

# Users and Uses of Hospital Episode Statistics

## Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are made available in the following ways:

- Standard aggregations; produced by staff in NHS Digital and made available on the NHS Digital website.
- HES Data Interrogation System (HDIS); users within the NHS are able to access HDIS to perform ad-hoc analyses of the data.
- Monthly Managed Extract Service (MMES); users receive an extract from HES on a monthly basis.
- Data Access Request Service (DARS); other users who require bespoke analyses are able to request extracts from HES, or tabulations tailored to their requirement.

## Uses of the Statistics:

- National policy making
- Benchmarking performance against other hospital trusts
- Academic research
- Analysing service usage and planning change
- Providing advice to ministers and answering a wide range of Parliamentary Questions
- National and local press articles
- International comparison

## Known Users of the Statistics

The standard aggregation tables are free to access on the NHS Digital website, from which usage statistics are gathered. The data for the pages holding the published tables vary widely and we are not able to specifically identify the users accessing these tables directly. We do, however, invite questions and enter correspondence when users have queries about the data or want to find out more.

The users of the HDIS system are known to us as access controls are in place to ensure appropriate use of the data. NHS Digital provides training and advice to these users.

The users of all the modes of access can be broken down into groups:

- The Department of Health; various policy areas, finance and future planning.
- NHS staff; providers and commissioners plus associated arm's length bodies. E.g. NHS England, NHS Improvement, CQC.
- Public Health England.
- Government departments / organisations; Transport, Home Office, National Audit Office, ONS.
- National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).
- Academic researchers.
- Private companies; health providers, manufacturers, actuaries.
- Media

## Unknown Users of the Statistics

We believe other key users of the statistics may include:

- Individual citizens.
- International healthcare analysts.

NHS Digital welcomes feedback on all of our outputs and provide contact details in each publication. In particular we would welcome feedback on the usefulness of the information to different users, the ways in which the information is used and what further information would be useful. Feedback can be provided via our website:

<http://www.digital.nhs.uk/haveyoursay>

Alternatively feedback can be provided to NHS Digital via [enquiries@digital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@digital.nhs.uk) or 0300 303 5678

Details for the DARS services is also available:

<http://www.digital.nhs.uk/DARS>

# Information and technology for better health and care

[www.digital.nhs.uk](http://www.digital.nhs.uk)

0300 303 5678

[enquiries@digital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@digital.nhs.uk)

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