

Reasons why people with dementia are admitted to a general hospital in an emergency – summary of findings for Harborough

Introduction

In July 2015, Public Health England (PHE) published a briefing and data set looking at reasons for emergency admissions for dementia patients.[1] This data briefing has been developed as partnership between NHS England and the Dementia Intelligence Network (DIN). The briefing presents the findings from the analysis of the inpatient Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set for 2012/13. It focusses on the provision of care for people living with dementia rather than the process of acquiring a diagnosis, and highlights key issues in relation to those individuals with dementia being admitted to an acute general hospital and the reasons for which they are admitted.

This summary report provides key findings from the analysis using the above HES data set for Harborough district. It also provides overview of dementia prevalence as recorded on GP registers and future dementia prediction in Harborough.

Dementia prevalence and future projections

In March 2014, there were 472 (0.6%) individuals in Harborough who had a formal diagnosis of dementia and who were registered with their primary care practice.[2] The number of older adults predicted to have dementia in Harborough in 2014 is estimated at 1,210 individuals rising to 2,305 by 2030 (Figure 1).

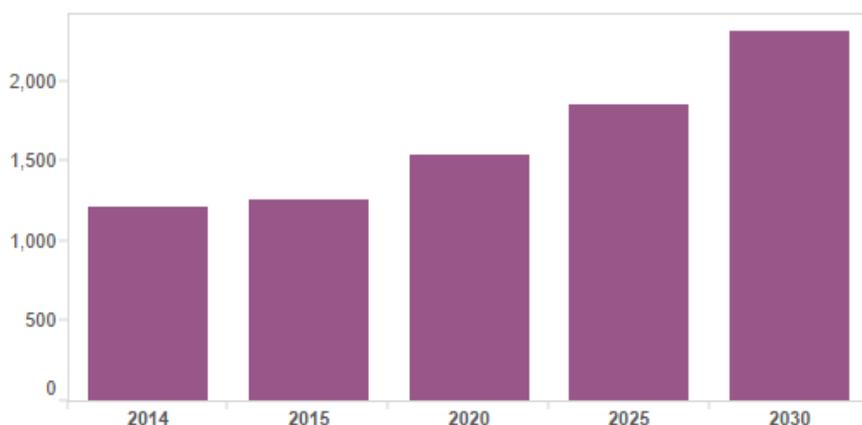


Figure 1. Older adults predicted to have dementia, Harborough [3]

Admission to acute general hospitals

During 2012/13 there were 447 emergency hospital admissions in Harborough with a mention of dementia in discharge documentation. This relates to 317 individuals being admitted on average 1.4 times each during the year and this is lower than England at 1.5. Around 22% of admissions were short stays (1 day or less) comparing to 26% in England.

The highest proportion of emergency admissions in Harborough came via A&E (77%) (Figure 2). GP was stated as source of referral for 6% of admission.

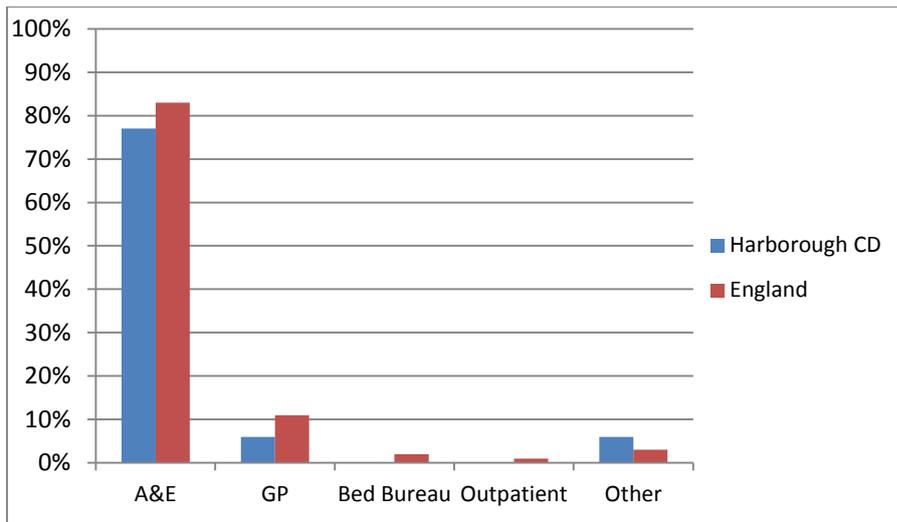


Figure 2. Source of emergency admissions relating to people with dementia 2012/13[1]

Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (chapter R) were recorded as primary diagnosis for 22% of emergency admission relating to people with dementia in Harborborough (Figure 3). This was followed by chapter J (Diseases of the respiratory system) with 13% of emergency admissions with the relevant code as primary diagnosis. Primary diagnosis as defined in chapter S (Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes) accounted for 12%, in chapter N (Diseases of the genitourinary system) for 10% and in Chapter I (Diseases of the circulatory system) for 10% of emergency admission relating to people with dementia in Harborborough.

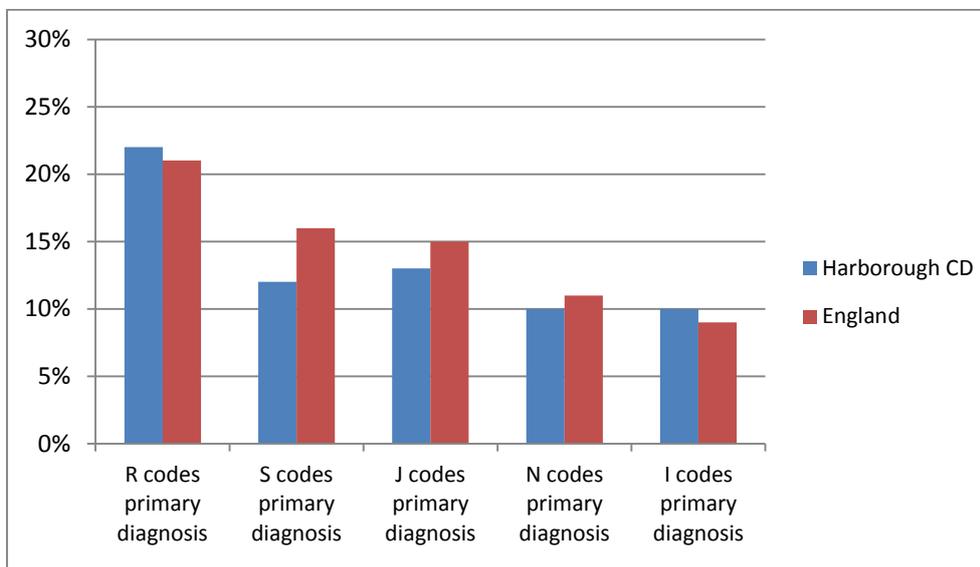


Figure 2. Primary reason for admissions relating to people with dementia 2012/13 [1]

References

- [1] Public Health England, "Reasons why people with dementia are admitted to a general hospital in an emergency," 2015.
- [2] Health and Social Care Information Centre, "Quality and Outcomes (QoF) Data," 2014.
- [3] Institute of Public Care, Oxford Brookes University, and Extra Care Charitable Trusts, "Projecting Older People Population Information System," 2014.