

Guidance for CASSRs to Sample Data for NI125

For the collection period
1st October 2008 to 31st December 2008

Issued: October 2008

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1. Introduction and background information

The NSF on older people (May 2001) seeks to improve the effectiveness of health and social care outcomes for older people. One focus is to reduce delayed discharge from hospital and ensure effective rehabilitation for those discharged so that they can regain their independence at home (see Standard 3 pages 41-50:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003066)

This PI seeks to establish for older people discharged from hospitals whether inputs by CASSRs and/or the NHS following a joint rehabilitation plan achieve the goals agreed between the CASSR's staff and health practitioners. The intention of the joint care plan must be that the older person should return home (directly or via a stay in a care home).

For the first year of the collection in 2008/09, councils with large numbers of discharges to rehabilitation/re-enablement services have the option of doing a random sample across a 3 month period.

Although for 2008/09 we are starting with a narrow scope, it does not mean we are ignoring step up rehabilitation efforts where hospitalisation is avoided. This may be developed later as a fuller version of this measure.

This guidance is intended to provide data based on a sample for 2008/09. Some key areas to note are;

A "random" sample must be taken of clients from across the whole period 1st October 2008 to 31st December 2009. The Audit Commission does **not** allow samples based on some months of the year and uprated to the whole year, for example the last 3 months multiplied by 4.

2. Guidance for CASSRs to sample data for 'Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care' - NI125

This document provides guidance to enable CASSRs to sample data to provide the data required for NI 125. This guidance should be looked at alongside the Audit Commission guidance, see:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/products/guidance/497C9886-FC5B-4E37-AFD3-FD468CEE4DF3/piguid4.pdf#search=%22sampling%20guidance%20audit%20commision%22>

The tables of sample sizes shown in the Audit Commission guidance are purely for illustration of what is required for a particular level of accuracy. They are not a requirement. Therefore the IC guidance on sample sizes below should be followed.

2.1 Definitions of NI 125

The proportion of older people discharged from hospital to their own home or to a residential or nursing care home or extra care housing bed for rehabilitation, with a clear

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intention that they will move on / back to their own home (including a place in extra care housing or an adult placement scheme setting) who are at home or in extra care housing or an adult placement scheme setting three months after the date of their discharge from hospital.

Those who are in hospital or in a registered care home (other than for a brief episode of respite care from which they are expected to return home) at the three month date and those who have died within the three months are not reported in the numerator.

3 months is defined as 91 days.

Numerator = Number of those people discharged and benefiting from intermediate care/rehabilitation/re-enablement still living at home (including in extra care housing or an adult placement scheme setting) three months after discharge from hospital.

Note:

At the 3 month point those temporarily in hospital or in a care home for respite/ short term care with a clear plan for their return home at the three month point should be counted as being still 'at home'.

Denominator = Number of people discharged from hospital aged 65 and over on discharge date where, following discharge, one or more services commissioned by health and/or social care were provided to achieve rehabilitation/re-enablement.

Note:

At the 3 month date those who had on discharge been expected to return home who;
(i) Are in hospital (other than for a brief episode of care from which they are expected to return home) or

(ii) are in a registered care home (other than for a brief period of respite care from which they are expected to return home) or

(iii) have died

should be included in the denominator but not reported in the numerator.

(iv) Patients who had been admitted to hospital from a care home and were discharged to a care home with no plan to return to living in the community are excluded from the indicator.

(v) Patients discharged to a care home or to a hospital setting where there was no expectation of their returning to living in the community are also excluded from the indicator.

2.2 Sample sizes

Providing your sample is unbiased and you have an idea of the size of the population, you can determine the efficient number of items you need in your sample. Unfortunately, the required sample size is not a fixed proportion of the population. In fact as the population increases, the **proportion** (but not the number) of items you need to sample decreases.

A sample will not be as accurate as looking at every record. Nevertheless the size of an unbiased sample determines how accurate it will be. Therefore there are two things to take into consideration when deciding on the number of items to sample:

a) The **margin of error** - In this case we expect the sample size to be sufficiently large to give estimates to within +/- 4%.

b) The **confidence level** - how certain you want to be that your answer is within the margin of error you are prepared to accept. There is an informal but recognised norm which is 95% confidence in the estimated result.

The table on page 6 of this guidance sets out the sample sizes needed to produce estimates that are within 4% of the answer which would be obtained if all discharges were followed up.

Summary: as a minimum for 2008/09 sample sizes should meet the requirements set out in the table below.

It is important that the minimum requirement for sample sizes are met otherwise the margin of error surrounding the estimates of the performance indicators will be too large to allow users to draw any conclusions from the data provided.

Selecting a sample

The cases included in the sample should mirror reasonably closely the general characteristics of the total population from which you are drawing your sample. Thus the sample must not be biased by over or under representing the groups that make up the population. For example, the mix of clients from different client groups in the sample should be broadly the same as the mix in the population from which you are sampling.

The usual and most simple method of insuring that you select representative cases is to take a "random" sample. By choosing the items to be sampled at random you are ensuring that your method of selection is not influenced by factors that would give too much or too little prominence to a particular group within the population.

The Audit Commission's guidance is helpful in setting out how to avoid bias within your sample and should be referred to (see <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/mtnw/summarising/6surveys.asp>). In addition to the issues set out it is important that your sample should reflect activity throughout the year i.e. it should include an even spread of clients for whom services were put in place covering the whole year.

The Audit Commission's guidance is clear in setting out that a sample should be random and reflect the general characteristics of the total population from which you are drawing a sample.

Providing data to the IC

If CASSRs use a sample to provide estimates then the data they provide to the IC should be grossed up to the size of the relevant local population before the data is submitted to the IC. CASSRs should also provide details of the size of the sample taken to provide the estimates when they return their data.

Required sample size for 95% confidence that the estimated error is no more than $\pm 4\%$

Estimated population	Sample size
200	150
300	200
400	240
500	275
600	300
700	325
800	345
900	360
1000	380
1200	400
1400	420
1600	440
1800	450
2000	460
2500	490
3000	500
3500	510
4000	520

Use the required sample size for the population which is the next after your own

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