

VTE risk assessment data collection Note on data quality

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This is the first publication of the Department of Health VTE risk assessment data collection. The data collection was first made mandatory from June 2010, and the publication refers to the first full quarters data, July-September 2010. As with any new data collections, it is expected that the quality of data returned may take some time to improve. This paper sets out some issues related to data quality for this first publication, and these will continue to be monitored over time to check progress.
- 1.2 The data collection asks for three items of information:
1. Number of adult hospital admissions admitted in the month risk assessed for VTE on admission to hospital according to the DH/NICE National Tool
 2. Total number of adult hospital admissions admitted in the month
 3. Calculated from (1) and (2), the percentage of adult hospital admissions, admitted within the month assessed for risk of VTE on admission
- 1.3 Trusts are required to upload their data on VTE risk assessment onto Unify2 and signed off no later than 20 working days after the month end.
- 1.4 The full data tables can be found at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_122283
- 1.5 Guidance on the data collection can be found here:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_116316
- 1.6 For any further queries on this data collection, please contact the VTE mailbox at vte@dh.gsi.gov.uk

2.0 Analysis

Number of trusts returning data

- 2.1 In total, there are 344 providers who may provide NHS funded acute care, and would be expected to submit a data return on a monthly basis. There are 163 NHS Acute Providers, 19 PCT providers of acute care, and 162 Independent Sector providers, who may provide NHS funded acute care.
- 2.2 Between July and September 2010, the number of providers submitting a data return increased from 159 to 172, with 94.5% of NHS Acute providers submitting data in September. A table setting out rates of compliance with the data return is shown below.

Table 1 – Number and proportion of providers submitting a data return

	Total	Returned VTE data					
		July		August		September	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NHS Acute Providers	163	146	89.6%	149	91.4%	154	94.5%
PCT Providers	19	3	15.8%	3	15.8%	3	15.8%
IS Providers	162	10	6.2%	15	9.3%	15	9.3%
Total	344	159	46.2%	167	48.5%	172	50.0%

- 2.3 The compliance rate will continue to be monitored over time, with Department of Health staff contacting providers who have not returned data to try and improve compliance, and hence data quality.

Number of nil and non-census returns

- 2.4 This data collection is a census of all patients, and the Department of Health does not accept estimates based on a sample of patients. Therefore, any trust returning information that is related to a sample or audit of admissions, rather than a full count, is classed as a “nil return” on the publication.
- 2.5 Some Trusts have reported difficulties in recording the number of risk assessments that take place, and are therefore unable to provide the Department with a census return. We expect that as the data collection becomes bedded-in, the number of nil returns will decrease over time.
- 2.6 The table below shows the number and proportion of providers submitting a nil return between July and September 2010.

Table 2 – Number and proportion of providers submitting a nil return

		Number of nil returns	Total returns	% nil returns
July	NHS Acute Providers	10	146	6.8%
	PCT Providers	1	3	33.3%
	IS Providers	0	10	0.0%
	Total	11	159	6.9%
August	NHS Acute Providers	10	149	6.7%
	PCT Providers	0	3	0.0%
	IS Providers	0	15	0.0%
	Total	10	167	6.0%
September	NHS Acute Providers	9	154	5.8%
	PCT Providers	1	3	33.3%
	IS Providers	0	15	0.0%
	Total	10	172	5.8%
July-September	NHS Acute Providers	29	449	6.4%
	PCT Providers	2	9	22.2%
	IS Providers	0	40	0.0%
	Total	31	498	6.2%

Comparison of data with other sources

- 2.7 In order to get a view on the quality of the data returned, Department of Health analysts have made a comparison of the number of admissions which have been submitted in the VTE data collection with the number of

admissions submitted using the Monthly Activity Return (MAR) data collection.

- 2.8 Although we are unable to make changes to the data as a result of this assessment, these figures are made available to commissioners via Unify2 so that they are able to assess whether the data submitted by providers are line with expected figures.

Table 3 – Number of returns where the number of admissions is within 10% of the number set out in the MAR return

	Number of returns with admissions within 10% of MAR data	Total returns	% of total returns
July	82	146	56%
August	88	154	57%
September	103	171	60%

- 2.9 Department of Health analysts will continue to keep the methodology of this new data collection under review, and will carry out further work to understand the relationship between this data collection and other sources of activity data.