

Summary of changes to the ASCOF Handbook of Definitions, November 2011

The November edition of the ASCOF Handbook of Definitions includes several amendments, and points of clarification in response to queries from users of the first edition. Users of the handbook should be aware of the following changes.

The most significant changes to the handbook are amendments to some aspects of the measures, developed in consultation with the ADASS Standards and Performance Group and others. These changes are:

- amendments to measures 1E and 1G, which measure the employment rate and accommodation status of adults with learning disabilities respectively, so that the information captured by the measures is no longer restricted to information recorded in the assessment or review process, but includes the relevant information however it is recorded, as long as it is captured in the same financial year as the reporting period.
- the division of measure 2A, which measures the rate of permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes, into two parts, (18-64 year olds and 65 and over), to allow more meaningful comparisons between authorities
- the development of measure 2B so that it is now in two parts, to measure both the coverage and effectiveness of reablement services. This change is mirrored in the NHS Outcomes Framework.

There are some other more minor amendments which are aimed at clarifying definitions or interpretation. These are:

- a new appendix on the interpretation of measure 1A: Social care-related quality of life
- new guidance on the treatment of responses to the Easy Read questionnaire for the Adult Social Care Survey. There is generally a straightforward read across between questionnaires, apart from for measure 3A: Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support. Details of how to construct this measure are given in the handbook.
- adjustments to reflect the revised wording and question numbering of the 2011/12 Adult Social Care Survey.
- confirmation that, for all measures based on Adult Social Care Survey data, weighted data should be used to take account of the stratified sampling technique used when the survey is conducted.

There are also a few minor amendments to correct errors in the previous version of the handbook. For example, measure 2A, which measures the rate of permanent admissions to care homes, should be expressed as per 100,000 population, not per 1,000.

