

## Six month assessments in SSNAP: The importance of submitting outcome data

The SSNAP clinical audit measures the processes and outcomes of stroke care in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Measuring processes gives teams data on key indicators of stroke care, allowing benchmarking of performance, however, measuring and linking outcomes for stroke patients is crucial in determining the quality of care received and the impact the processes of care are having for patients. Six month assessment data includes information on anticoagulation, further stroke and serious illness

and mood and cognition, as well as modified Rankin Scale and mortality.

Collecting process data is important but it is outcome data that really demonstrates the impact the services have made for the patients treated.

Submitting this data shows that assessments of patient needs are being carried out and, combining outcomes with case mix data is extremely useful both nationally and locally in measuring the impact of care and in improving services for patients.

### Assessing needs, nationally

The **National Stroke Strategy 2007** stated the importance of assessing patients needs post stroke, the importance of participating in national audit. *“After stroke, people need to be offered a review of their health, social care and secondary prevention needs”*

**Measuring outcomes for patients and assessing needs is of national importance, this has meant that SSNAP is the source for the following national indicators:**

#### NHS Outcomes Framework

SSNAP is the source of the indicator *“Proportion of stroke patients reporting an improvement in activity/lifestyle on modified Rankin Scale at six months”*

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-outcomes-framework-2014-to-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-outcomes-framework-2014-to-2015)

#### CCG Outcome Indicator Set

SSNAP is the source for the domain 3 indicator *“People who have had a stroke who receive a follow up assessment between 4-8 months after admission”*

[www.england.nhs.uk/ccg-ois/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ccg-ois/)

### Benefits for patients

Patients should receive a follow up at six months, using SSNAP to record this will provide information to providers, patients, commissioners, researchers and to the public.

### Benefits for professionals

The effort teams put into improving services should be recognised. Measuring outcomes and having them reported on over time will reflect the efforts being made.

SSNAP will be reporting back to teams on outcomes. Combined with case mix and linking to structure and processes of care, this will be a robust tool for improving stroke services.

### How to enter data...

If you're registered on the webtool ([www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org)), log in and click on Support> User guides for a step by step guide. Alternatively, watch our video on how to record data on 6 month assessments found in Support>user guide videos.

If you're not registered or have any questions, please contact the SSNAP helpdesk:

Email : [ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk)

Phone: **020 3075 1383/1318**

*“It is extremely important that data regarding a patient’s 6 month follow up is recorded on SSNAP. These data have the potential to reveal variations in access to 6 month assessments across the country. In cases where 6 month assessments are being provided but are not recorded on SSNAP, valuable information about patient outcomes post stroke is being missed.”*

**Dr Geoff Cloud – RCP Stroke Programme Associate Director**