



Analytical tools to support commissioners

JANUARY 2012

A guide to some of the most important sources of data and analytical tools available to support commissioners.

[Programme Budgeting Benchmarking Tool](#)

Commissioner level programme budgeting data is published annually in the form of a benchmarking tool that enables commissioners to identify:

- How they spend their allocation over 23 disease categories and their respective subcategories
- How their disease category level expenditure is split across 12 care settings (2010-11 only) and;
- How their expenditure distribution pattern compares with other commissioners nationally, locally or with similar characteristics

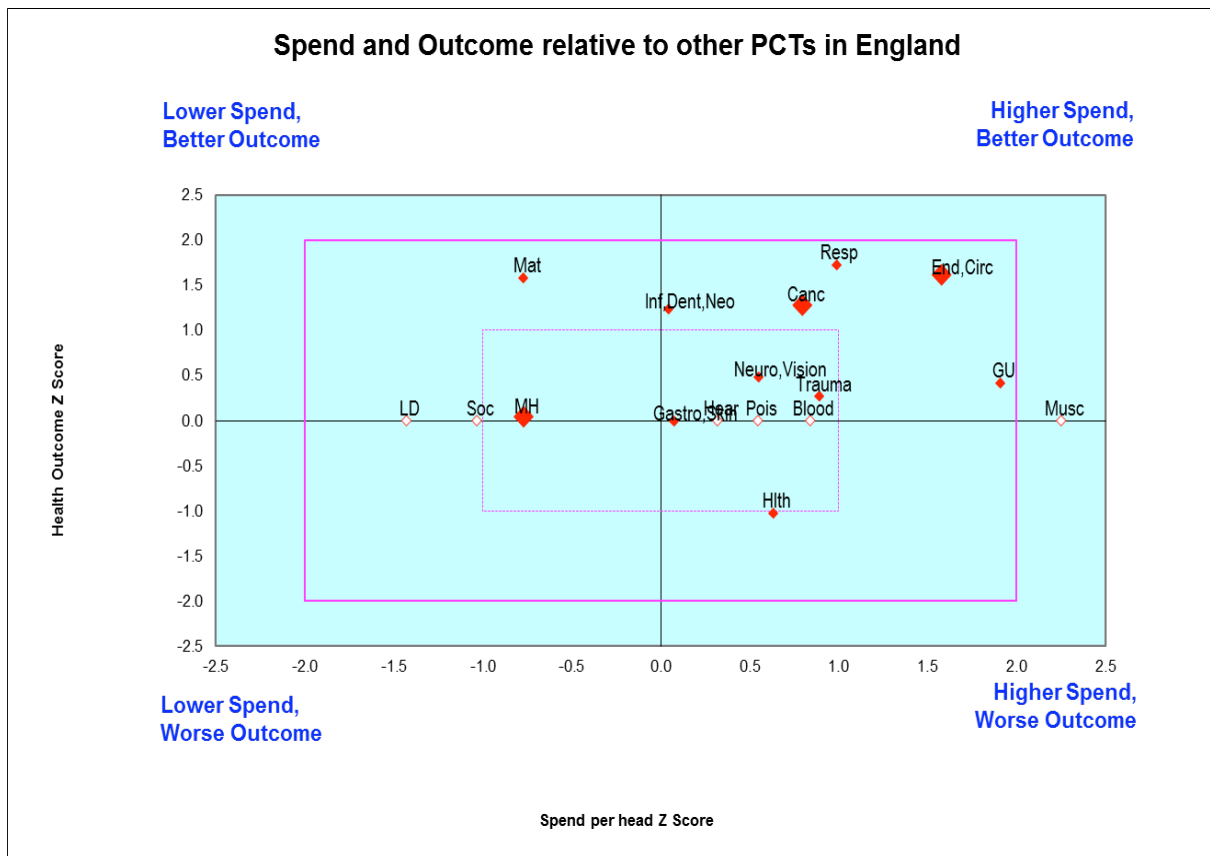
[Spend and Outcomes Tool \(SPOT\)](#)

Click on the Spend and outcomes tool hyperlink. Select your PCT from the dropdown menu.

