11   ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF EMERGENCY ADMISSION RATES (PAC16-2022)

Unscheduled hospital care is one of the biggest demands on Partnership resources. Whilst significant improvements have been made in some aspects of unscheduled care, performance in relation to repeat emergency admissions remains an area requiring further understanding and improvement. The Performance and Audit Committee has received a series of in-depth analytical reports for unscheduled care, including readmissions (Article VIII of the minute of the Dundee PAC on 29th May, 2018, Article IV of the minute of the Dundee PAC on 25th March, 2019 and Article XIV of the minute of the Dundee PAC on 22nd September, 2020 refer). In November 2021, following identification of continued poor performance against the Scottish and Family Group benchmarks within the 2021/22 Quarter 1 Performance Report, the Chief Finance Officer was instructed to submit a further in-depth analysis of readmissions data (Article VII of the minute of the Dundee PAC on 24th November, 2021 refers).

Previous analysis has identified that differences in recording practice between NHS Tayside and other Health Boards has contributed to poor performance in relation to the rate of readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge per 1,000 admissions (national indicator 14). Local data from NHS Tayside has not been available since Q1 2021/22 as NHS Tayside Business Unit has prioritised the further investigation and improvement of coding and recording to ensure greater parity when benchmarking performance across Partnerships. This is valuable work which will improve the robustness of readmissions data and provide greater confidence in performance indicators and analytical outputs in the future. However, in the short-term this means that Partnership information staff do not have contemporary data to utilise in further in-depth analysis for readmissions.

Whilst NHS Tayside Business Unit complete the work on coding and recording, Partnership information staff have utilised the time to plan next steps in relation to readmissions analysis:

Further analysis of data by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), gender and age;

Analysis of the readmission ratio, which is the number of readmissions observed over the expected readmissions;

Confirmation of specialities with highest readmission rates and further analysis of data for each of these specialities; and,

Considering any further analytical work that can be undertaken to further examine patterns of readmission, focused on the fact that the reason for the initial admission and subsequent admissions within 28 days do not have to have to be the same, they can be for completely different reasons.

In addition, Partnership information staff are working with operational colleagues to contextualise readmissions activity as part of the pathway of unscheduled care and articulate the impact of wider improvement activity on a broader suite of indicators that provide a more holistic overview of unscheduled care performance and quality.

At this time NHS Tayside Business Support Unit has not been able to confirm a timescale for the completion of their work on data coding and recording. As soon as readmission data becomes available to Partnership information staff work will be progressed to complete analytical work and a full report will be submitted to the Performance and Audit Committee. An updated position will be provided to the meeting of PAC scheduled for 23rd November, 2022.

The Performance and Audit Committee is asked to note the updated position.