

*Room 8E13
Quarry
House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE*

26 April 2011

Gateway reference: 15930

**To: PCT Medical Directors
cc: PCT Chief Executives
SHA Medical Directors
SHA Directors of Finance
SHA Chief Executives**

Dear Colleagues,

National Audit of Dementia Services – Establishment of Memory Services (ROCR/11/2088VOLU).

I am writing to give you early notice of a data collection starting May 2011, which will be asking for information from your PCT about the establishment of memory services, as part of a National Audit of Dementia Services being undertaken by the NHS Information Centre on behalf of the Department of Health. This is a one-off collection from PCTs and the licence expiry date for this collection is 26 April 2012, for further information please contact rocr@ic.nhs.uk

Background

The National Dementia Strategy (NDS) was launched in February 2009 with the aim of improving the quality of care for people with dementia and their carers. It is a 5 year strategy containing 17 objectives to transform dementia services. £150 million has been made available to PCTs in the first two years – £60 million in 2009/10 and £90 million in 2010/11 – to implement the strategy, but without a ‘ring-fence’ on the funding.

One of the key objectives of the strategy is ‘good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all’ and this has been reiterated in the government’s new outcomes focused implementation plan for the NDS published in September 2010 and The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12. The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 states: ‘People with dementia and their carers need information to help them understand the range and quality of local services. NHS organisations are expected to make progress on the National Dementia Strategy, including the four priority areas as set out in the implementation plan published in September 2010:

- good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all;
- improved quality of care in general hospitals;
- living well with dementia in care homes; and
- reduced use of antipsychotic medication.

Implementation of the Strategy, and appropriate use of the funding, are issues of great interest to Ministers, Parliament and the public. In recognition of the fact that there is a lack of data on dementia services, the Strategy includes a commitment to establish a national baseline measurement of services. The collection of data on memory services will enable local organisations to monitor progress in this area and allow local populations to hold them to account for their progress

The National Audit Office both in its original review of services for people with dementia in 2007 and in its follow up study, published in January 2010, has been critical of the lack of hard data to monitor progress in developing services and will continue its scrutiny in this area. Sir David Nicholson wrote to SHA and PCT Chief Executives on 1st April 2010 to highlight the issues identified in the NAO report and explained that the Department would be carrying out a National Audit of Dementia Services, which would include looking at the establishment of memory services (gateway reference: 14149).

Data collection

The Department has made arrangements with the NHS Information Centre for essential data about memory services to be collected via the OMNIBUS system. The information collected through this route is summarised in the table below.

Questions
Does your PCT currently provide memory assessment services?
How much was spent by your PCT on memory assessment services during 2008/09 and 2009/10?
Sub questions about the range of services provided by the memory assessment services.
Are the memory services accredited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists?

The NHS Information Centre will contact PCT Medical Directors with full details of the data requirements and detailed guidance in the near future.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Alistair Burns
National Clinical Director for Dementia
Department of Health