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Dear Ed

NHS Digital has gained some very valuable feedback as our Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) publication has been going through the National Statistics assessment process. This has enabled us to make a number of improvements to the usefulness of our publications, in particular:

- Applying aspects of the Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) to PROMs has enabled us to report more fully on the quality of the information and make improvements to the standards applied to the questionnaires;
- An assessment of the user needs has led to a much more interactive presentation style.

During the course of the assessment, there have been two important developments:

- The work with other national producers of health and care statistics to develop our collective output and the direction NHS Digital is taking in moving to a smaller, more focussed portfolio of National Statistics that cover key series;
- The NHS England consultation on the existing PROMs collection and the resultant changes to the scope of PROMs, with PROMs for Groin Hernia and Varicose Vein operations being discontinued. This positions PROMs as an important tool for getting insight around patient reported outcomes from procedures that are of particular interest at a given time rather than a long-standing series across many areas.

These lead me to conclude, that although PROMs is a very important output and the work of the assessment to date has been invaluable in identifying improvements, it is no longer well suited to being developed to be a National Statistic, so I would like to suggest that Office for Statistics Regulation discontinues the assessment.

I would like to thank your assessment team for all of their very helpful input.

Yours sincerely



Chris Roebuck  
Director of Publications and Head of Profession for Statistics