

Emergency Readmissions

Prepared by Health Intelligence

Data Source: TrakCare Patient Management System

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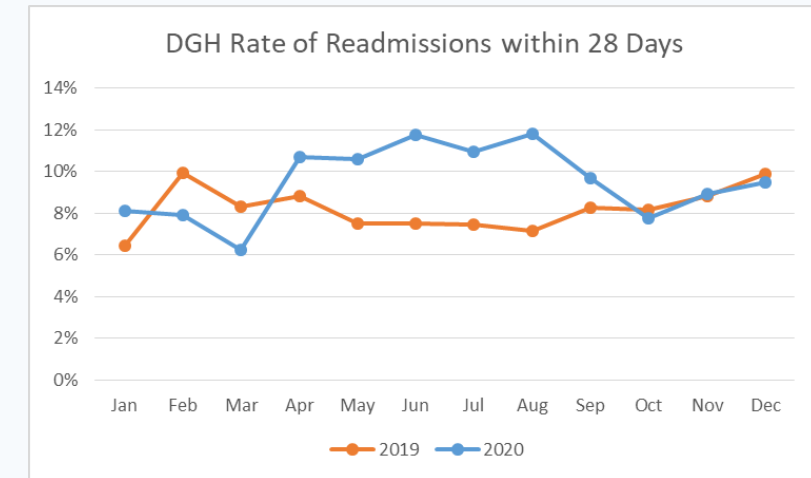
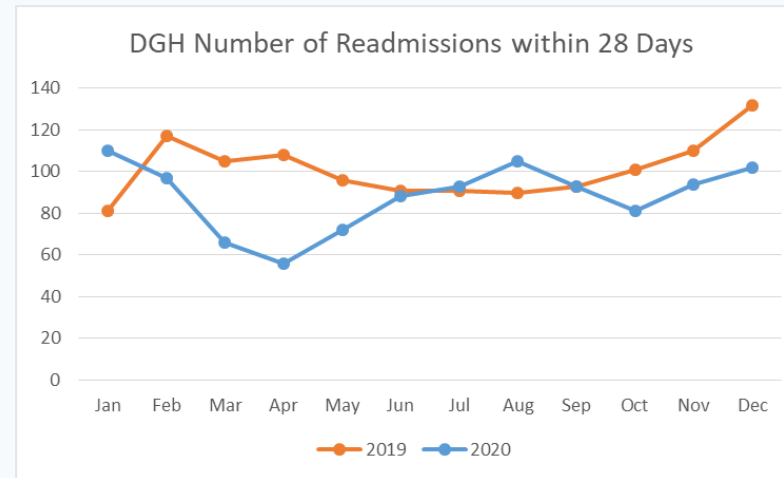
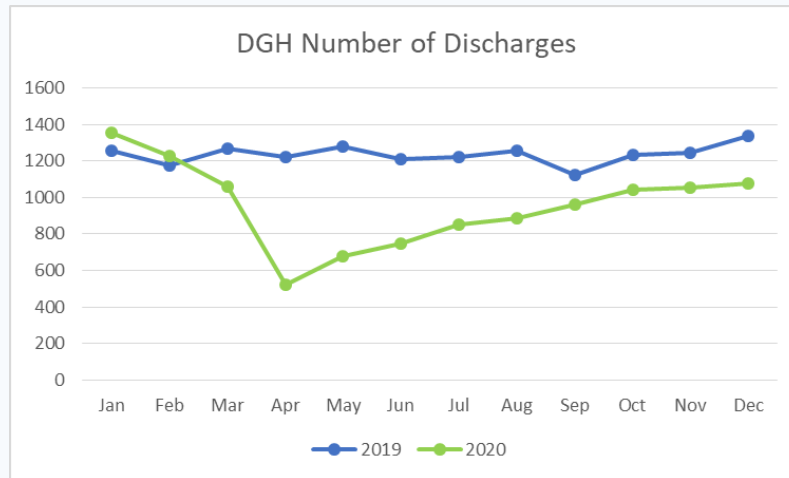
What is a readmission?

- Readmissions at 7 and 28 days are provided in the quarterly performance reports presented to the Audit Performance and Risk Group (APR) of the Moray Integration Joint Board
- The rates provided show (for Moray residents) the % of emergency readmissions to hospital in a given month, within 7 or 28 days of a previous discharge
- The rate is calculated by taking the number of emergency readmissions in a month within above number of days and dividing by the total number of discharges in the same month, then multiplying by 100 ($n \text{ readmitted within } n \text{ days} / \text{total discharges} \times 100$). The discharges include both elective (planned care from a waiting list) and unplanned emergency admissions
- The readmission can be to any hospital not just the hospital of the previous discharge
- The rate provided to APR shows the last month in the reporting quarter and is a high level figure based on postcode of residence in Moray and will include discharges from any hospital recorded on TrakCare
- Not all readmissions will be directly linked to the previous admission though will appear within the cohort reported i.e. readmission may be due to a different condition/reason

Why did readmission rates increase during 2020?

- To better understand the monthly rates looking at readmissions in individual hospitals rather than Moray as a whole, will give a clearer understanding of what we would see as normal activity and what might possibly need further investigation
- To identify if readmissions have actually increased, activity in Dr Gray's for Moray residents has been compared between 2019 and 2020
- Looking specifically at readmissions within 28 days we can see an increase in the readmission rate in some months in 2020, however alongside this there is also a significant drop in the number of discharges during the early stage of the pandemic resulting in an overall reduction of 23% when compared to the number of discharges in 2019
- As the rate uses the number of discharges as the denominator, if the number of readmissions has not also reduced in line with the reduction in discharges then the readmission rate will be higher. The number of readmissions did also reduce overall in 2020 when comparing to 2019 however at a lesser rate of 13%, therefore resulting in an increased readmission rate
- The following charts will show the comparison between the 2 years for number of discharges, number of readmissions at 28 days and rate of readmission at 28 days

- Due to the pandemic planned care was significantly reduced along with a reduction in bed numbers within the hospitals, therefore there were fewer discharges this is visible in the 1st chart from March 2020 onwards, the number of readmissions have also reduced in most months of 2020 as can be seen in the 2nd chart but by a lesser margin than the discharges, this therefore had an impact on the rate making it appear higher than previous years as can be seen in the 3rd chart from April 2020



- Looking at readmissions by hospital can also highlight an issue particularly in community hospitals where the monthly discharges are much smaller than a larger acute hospital like Dr Gray's. An error in recording a cohort of patients who were returning on a regular basis for treatment at one of the community hospitals has been identified recently, patients were recorded as an emergency admission when their treatment was on a planned basis, this in turn significantly increased the number and rate of readmissions for that hospital. This would not however have made much difference to the overall Moray rate due to small numbers
- Readmissions will continue to be monitored on a regular basis and reported to the APR quarterly