The Department of Health commissioned the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) to develop a tool which helps commissioners to link health outcomes and expenditure. The development of this tool and a Spend and Outcome Factsheet for every PCT in England has been led by Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory. Programme budgeting is a well-established technique for assessing investment in programmes of care rather than services. All PCTs in England have submitted an annual programme budgeting return since 2003/4. The tool and factsheets use this programme budgeting data and overall indicators of health outcome by programme (where available) to present PCTs with an analysis of the impact of their expenditure. This allows easy identification of those areas which require priority attention, where relative potential shifts in investment opportunities will optimise local health gains and increase quality.

PCTs can use the tool and the factsheets to gain an overview of outcome and expenditure across all programmes. The factsheet presents:

- A diagram that categorises each programme into 4 quadrants in terms of spend and outcome to allow easy identification of those areas that require priority attention by the PCT
- A spine chart that shows variation in spend and outcomes compared to similar PCTs, the SHA and England, and allows instant visual identification of programmes which may benefit from further review
- A bar chart which shows spend by programme compared with PCTs in the same ONS cluster.



APHO General Practice Profiles

These profiles are designed to support GPs, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and PCTs to ensure that they are providing and commissioning effective and appropriate healthcare services for their local population.

Using a variety of graphical displays such as spine charts and population pyramids, the tool presents a range of practice-level indicators drawn from the latest available data, including:

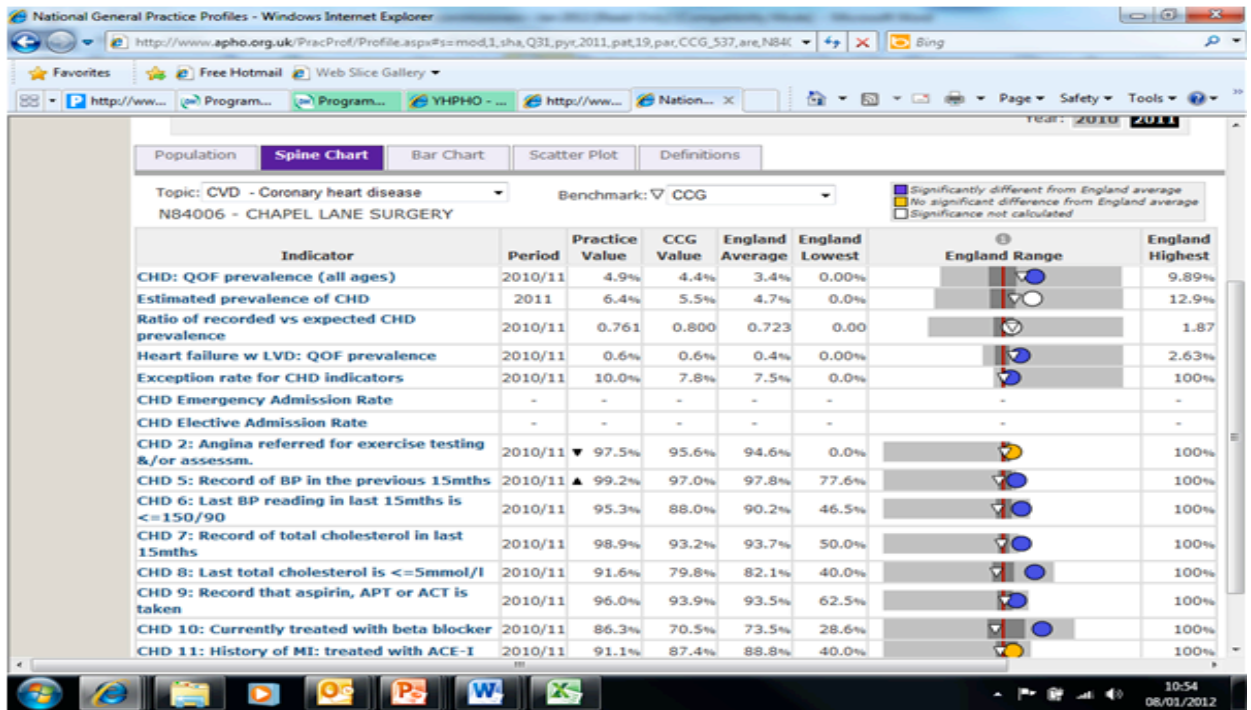
- Local demography
- Quality and Outcomes Framework domains
- Disease prevalence estimates
- Admission rates
- Patient satisfaction.

