Health Protection Agency Syndromic Surveillance Summary

Produced by the HPA Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team

06 November 2012 | Week 44 2012

Syndromic surveillance national summary:

Reporting period: Week 44 (29 October - 4 November 2012)

Nationally there have been further increases in the number of NHS Direct vomiting calls. The proportion of vomiting calls is now above the 'norovirus threshold' suggesting community-based norovirus activity. We will continue to monitor this, and other gastrointestinal indicators over coming weeks.

HPA/NHS Direct summary:

Nationally there have been further increases in the number of NHS Direct vomiting calls; call levels are slightly above those expected for this time of year. The proportion of vomiting calls is now above the 'norovirus threshold' suggesting community-based norovirus activity.

Click here to access the NHS Direct bulletin [intranet] [internet]

HPA/QSurveillance summary:

Gastrointestinal indicators including gastroenteritis and vomiting remain slightly above levels seen in previous years (graphs 9 & 10). This is consistent with national laboratory reports of norovirus and rotavirus.

National GP consultation rates for pertussis remain high in line with the current national outbreak (Graph 14).

Click here to access the HPA/QSurveillance bulletin/appendices [intranet] [internet]

Emergency Department summary:

There have been further increases in acute respiratory infection attendances, predominantly in the 0-4 years age group (figures .

There has been a small increase in the triage ratio, which has been caused by a fall in the number of less severe attendances.

Click here to access the EDSSS bulletin [intranet] [internet]

GP Out-of-hours summary:

Nothing new of national significance to report during week 44.

Click here to access the GP Out-of-Hours bulletin [intranet] [internet]

RCGP Weekly Returns Service:

Click here to access the RCGP bulletin [internet]

Click here to access further reports from the RCGP website [external link]

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Syndromic surveillance summary notes:

- Key messages are provided from each individual system.
- The different syndromic surveillance systems in operation within the HPA access data from different areas of the national health care system.
- Each system is able to monitor a different selection of syndromic indicators based upon a different case mix of patients.
- Access to the full version of each syndromic surveillance bulletin is available through the HPA Syndromic Surveillance website found at: (http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/RealtimeSyndromicSurveillance/); reports will be made available on Thursday afternoons.
- Further weekly and annual reports are available from the RCGP Research and Surveillance web pages http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/rsc.aspx

Syndromic surveillance systems:

HPA/NHS Direct Syndromic Surveillance System
A telephone health help line syndromic system that monitors daily numbers of calls made to NHS Direct across England and Wales

HPA/QSurveillance National Surveillance System
A large UK-based general practitioner surveillance system monitoring weekly consultations for a range of clinical syndromic indicators

Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance System (EDSSS)
A sentinel ED network across England monitoring daily attendances and presenting symptoms/diagnoses

GP Out-of-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System (GPOOHS)
A syndromic surveillance system monitoring GP out-of hours activity and unscheduled care across England using a range of clinical syndromic indicators

RCGP Weekly Returns Service (RCGP WRS)
A sentinel GP surveillance network covering England and Wales monitoring weekly consultations for a range of clinical indicators. This surveillance system is coordinated by the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre

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- NHS Direct
- Participating EDSSS emergency departments
- College of Emergency Medicine
- Advanced Health & Care and the participating OOH service providers
- QSurveillance®; University of Nottingham; EMIS/EMIS practices; ClinRisk

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