

# Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme

## 2020 National Report

A Management Information release for Scotland



Publication date: 01 September 2020

### About this release

The Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme 2020 Annual National Report includes data from the Scottish Stroke Care Audit (SSCA). This describes the quality of stroke care in each acute hospital, grouped by NHS Board, during 2019, measuring each hospital against Scottish Stroke Care Standards (2016). The full report can be found at the [Scottish Stroke Care Audit website](#).

### Main Points

- 9,751 stroke patients were admitted to Scottish hospitals in 2019.
- Stroke Care Bundle compliance was 64% across Scotland, an improvement from 59% in 2018. Bundle compliance is measured for the first time incorporating the new 12-hour brain imaging standard. The Stroke Care Bundle is important because achieving it is associated with a reduced risk of dying and an increased likelihood of getting back home. However, overall compliance remains short of the 80% standard and more work is required to improve performance against this standard.
- The total number of patients who received thrombolysis across Scotland in 2019 was 980 (10.1% of all stroke admissions) which is similar to previous years (1,037 (10.7%) in 2018). However, there were consistently large variations in the proportion of stroke patients treated between NHS boards.
- In 2019 the average door to needle time across Scotland was 52.7 minutes, a decrease from 55.7 minutes in 2018.

### Background

The SSCA monitors the quality of care provided by the hospitals in all Health Boards by collating data collected by the stroke Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs). Appropriate care is measured using the stroke care bundle, which comprises four key components: admission to a stroke unit, swallow screen, brain scan and aspirin. Not all patients are eligible for all four components. The Stroke Care Bundle is important because achieving it is associated with a reduced risk of dying and an increased likelihood of getting back home. Bundle performance is measured for the first time incorporating the new 12-hour brain imaging standard. These data are used by the Scottish Government to monitor progress against the Scottish Stroke Care Standards (2016) and the Scottish Stroke Improvement Plan (2014). Health Boards are expected to identify aspects of their stroke services which do not meet the Scottish Standards and to work with their stroke MCNs to improve their standards of care locally.

## Contact

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## Further Information

For more information on the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme see the Scottish Stroke Care Audit.

Data from this publication are available from the [publication page](#) on our website.

The next release of this publication will be June 2021

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## PHS and Official Statistics

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Further information about our statistics.](#)