

How many inpatients have diabetes?

An analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics

Introduction

In order to estimate the number and percentage of people in hospital at a given time that have diabetes an analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics was undertaken. It is known that not all inpatients with diabetes have this diagnosis coded in the HES record of their admission. As a result the data presented in this paper underestimates the true number of people in hospital with diabetes.

Results

In the week beginning 22nd September 2008 approximately 14% of inpatients aged 16 years or over in English hospitals under a medical or surgical speciality (excluding obstetrics) had a diagnosis of diabetes coded.

Table 1: Inpatients being treated under medical or surgical specialities with a diagnosis of diabetes coded in English hospitals

	Number	Percentage
Monday	6737	13.9%
Tuesday	6630	13.7%
Wednesday	6658	13.7%
Thursday	6645	13.8%
Friday	6246	13.8%

The proportion of inpatients with a diagnosis of diabetes was higher in medical specialities than surgical specialities. Of the patients in an English hospital being treated by medical specialties approximately 17% had a diagnosis of diabetes compared to 11% of those being treated under surgical specialities.

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Key Messages

- At a given point in time at least 14% of adults in hospital being treated under a medical or surgical speciality have diabetes.
- In this group of patients approximately 55% are being treated under medical specialities and 45% are being treated under surgical specialities.

Table 2: Inpatients with a diagnosis of diabetes by speciality of treatment (English hospitals)

	Surgical specialities	Medical specialities
Monday	11.6%	16.7%
Tuesday	11.4%	16.5%
Wednesday	11.2%	16.6%
Thursday	11.4%	16.7%
Friday	11.3%	16.8%

Based on the treatment speciality of the finished consultant episode of care which gives the speciality under which the consultant was working whilst caring for the patient.

Of the inpatients with a diabetes diagnosis codes in the week beginning 22nd September 2008, approximately 55% were being treated under medical specialities and 45% were being treated under surgical specialities (see Table 3).

Table 3: Split between medical and surgical specialities for inpatients with a diagnosis of diabetes coded in English hospitals

	Surgical specialities	Medical specialities
Monday	44.3%	55.7%
Tuesday	44.9%	55.1%
Wednesday	44.7%	55.3%
Thursday	45.0%	55.0%
Friday	44.0%	56.0%

Figures are based on the treatment speciality of the finished consultant episode of care.