

Analysis Method Notice

Reduction in the Number of New Acute Healthcare Acquired Pressure Ulcers

This notice describes an Analysis Method that has been developed for use in the production of published national outcome indicators, performance measures and/or currencies, which are derived directly from NHS Wales data.

The Analysis Method has been reviewed by the Analysis Methodologies Group and its output submitted to the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) for potential accreditation.

*It should be noted that, where the data flow on which the analysis is being undertaken has not been reviewed by WISB (see 'Status of WISB Data Standards Assurance' below), accreditation of the analysis method **cannot** be interpreted as an approval of the underlying data standards or the quality of the data used.*

It is recognised that formal review and/or assurance of the data flow may have been undertaken by other bodies, where those data are being formally published; for example, as 'Official Statistics'. In such circumstances, users of this method are advised to contact the relevant organisations should they require further information on the underlying quality of the specified data source.

For further details about the group, including Terms of Reference and membership, please visit the following website:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=56696>

WISB Reference: ISRN Ref. 2013/031

Please address enquiries about this Analysis Method the NHS Wales Informatics Service Data Standards Team.

E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk / Tel: 029 2050 2539

WISB Analysis Method Appraisal Assessment	<p>Accredited This Analysis Method has been appraised by WISB and is felt to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the specified indicator requirement, in that it is suitable for its calculation / derivation; • Is reproducible by organisations, where appropriate.
WISB Analysis Method Appraisal Outcome(s)	<p><u>Outcome</u></p>

Status of Data Standards Assurance	<p>WISB Reviewed The data used in this Analysis Method are based on data item standards that have been through the Information Standards Assurance Process.</p>
WISB Decision	<p>Conditionally Approved</p>
Data Standards Assurance Outcome(s)	<p><u>Outcome</u></p>

Indicator

The number of new acute hospital acquired pressure ulcers.

Target:

Reduction in avoidable hospital acquired pressure ulcers.

Performance is monitored on a Health Board (provider) basis.

Rationale / Context

A pressure ulcer is localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, or pressure in combination with shear / friction. A number of contributing or confounding factors are also associated with pressure ulcers; the significance of these factors is yet to be elucidated.

Anyone can get a pressure ulcer, but some people are more likely to develop one than others. People with a pressure ulcer are also at risk of developing another pressure ulcer. Without suitable care, pressure ulcers can be very serious as they can damage not just the skin, but also deeper layers of tissue under the skin.

From a patient safety perspective it is important to stop pressure ulcers from occurring as they can often cause extreme pain, become life-threatening and reduced quality of life. Patients will often require a longer hospital stay as they can a very long time to heal, costing the healthcare provider and reducing bed capacity available.

Data Source

Nursing & Midwifery Dashboard.

Definitions:**Definitional Guidance:**

The number of new pressure ulcers includes all patients that have any skin damage which developed whilst on an acute hospital ward (EPUAP category 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Patients are assessed on admission to an inpatient ward using the Waterlow risk assessment tool. Each ward completes a "Safety Cross" to log any incidences of pressure ulcers.

Currently the data only includes ulcers acquired in clinical areas of acute hospitals i.e. it excludes ulcers acquired whilst in community hospital settings.

The following data items and terms are relevant

Data Items:

n/a

Terms:

n/a

Detailed Specification

Healthcare acquired pressure ulcer data is collected according to locally agreed methods and then entered into the Care Metrics Module of the Fundamentals of Care Audit tool. From there it is checked and signed off at the end of the month by the ward manager and on an agreed date, is automatically populated into the Nursing & Midwifery Dashboard for Wales.

Calculation:

Numerator

Number of newly developing pressure ulcers (stage 1, stage 2, stage 3 or stage 4) developed in acute hospital settings during the calendar month.

Denominator

n/a

Reporting Format / Frequency

Monthly.

Collected daily and populated into the Nursing & Midwifery Dashboard on a monthly basis.

Data are published at an all-Wales and individual Health Board level only.

Areas for Future Development

The following points reflect considerations raised by either the Analysis Methodologies Group or WISB in terms of aspects of the Analysis Method that require further investigation or development.

For a full breakdown of the issues considered, please refer to the formal WISB Outcome for this Analysis Method, which can be accessed via the Information Standards Assurance website:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=52532>

This section details any areas the Analysis Methodologies Group felt needed further consideration / review by the 'sponsor' of the method.

Completeness & Timeliness of Data

- There are known issues with the completeness and timeliness of these data. For example, not all wards that are in scope of the data collection are submitted data into the Care Metrics Module of the Fundamentals of Care Audit Tool. This is known to be partly due to a lack of a common understanding of who should be entering data.

Reporting of Data re: Acute / Community

- The original draft of this methodology described the scope of the data collection as follows:

“Currently the data only includes ulcers acquired in clinical areas of acute hospitals i.e. it excludes ulcers acquired whilst under the care of community clinicians.”

The Analysis Methodologies group noted that community clinicians undertake work in some acute hospital sites in Wales. The scope was subsequently clarified with Anne Owen – Clinical Informaticist, NWIS – who confirmed that the scope of the data collection was limited to acute hospital settings only, which may or may not include activity associated with community clinicians / consultants.

Appendix A – Additional Information

n/a

Appendix B – SQL Code (where applicable)

Important: The following code is intended for information purposes only. It will contain references to specific references (servers, data item descriptions etc.) that are applicable within the NHS Wales Informatics Service only and therefore will not be suitable for direct application to local (LHB) data.

n/a