Australian Government

Department of Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group Communique #5 August 2021

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Data Advisory Group (HS DAG) Communique keeps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services up to date about outcomes regarding the National Key Performance Indicator (nKPI) and Online Services Report (OSR) data collections. This Communique also to provides information about the work of the group more broadly regarding Indigenous health data. This is the fifth HS DAG Communique. Previous Communiques can be found on the HS DAG website.

On 30 July 2021, the HS DAG met via teleconference as non-essential travel is discouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like to submit an item for consideration by the HS DAG, please send your submission using a submission template to the HS DAG Secretariat at: hs.data.advisory.group@health.gov.au. All submissions will be reviewed for inclusion by the co-chairs for appropriateness.

Outcomes of 30 July 2021 meeting

New national Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs)

The February 2020 review of the nKPI and OSR collections by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) recommended that consideration be given to developing 4 new nKPIs - for eye health, sexual health, ear and hearing health, and mental health or social and emotional wellbeing. At the 23 March 2021 HS DAG meeting, members referred this matter to the Clinical and Technical Working Group to consider the feasibility of developing each of the potential indicators. The Working Group met via teleconference over 4 sessions in April and May 2021.

The Working Group did not support development of an eye health nKPI at this time. The Working Group recommended progression of the following 3 indicators, with further consultation required from the sector on acceptability:

- a sexual health nKPI to measure the proportion of Indigenous regular clients who were tested for one or more sexually transmissible infections (syphilis / gonorrhoea)

- an ear health nKPI to measure the proportion of Indigenous regular clients aged 0-14 years who have received an ear health check

- a mental health nKPI based on the Medicare-rebated GP Mental Health Treatment Plan.

A public consultation process via the Department's online Consultation Hub was open from 26 June to 29 July 2021 to seek stakeholder and community feedback on the 3 proposed new nKPIs.

A total of 47 submissions were received from a range of stakeholders including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, state/territory health services, Sector Support Organisations, and state/territory government health departments.

The HS DAG is considering the Working Group's recommendations and the consultation feedback out of session.

If development of new nKPIs is endorsed by the HS DAG, it is proposed that the indicators will be pilot tested for at least two reporting periods. IHD will work with the AIHW and HS DAG members to analyse the data from the pilot testing collection periods to then determine whether the new indicators should be implemented for all reporting organisations.

The OSR and nKPI Data Framework

The *OSR and nKPI for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Data Framework* articulates the roles and responsibilities of participants in the collection, use, access, privacy and security of the nKPI and OSR data. A public consultation process for revision of the October 2015 Framework was open from 3 May to 14 June 2021 on the Department's online Consultation Hub. A total of 15 responses were received from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, a Sector Support Organisation and a Local Health Network.

The HS DAG is considering the consultation feedback and the final Framework document out of session. Once endorsed, the Framework will be published on the Department's website.

Process for regular review of the nKPI collection

The HS DAG discussed a process for reviewing and maintaining the nKPIs to ensure the ongoing relevance and utility of the collection. The process will include updates or retirement of existing indicators, addition of any new indicators, and allows for a 5-yearly formal review cycle.

An end-to-end process will make the management of the collection more transparent, systematic and efficient. The HS DAG will endorse a final process out of session.

OSR Stage 4 build

The OSR has been streamlined and restructured following the AIHW's February 2020 review of the nKPI and OSR collections. Implementation of the new OSR has taken place in stages, with Stage 3 features launched for the recent 2020-21 OSR collection.

Stage 4 will be implemented in time for the 2021-22 data collection period which will open on 1 July 2022. The major new item will be the collection of a high-level list of services provided by each organisation. This is intended to highlight the wide range of services provided by the sector compared to GP clinics. The HS DAG has agreed to hold a workshop in September 2021 to focus on the final OSR build questions.

Condition Coding Framework

NPS MedicineWise was engaged by the Department in February 2021 to undertake a review of the condition codes currently used in clinical information systems (CIS) to produce values for the nKPIs. The original condition code lists for the nKPIs were created in 2016 by the Improvement Foundation and have not been systematically reviewed since.

As part of this work, NPS MedicineWise has produced a Condition Coding Framework, which was noted by the HS DAG.

Each CIS uses a different clinical term set (e.g. ICPC2, DOCLE) to define the set of conditions and sub-conditions which make up type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and cardiovascular disease. The current application of condition definitions varies between CIS vendors. Bringing these into closer alignment will improve both the accuracy of reporting from each CIS and the comparability across CIS outputs.

Condition coding lists for each CIS will be incorporated into the *Specifications for National Key Performance Indicators And Online Services Reporting* document which is published on the NPS MedicineWise website.

Changes to the CIS will be in place for either the December 2021 or June 2022 nKPI collections, depending on the capacity of vendors.

Next meeting

The next HS DAG meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2021.