitting the 4th Edition codes.

From Month 1 2015 these codes will be changed to the default code as they will have been retired for over a year and are only present in small numbers. The retired codes are listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description in HES 2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R031</td>
<td>Retired OPCS 4.6 code – not valid in OPCS 4.7: Early selective feticide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R032</td>
<td>Retired OPCS 4.6 code – not valid in OPCS 4.7: Late selective feticide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R038</td>
<td>Retired OPCS 4.6 code – not valid in OPCS 4.7: Other specified selective destruction of fetus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R039</td>
<td>Retired OPCS 4.6 code – not valid in OPCS 4.7: Unspecified selective destruction of fetus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X153</td>
<td>Retired OPCS 4.6 code – not valid in OPCS 4.7: Excision of ovotestis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age at CDS Activity Date / Age on Admission
Some incorrect values have been reported within this field. This may be due to technical issues when providers submit data. Caution is advised when using this field for some providers. However, at least 98% of values within this field have been correctly derived. At least 99% of records contain an age which is within 1 year of the correct age.

Age fields
Please note that due to some hospital systems using either ‘01/01/1900’ or ‘01/01/1901’ as a default date of birth, there are a high number of records that contain age fields with values of ‘114’ or ‘115’.
Impact: These field values should be interpreted with caution.

Delivery place type (actual)
There are a small number of maternity episodes recorded for the field ‘delivery place type (actual)’ with a value of ‘1’ (a domestic address) when the field ‘episode type’ is ‘2’ or ‘3’ (delivery or birth). It is unclear which field has been incorrectly recorded and so we urge caution when analysing these two conditions together. This is due to issues with local systems with some providers.

This issue also applies where’ episode type’ is ‘5’ or ‘6’ (other deliveries or births) and the ‘delivery place type (actual)’ value states delivery took place within a hospital. E.g. a value of ‘0’ (In NHS hospital: delivery facilities associated with midwife ward) or ‘2’ (In NHS hospital: delivery facilities associated with consultant ward).
Impact: This field’s data should therefore be interpreted with caution for some providers.

CCG of Responsibility
There are 191,484 episodes recorded with a CCG of responsibility of 13T (NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG) instead of 00F, 00G and 00H, as the succeeding code 13T didn’t become effective until 01/04/2015.
Issues – Provider Specific

The following providers have been identified in the Annual Refresh (AR) data for presenting issues:

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (RJD)

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (RJD) is no longer providing healthcare as of 1st November 2014. Records for this organisation with activity from this date are split between University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (RJE) and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RL4). It has been decided not to map RJD records to the successor organisations as Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust will remain open until a suitable agreement has been made with its stakeholders.

Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust (RY1)

Incomplete fields. The above Provider has extremely low counts or no values for the following fields:

- Postcode of patient (HOMEADD)
- Local patient identifier (LOPATID)
- NHS number (NEWNHSNO)
- Day of birth (DOB)
- All Diagnosis (DIAG) fields
- Neonatal level of care (NEOCARE)

This will affect all derived fields as well.

Impact: Caution is advised when using the fields from this Provider and should be taken into account when using the fields at national or regional levels.

Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust (RY9)

Incomplete Diagnosis fields. Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust (RY9) has no values for any of the Diagnosis fields. This will affect all derived fields as well.

Impact: Caution is advised when using the fields from this trust and should be taken into account when using the fields at national or regional levels.
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust (RJ6)

Incomplete Diagnosis fields. The above Provider has missing data for all diagnoses fields from diag_04 up to diag_20. The data is present for diag_01 up to diag_03.

Impact: Caution is advised when using the diag_04 onwards from this trust and should be taken into account when using these fields at national or regional levels.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RC9)

Gestation Length. Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RC9) has unusually high counts in the field ‘Gestation length’ (Gestat1) for low gestation length values. This is as a result of this data being converted into values representing days rather weeks in the submission process.

Impact: Caution is advised when using the fields from this trust.

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust (RCF)
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RQM)

Sextuplets. The above Providers have large numbers of delivery records containing spurious birth tails due to a system fault. Instead of the one or two delivery tails that should be attached to the delivery record, typically 6 delivery tails are present. Birth records are not affected.

Impact: For these organisations, a large number of delivery records incorrectly representing high order multiple births are present in the data.

Impact: Caution is advised when using the above records.

Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RTG)

Waiting time. Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RTG) has unusually low coverage in the field Waiting Time (Elecdur) due to low coverage in Date of the Decision to Admit Date (Elecdate).

Impact: Caution is advised when using this field from this trust and should be taken into account when using this field at national or regional levels.
Coverage Issues
The following organisations present shortfalls or missing data; their data should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3: Estimated number of records missing per organisation at the specified periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation name</th>
<th>Org. code</th>
<th>Months affected</th>
<th>Approx. total no. of records missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glenbourne</td>
<td>NR515</td>
<td>Aug - Mar</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halstead Clinic</td>
<td>NQA34</td>
<td>Apr - Mar</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RWN</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spire Liverpool Hospital</td>
<td>NT337</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Peter’s Hospital</td>
<td>NQA31</td>
<td>Sep - Mar</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetbury Hospital Trust</td>
<td>AAH01</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other notes or findings

Extract date not consistent across all providers

The majority of the 2014-15 data reflects interchanges submitted to SUS before 5pm on the 22 May 2015.

Some data for the following organisations was extracted from SUS on the 20 July 2015:

Table 2: Organisations with data extracted on 20 July 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation name</th>
<th>Org. code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RXT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RV3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RWK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RJ1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medway Community Healthcare</td>
<td>NQ7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East London NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optegra UK</td>
<td>NNH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Health Solutions Limited HQ</td>
<td>NEQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust</td>
<td>RWD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RM2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delivery and Birth Episodes

There are a number of Providers where there are less Birth Episodes than Delivery Episodes. There are a number of possible reasons for this occurring in small numbers from genuine recording scenarios to other maternity data quality issues impacting. The table below lists the Providers with the most significant discrepancies:

Table 3: Organisations with significantly more Delivery Episodes than Birth Episodes (Over 5% difference)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation name</th>
<th>Org. code</th>
<th>% Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RXL</td>
<td>12.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RMC</td>
<td>7.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bristol NHS Trust</td>
<td>RVJ</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust</td>
<td>REF</td>
<td>6.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RAJ</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RFR</td>
<td>39.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust</td>
<td>RWD</td>
<td>11.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>RA4</td>
<td>12.58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback

If you would like to provide some feedback on the usefulness of this document or if you have any questions on the content of this note you can do it via the HSCIC Contact Centre: enquiries@hscic.gov.uk or 0300 303 5678.
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