

Version 1, published November 2014

## **Announcement of methodological changes to CCG Prescribing Data, 2013/14 Quarter 1 onwards**

HSCIC releases quarterly prescribing data at BNF section level for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Data is made available via a tool called iView and in a comma separated variable (csv) file.

Prior to NHS reforms in April 2013, the HSCIC released prescribing data at BNF section level for 151 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Following the reforms, PCTs were replaced with 211 CCGs. In addition, over 150 other 'cost centres', including trusts, councils and private company providers now exist. These 'cost centres' (referred to as non-CCGs) are not linked to CCGs but are funded directly by Area Teams.

### **First Change**

Currently the HSCIC releases prescribing data at BNF section level for CCGs, including all non-CCG organisations. Non-CCG activity can be small but spread across a large number of organisations. Therefore to improve the usability of the data it has been decided to group all non-CCG organisations into a single 'Non-CCG' category. The purpose of the CCG Prescribing data is to show prescribing by CCGs and so to exclude non-CCGs completely would leave the data incomplete, but by combining the non-CCGs into a single category, the completeness of the data will remain whilst not providing an excessive amount of detail.

If users require data for individual non-CCG organisations they can obtain this via the Information Services Portal provided by NHS Prescription Services, a Division of the NHS Business Services Authority. See <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3607.aspx>

### **Second Change**

An Area Team field will be added to the data. This will allow aggregation of CCGs by Area Team, adding an additional dimension to the data and making it more flexible for users. A separate 'Non-CCG' category will also exist for each Area Team.

### **Timescales**

These changes will be applied retrospectively to all CCG Prescribing data released, from 2013/14 Q1 onwards. The changes will apply to data released through iView and the underlying data released in a .csv file on the publication page.

### **Further Information**

Questions and feedback are welcomed and should be sent to [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk) or alternatively call 0300 303 5678.