

The CHA and NHS Benchmarking

Update by Dr Kirsty Protherough

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The Community Hospitals Association (CHA) is delighted to continue its collaboration with NHS Benchmarking on intermediate care, a partnership dedicated to enhancing data quality and understanding the unique contributions of community hospitals within the broader health and care system. Community hospitals play a crucial role in providing bed-based intermediate care, which supports patients in their recovery, rehabilitation, and, when necessary, transition from acute hospital settings back to their communities. However, despite the essential services they provide, data from community hospitals has historically been incomplete and challenging to analyse, making it difficult to fully appreciate the scope and impact of their work.

One of the primary goals of this collaboration is to improve the quality of data collected from community hospitals, especially for bed-based intermediate care, where community hospitals provide over three-quarters of the returns. The CHA's commitment to supporting data collection and sharing best practices across community hospital settings is instrumental in creating a clearer picture of intermediate care and its value within the NHS. Good data allows health systems to accurately measure outcomes, ensure that care aligns with patient needs, and make informed decisions on resource allocation and policy development.

On Tuesday, 17th December, from 2 pm to 4 pm, an intermediate care event will bring together key stakeholders to review and discuss findings, insights, and new data in this area. We recognise that the insights gained from this event will help shape the future of community hospital data collection and utilisation.

CHA is deeply invested in ensuring that this data accurately reflects the critical services community hospitals provide, not only in terms of bed-based care but also in the unique value community hospitals add by integrating care across different settings, promoting recovery, and supporting discharge processes.

If CHA members or community hospital representatives have ideas or suggestions for further scoping of projects, we encourage input to help shape meaningful and sustainable improvements in community hospital data collection.

This collaboration with NHS Benchmarking is a step forward in making community hospital work more visible and measurable. CHA remains committed to ensuring that quality data underpins the continuous improvement of intermediate care services, ultimately benefiting patients, families, and the broader healthcare system.

For those interested in contributing ideas or attending, please reach out, and for those who might be able to speak at the event or recommend someone to do so, your expertise would be invaluable to the discussion.

Together, we can advance the visibility and effectiveness of community hospitals through robust data that highlights their essential contributions to intermediate care.

For further involvement in project scoping or to discuss ideas on how CHA can support data collection efforts in community hospitals, please feel free to get in touch.