

Abstract for FM Meeting

Title 25 words

Hospitalisation In Fibromyalgia: In-Patient Treatment Characteristics, Costs And Geographical Variation In England

Body of text 250 words

Treatment of fibromyalgia occurs primarily in the out-patient setting, but historical data suggest that significant direct medical costs may arise from hospitalisation. The aim of the current study was to describe present-day in-patient care associated with fibromyalgia within the English National Health Service.

This observational study used aggregate data for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 inclusive from Hospital Episode Statistics Admitted Patient Care (HES APC), which provides data for all hospital admissions across all the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), in the NHS in England. Hospital admissions were described in terms of patient demographic, the class, number, duration and cost of admissions, and procedures conducted, over the last four financial years. The geographical trends of hospitalisation were also visualised.

An estimated total of 46,050 patients were admitted during the study period. The majority were female (22,525.00/31,250.00, 72%), and the peak age was between 45 and 55 years. Day case care was most prevalent (60%), with elective admissions representing the largest overall economic burden. Procedures often incorporated radiological input for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, and/or therapeutic infusions or musculoskeletal injection therapy. Marked variation in annual costs was seen across the country ranging from under £25,000 in

some CCGs to over £100,000 in others; this persisted after accounting for overall inpatient activity in each CCG.

This study highlights the potential disparity between current treatment recommendations, which are predominantly delivered in an out-patient setting, and current practice. Further investigation is needed to ensure that all patients with fibromyalgia receive optimal, evidence-based care.