

Few countries in the world can rival the quality of the health and care data held in Scotland. The Information Services Division (ISD) provides information, intelligence, statistical services and advice to support the delivery of safe, effective and person-centred care in Scotland.

**Managing the impact of an ageing population is one of the greatest challenges facing health and social care services in our country. This briefing outlines some of the relevant data and analytical tools that ISD offer to give insight to this challenge.**

ISD has a firm foundation on which to build. We informed the basis of *'Adding Life to Years'* the Chief Medical Officer's Expert Group on Healthcare of Older People and made strong contributions to *'Building A Health Service Fit for the Future'* (2005), *'Better Health, Better Care'* (2008) and more recently the Reshaping Care for Older People programme.

## Older People

We have focused on supporting the requirements of 'shifting the balance of care', increasing the emphasis on health improvement and anticipatory care to provide more continuous care and support closer to home for older people.

The **Scottish Public Health Observatory** (ScotPHO) collaboration (co-led by ISD Scotland) has developed Health and Wellbeing Profiles that provide information directly relevant to the challenge of aging. These include information on people aged 65+ with intensive care needs, receiving free personal care at home, people aged 65+ hospitalised for falls and multiple hospitalisations, people aged 60+ claiming pension credits.

**SPARRA** (Scottish Patients at Risk of Readmission and Admission) is a tool developed in direct response to the recognition that too many older people are admitted to hospital as emergencies. SPARRA identifies those patients most at risk of emergency admission, so that community teams can provide more integrated, preventative and anticipatory care services.

## Pharmacy

We have information available on all prescriptions dispensed in the community in Scotland. The recent addition of the Community Health Index (CHI) number to prescriptions opens up possibilities of bespoke analysis in areas such as patient safety (identification of unsafe patterns of prescribing) and polypharmacy (the use of multiple medications by a patient).

Our SPARRA tool offers a patient dispensing history to help users to address instances of polypharmacy - often an issue for older people. We are also developing functionality in SPARRA that will identify patients who are being dispensed high numbers of different drugs, allowing drug regimes to be reviewed and improved.



## Cost of Care

The Integrated Resource Framework (IRF) is being developed jointly by the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to enable partners in NHSScotland and Local Authorities to be clearer about the cost and quality implications of local decision-making about health and social care. We have made great progress in assessing the true costs of caring for the older population across health and social care and within different sectors of health care.

We are also developing a methodology that allows costs to be mapped down to individual patient level. This 'patient level' costing allows pathways and patient treatments to be more accurately modelled and examined.

## Integrated Information

ISD provides a specialist service to link nationally held data to other datasets. We are working with colleagues in the Scottish Government and Local Partnerships to link health and social care data to support research into key outcomes. We are also working to address data gaps to build a greater understanding of the entire health and social care agenda.

## Emergency Admissions / Unscheduled Care

One of the major trends over past decades has been the long-term increase in emergency admissions to hospital. It has been estimated that almost one third of total health spend for older people is on unplanned inpatient admissions. Analysis has shown that this upward trend towards emergency admission may reflect the way the system of care operates rather than an inherent need for care. We can inform service provision to be less reactive and more proactive. ISD are working to link NHS24 and Scottish Ambulance Service data with the hospital admission data to track patients through the unscheduled care system.



## Provision of Care

ISD services help teams to monitor, review and plan operational services locally. Our analytical teams provide tailored analysis through our Information Request service. We support local analysis of national data by offering authorised users access to a broad range of comparative information through our online products such as Navigator and Wisdom.

**If you would like to find out more about the services we offer to support Health and Social Care Integration, please contact Fiona Murphy, Associate Director for National Information and Intelligence Service at [fiona.murphy1@nhs.net](mailto:fiona.murphy1@nhs.net)**

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*ISD is part of NHS National Services Scotland who provides national strategic support services and expert advice to NHS Scotland and its partners. ISD is responsible for managing national data for NHSScotland.*