ENSURING ROBUST REGISTRY DATA THROUGH HIGH CASE ASCERTAINMENT IN A NATIONAL REGISTRY ON STROKE CARE

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Background
• The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) is the national stroke care register in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
• The register routinely produces a large suite of reporting outputs which grade stroke care received across the country.
• Case Ascertainment is ensuring that all cases are entered onto the registry. High levels of case ascertainment are essential to ensuring high quality data.

Methods
• Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data are used to establish the number of expected stroke cases for acute hospitals for each reporting period.
• By comparing this expected number against the number of submitted stroke cases, teams are given an A-E ‘case ascertainment’ performance score.
• Scores lower than the highest banding of ‘A’ (90%+ of expected cases) impacts overall stroke care score.
• A ‘participation report’ is provided to teams so that they can always be aware of their number of cases entered and locked for inclusion in the register.

Results
• Over 95% of expected stroke cases are entered to SSNAP ahead of each reporting deadline thus ensuring meaningful results are published.
• In the August - November 2016 reporting period, 131/148 teams achieved the highest possible grade for case ascertainment, with only 6 teams submitting less than 80% of their expected cases.
• This high case ascertainment is maintained by tracking the number of cases entered over time at a provider level, as well as directly contacting specific under-performers prior to data locking deadlines.


Case Ascertainment Score | Jul - Sep 2013 | Aug - Nov 2016
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A | 44% | 83%
B | 31% | 11%
C | 12% | 3%
D | 7% | 2%
E | 5% | 1%

Comparison of SSNAP Case Ascertainment scores (Jul –Sep 2013 to Aug – Nov 2016)

Conclusion
• Exceptional case ascertainment is essential for high quality and representative data.
• SSNAP continues to excel in ensuring high case ascertainment, this makes data comparisons fairer, and develops more trust in the data provided.
• Similar approaches to ensuring complete, high quality data are continuously submitted to healthcare registries could be adapted to other settings.