In addition to viewing individual practice profiles, you can view summary profiles for CCGs. Each practice can be compared with the PCT, CCG and England, and also with the practice deprivation decile and 'peer group'.

The profiles do not provide an exhaustive list of primary care indicators, but they do allow a consistent approach to comparing and benchmarking across England. More indicators will be incorporated as the tool is developed further.

The tool has been developed by the East of England Public Health Observatory, on behalf of the network of PHOs in England.

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Better Care Better Value Indicators

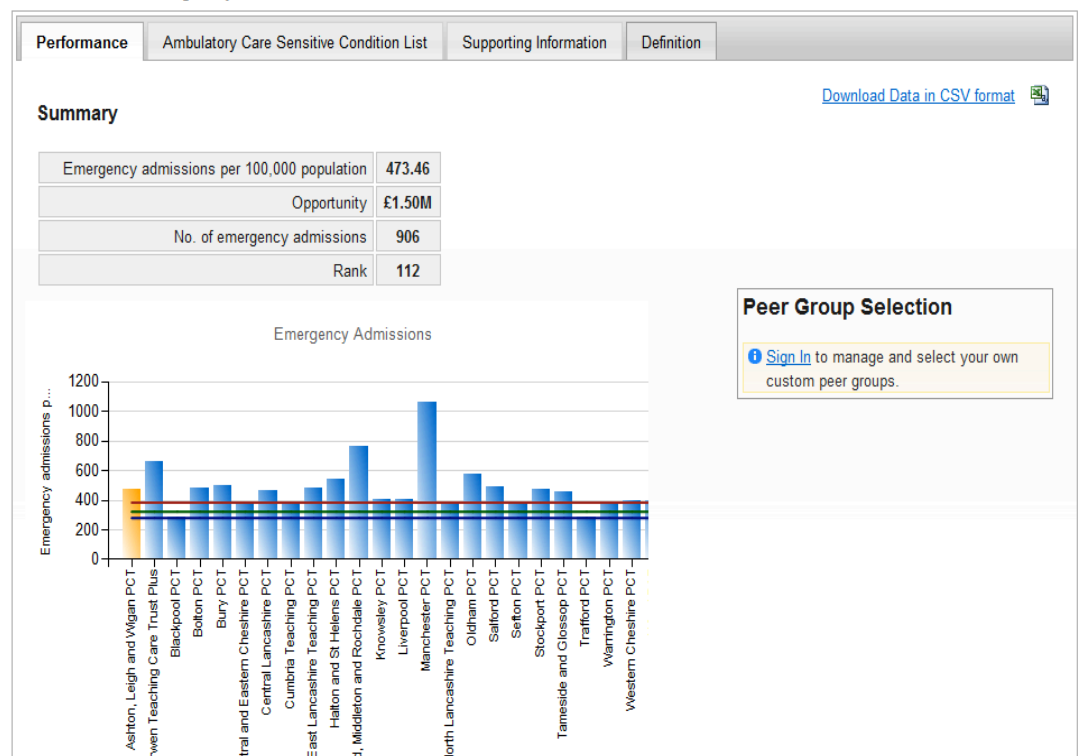
Better Care Better Value indicators identify potential areas for improvement in efficiency which may include commissioners re-designing and shifting services away from the traditional setting of the hospital and out towards community based care.

The tool should prompt you to start thinking of "how" and "why" your organisation might differ from others and to support commissioning priorities for health communities. The opportunity is indicative only and local health communities should interpret it taking into account local knowledge.

Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT

2011/12 Q1

[Dashboard](#) > Emergency Admissions



[NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare](#) - Click Launch instant Atlas from menu on right of screen.

In the recently published NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare, Right Care presents a series of 71 maps of variation selected from topics which National Clinical Directors and others have identified as being of importance to their clinical specialty. They have worked with a wide range of teams in the Department of Health, Observatory network and primary care organisations to create this Atlas. The Atlas also contains a guide to the tools and data available for analysing health investment.

There are two main aims for the publication of The NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare November 2011.

