

Data Provision Notice

Accident and Emergency (A&E) Attendances and Emergency Admissions

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as NHS England and hereafter referred to by this name, statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide health or adult social care in England, where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England.

The data, as specified by NHS England in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support a direction from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to NHS England. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

Purpose of the collection

The collection is required to monitor and assess Accident and Emergency (A&E) performance as set in the NHS Mandate and NHS Constitution (At least 95% of patients should be seen, treated and discharged or admitted within 4 hours of arrival).

Data and guidance is available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-workareas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>

Benefits of the collection

These statistics are used to provide information to the public and other stakeholders, to highlight where Accident and Emergency (A&E) performance is an issue, and how it has changed over time. They enable commissioners and NHS England to monitor performance against the national standard.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

NHS England has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; to establish and operate a system for the migration and continued operation for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service. A copy of the Direction is published here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/the-migration-and-continued-operation-of-the-unify2-collections-through-the-strategic-data-collections-service-direction-2017>

This information is required by NHS England under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS England in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS England duty under section 259(8).

Persons consulted

Following receipt of a direction to establish and operate a system for the migration and continued operation to collect Accident and Emergency (A&E) Attendances and Emergency Admissions data, NHS England has, as required under section 258 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England - the organisation that issued the original direction (under the commencement order).
- Department of Health and Social Care – the organisation from which the current Direction was issued to NHS England.
- Data providers - consulted regarding the use of the Strategic Data Collections Service (SDCS) platform.

NHS England has also consulted providers regarding changes to the Unify platform as part of on-going work with NHS England.

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS England duty under section 259(8) on the following persons:

All emergency care providers – defined as NHS Trusts and Independent Sector Providers (who provide Accident and Emergency (A&E) services) or have emergency admissions, averaging more than 200 attendees per month, including Type 1, 2, and 3 (Urgent Treatment Centres)

All providers admitting at least 40 emergency patients per month.

Under section 259(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisation types specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below:

Form of the collection

Data is collected at an aggregate level for each NHS Trust / Independent Sector Provider meeting the criteria above.

Data is split into two sections: Accident and Emergency (A&E) attendances & Emergency Admissions.

Data is split by A&E department type (1, 2 or other). A&E attendances lasting over 4 hours are captured along with waits of 4-12 hours between decision to admit and admission and waits of 12 hours or more between decision to admit, and admission.

See Appendix 1 for a visual representation of the current submission form.

Manner and period of the collection

This data will be collated on a Microsoft Excel template and uploaded to the NHS England web-based system, Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS).

Further information about the collection including support materials for submitters is available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-workareas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>

Data quality

Microsoft Excel templates contain validation criteria. The Strategic Data Collection Service (SDCS) further validates the submissions for accuracy.

In addition, NHS England undertakes high-level validation of data submitted by NHS trusts to identify any significant inaccuracies. These validation checks include reviewing substantial variations in attendance volumes, notable changes in performance, instances where data may have been recorded in incorrect sections (assessed through comparison with previous months), and submissions that appear unchanged from previous reporting periods.

Burden of the collection

Steps taken by NHS England to minimise the burden of collection

In seeking to minimise the burden it imposes on others, in line with sections 253 (2)(a) and 265(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS England has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and extractions.

This assurance is carried out by the Aggregate Collection Management Service (ACMS) which assures burden assessment evidence provided as part of the overarching Data Alliance Board (DAB) process. The DAB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the assurance and approval of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.

Appendix 1

A visual representation of the data submission form.

Emergency Care Monthly Situation Report

A&E Activity (in calendar month)				Items on booked appointments where applicable			
	Attendances by A&E Type			Booked appointments by A&E type (do not include in attendance figures)			Total attendances (calculated)
	Type 1	Type 2	Other A&E Department	Type 1	Type 2	Other A&E Department	
Number of A&E attendances							0
Number of patients who have had a total time in A&E of over 4 hours from arrival to discharge, transfer or admission							0
Number of patients who have waited 4-12 hours in A&E from decision to admit to admission							
Number of patients who have waited over 12 hours in A&E from decision to admit to admission							

Emergency Admissions (in calendar month)	
	Number of Admissions
Emergency admissions via A&E - Type 1	
Emergency admissions via A&E - Type 2	
Emergency admissions via A&E - Other A&E department	
Other emergency admissions	

Document Control

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