Indicator 12.7 - Rate of hospital admissions for fractured neck of femur in the elderly

Rationale

Hip fracture is a major cause of disability and the leading cause of mortality due to injury in older people aged 75 and over. Hospital admissions for fracture neck of femur are a good proxy measure of the incidence of hip fracture in older people. Falls prevention programmes aim to reduce the incidence of fracture neck of femur in the community. Hip fracture is the most common injury related to falls in older people. More than 95% of hip fractures is adults aged 65 and older are caused by a fall. Hip fractures in the elderly and frail can lead to loss of mobility and loss of independence. For many older people it is the event that forces them to leave their homes and move into residential care. Mortality after hip fracture is high: around 30% at one year. Standard 6 of the National Service Framework for Older People aims to “reduce the number of falls which result in serious injury and ensure effective treatment and rehabilitation for those who have fallen”. A New Ambition for Old Age (DH 2006) which outlines the next steps in implementing the NSF lists falls and bone health as one of its 10 programmes and outlines the components of integrated falls services. There is NICE guidance on the assessment and prevention of falls in older people. Studies have also indicated that falls prevention services can reduce falls.

Definition

Directly age standardised rate for hospital admissions in people aged 65 and over.

Numerator Definition

Hospital admissions for primary diagnosis of fractured neck of femur in 65 and over age group. Diagnosis of fracture neck of femur classified by primary diagnosis (ICD-10 S720, S721 and S722) admitted in the respective financial year. ICD-10 Code for fractured proximal femur refers to the following diagnoses:

- S720 Fracture of neck of femur
- S721 Pertrochanteric fracture
- S722 Subtrochanteric fracture

Source of Numerator

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) for the respective financial year, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Also found at the Public Health England website.
Denominator Definition

Mid-year population estimates for persons aged 65+.

Source of Denominator

Office for National Statistics.

Geographic Coverage

England, Local Authorities, County Districts, Metropolitan County Districts, Unitary Authorities, London Boroughs.

Other Dimensions of Inequality

None.

Timeliness

Bespoke dataset. Not regularly updated.

Accuracy & Completeness

Hospital Episode Statistics are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and Primary Care Trusts in England. The Health and Social Care Information Centre liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submissions of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Disclosure

Not applicable.

Further Information

- National Service Framework for older people
- NICE guidance on the assessment and prevention of falls in older people
- ‘Interventions to prevent falls in elderly people can be effective’, Cochrane Collaboration