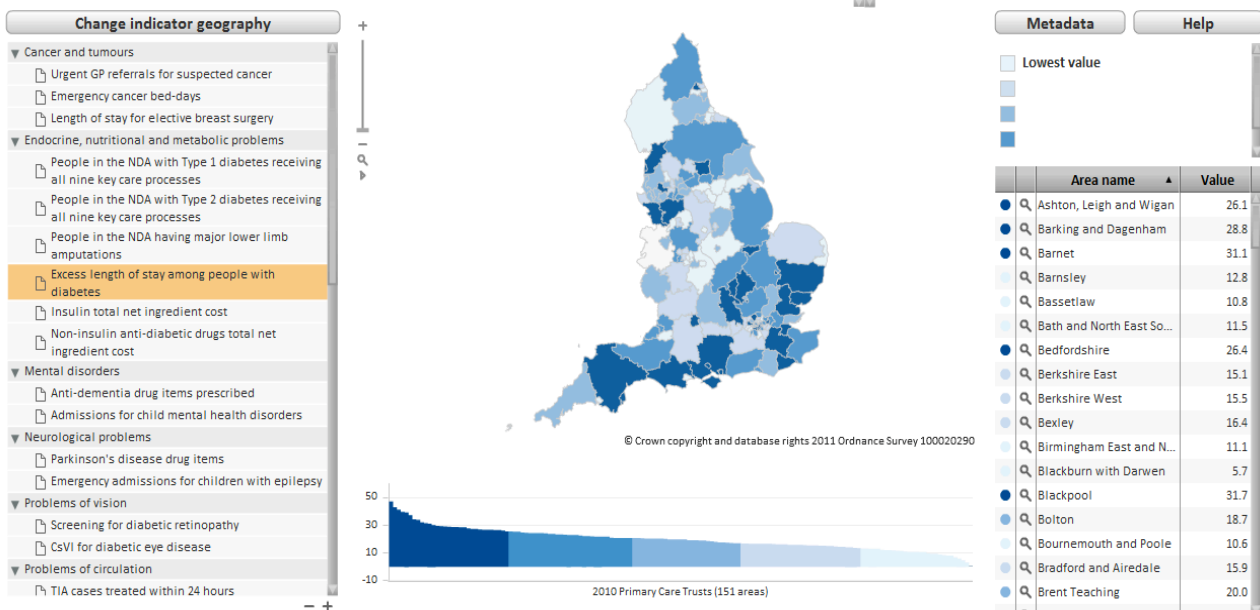
- The first is to offer clinicians and commissioners a fresh opportunity to identify variation and take action to reduce unwarranted variation, defined by Professor John Wennberg as: "Variation in the utilisation of health care services that cannot be explained by variation in patient illness or patient preferences"
- The second is to highlight the work being done by Right Care to support anyone – whether commissioner or provider, clinician or manager – wanting to reduce unwarranted variation within their locality or between their locality and other areas of the country.

The Atlas is published alongside the NHS Outcomes Framework to act as a catalyst for driving improvements in quality, outcome and value measurement throughout the NHS by encouraging a change in culture and behaviour, including a renewed focus on tackling inequalities in outcomes. However, highlighting variation, not only in activity and cost but also in quality, safety and outcome, is fundamental to the achievement of better value in healthcare, because:

- A first step towards reducing unwarranted variation
- A way of promoting transparency and increasing accountability in the NHS
- An important driver for improving not only the quality of services but also patient-determined and population health outcomes.

NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare 2011

Excess length of stay (%) in hospital among people with diabetes when compared with people without



NHS Comparators is an analytical service for commissioners and providers. It helps improve the quality of care delivered by benchmarking and comparing activity and costs on a local, regional and national level. NHS Comparators pulls together:

- Activity and costed data through the Payment by Results (PbR) tariff from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS)
- Information from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)
- GP practice demographic population profile data.

Although local knowledge is needed for interpretation, the data in NHS Comparators may indicate areas where activity or clinical practice is out of line with peers – highlighting possible quality of care implications or areas where there are potential cost savings to be made. NHS Comparators looks at a whole range of activity: in-patient, outpatient and disease-specific data.

