BETTER INFORMATION MEANS BETTER CARE

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STARTING POINT: HES

- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) is a world-class data service containing details of all NHS hospital activity in England.
- Primary purpose is health care analysis for the NHS and the Department of Health.
- 137 million records added each year.
- Invaluable research tool – tens of thousands of peer-reviewed articles and audits.

DAME EDITH KÖRNER (1921-2000)
TWO YEARS OF HES DATA

Year 1

Year 2

- Inpatient - discharge
- Inpatient - admission
- A&E visit
- Outpatient visit
USES OF NHS DATA

Describing: to describe patterns of hospital activity over time

Predicting: to build models that help plan services and reduce the risk of needing unplanned care

Evaluating: Using modern scientific methods to find out the success rate of preventive care

Comparing: to compare health needs and the use of services in different parts of the country

Auditing: to help assess the quality and safety of hospital care

Investigating: exploring what apparent links in the data are telling us
PROBLEMS WITH HES

1) Variable data quality and completeness

2) Very difficult for patients to access their own data

3) Missing data:
   a. No information about in-hospital prescribing, investigations, observations, etc.
   b. No information about care outside hospital
   c. No information about social care
Questions we cannot answer

- How many patients in England received chemotherapy last year?
- What proportion of patients in St. Mary’s hospital were reviewed by a consultant at least once a day?
- What was the average time between presenting to their GP with bowel symptoms to being diagnosed with colon cancer?
- What proportion of patients on Ward 20 who had highly abnormal nursing observations were reviewed by the intensive care outreach team within an hour?
CURRENT VIEW

Level of Care

Time

2011

2012

A&E
Out-patient
In-patient

NHS England
Legislative changes
- Increased scrutiny of pseudonymous data
- Data will be used for the good of health and care
- “One strike and you’re out”

Phased roll-out
- 100-500 GP practices
- Independent review prior to further roll-out

Secure data facility
For further information, see www.england.nhs.uk/caredata

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