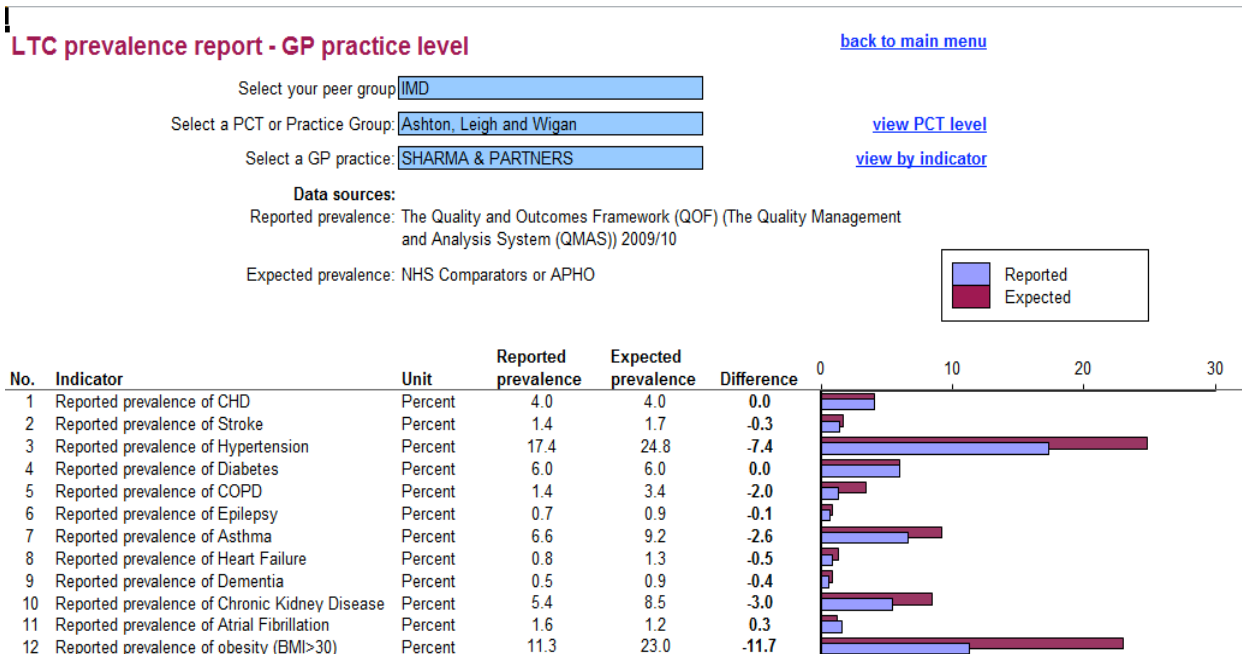
Commissioners can use the service to identify and investigate differences in referral and access rates to secondary care in terms of costs and activity.

[ONS Neighbourhood statistics](#)

This provides ward level demographic information.

[Primary Care Commissioning Application](#)

The PCCA tool brings together a wide range of data relevant to primary care at PCT and practice level, including QOF, GPPS, Workforce, financial and public health data and it presents the data at PCT and practice level. It can be benchmarked nationally, within the PCT for individual practices and against other practices with similar levels of deprivation. It is also possible to create the CCGs, identify outliers within the CCG and enter up to 15 of your own locally defined metrics.



[NHS Indicator Portal](#)

This website gathers together a number of health and social care indicators. Currently these include:

- **Compendium of population health indicators**
A wide-ranging collection of over 1,000 indicators designed to provide a comprehensive overview of population health at a national, regional and local level. These indicators were previously available on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website (also known as NCHOD).
- **GP practice data**
This is a collection of practice level data and is designed to improve healthcare and support patients in making better, informed choices about the practice they choose to register with.
- **Local Basket of Inequalities Indicators (LBOI)**
This collection of 60 indicators helps organisations to measure health and other factors which influence health inequalities such as unemployment, poverty, crime and education. These indicators were previously available on the London Health Observatory website.
- **NHS Outcomes Framework**
The NHS Outcomes Framework indicators will be used by the secretary of state to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account.
- **Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI)**
SHMI is the new hospital-level indicator which uses standard and transparent methodology for reporting mortality at hospital trust level across the NHS in England.

Further advice

For more information or advice on using these analytical tools contact:
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For further information and other resources:

www.pcc.nhs.uk
www.pcc-cic.org.uk
www.networks.nhs.uk/commissioning