



Royal College
of Physicians

Sentinel Stroke National
Audit Programme (SSNAP)

Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP)

Clinical audit report

Stroke care in

Northern Ireland

This report is for stroke
survivors and their families

Based on patients treated between
April - July 2017

Easy access version

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Glossary

Atrial fibrillation (AF)	an abnormal heart beat which can result in the formation of blood clots
Cognitive Screening	A test to assess a patient's mental processes such as memory and concentration.
Continence Plan	A plan to help a patient increase their control over bowel and bladder function
Malnourishment	A condition which is caused by not having enough of or the right nutrients.
Occupational Therapy	Therapy to help patients relearn activities of everyday life.
Physiotherapy	Therapy to restore movement and function
Speech and Language Therapy	Therapy to help patients recover from communication or swallowing difficulties.
Thrombolysis	The use of medicine to break down a blood clot.

Introduction to the SSNAP Easy Access Version Report

This is a **report** about a project called the

Sentinel **S**troke **N**ational **A**udit **P**rogramme. (SSNAP)

This information is written in a way that is **easy** to understand.

You may want someone to **help** you when you read this report.

What is SSNAP?

SSNAP measures stroke care. It does this to improve the quality of stroke care.

SSNAP collects information from hospitals about the care provided to stroke patients from the time they **arrive at hospital** up until **6 months after their stroke**.

This means that SSNAP can report on **both** the early stages of stroke care in **hospital** and later stages of care in the **community**.

The aim is that the information and results from the audit are used to **improve care** for stroke patients.

The report shows how well hospitals treated stroke patients.

The information is about the care given between **April - July 2017**.

This report can help people to talk about their **stroke care** with local hospitals

We will write this report every 4 months.

The **Royal College of Physicians (RCP)** runs SSNAP.

NHS England and NHS Wales pay for SSNAP.

The **Stroke Working Party** guides SSNAP.

This includes

- people who work in stroke
- charities such as the Stroke Association
- stroke survivors

Thank you to

- **Speakeasy**, a charity based in Bury, which supports people with aphasia
- The **South London Stroke Research Patient and Family Group**
- The **stroke survivors** on the stroke working party

They helped to make this report **easy to read**.

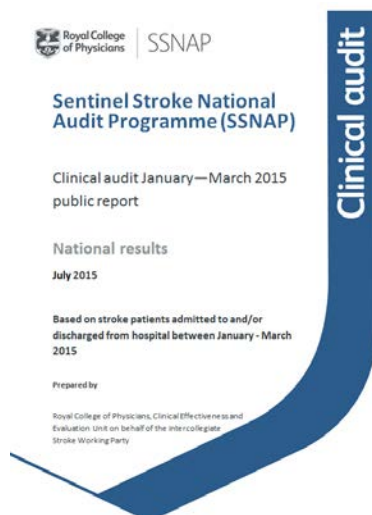
For more **detailed reports**

www.strokeaudit.org/results

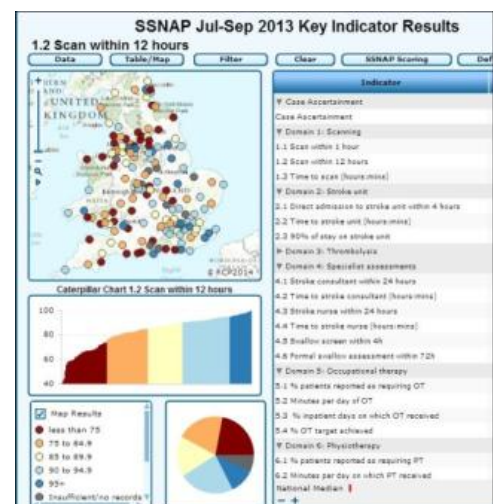
For **interactive maps**

www.strokeaudit.org/results/Clinical-audit/maps

Reports



Maps



How to read this report

This report gives information about **10 aspects of stroke care**.

There are **standards** within each aspect of care.

Each hospital must do well in **all standards**.

In this report we explain:



What should be done?



How quickly it should be done?

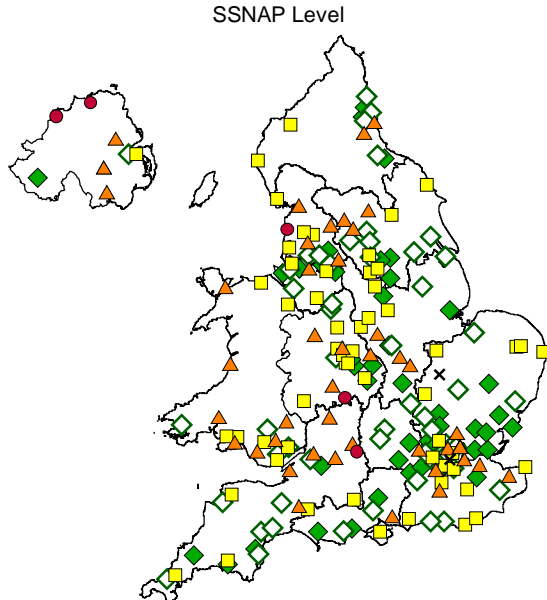


Why it should be done?

Understanding the results

National maps

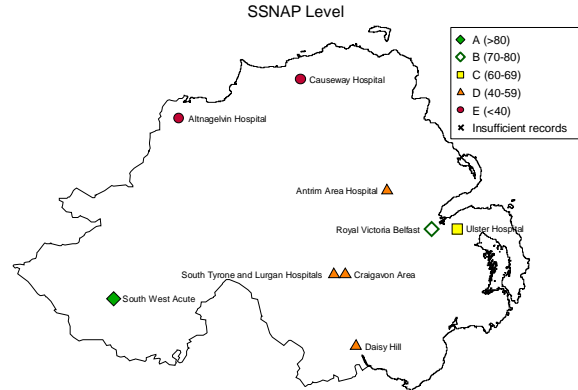
These show how well hospitals have performed in **England, Wales, and Northern Ireland**.



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017

Regional maps

These show how well hospitals have performed in **your area** of the country.



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017
Region: Northern Ireland

There is a **box** beside each regional map.

It shows which **shapes** are for each **level from A – E**.

A is the **best** level and **E** is the **worst**.

The black cross **✗** shows which hospitals **did not submit information about enough of their patients to be included** in the results for this period.

Shape	Level	Each area of care
	A	Hospital meets highest standards for almost all patients Hospital does not meet highest standards for many patients
	B	
	C	
	D	
	E	

Hospitals included in this report

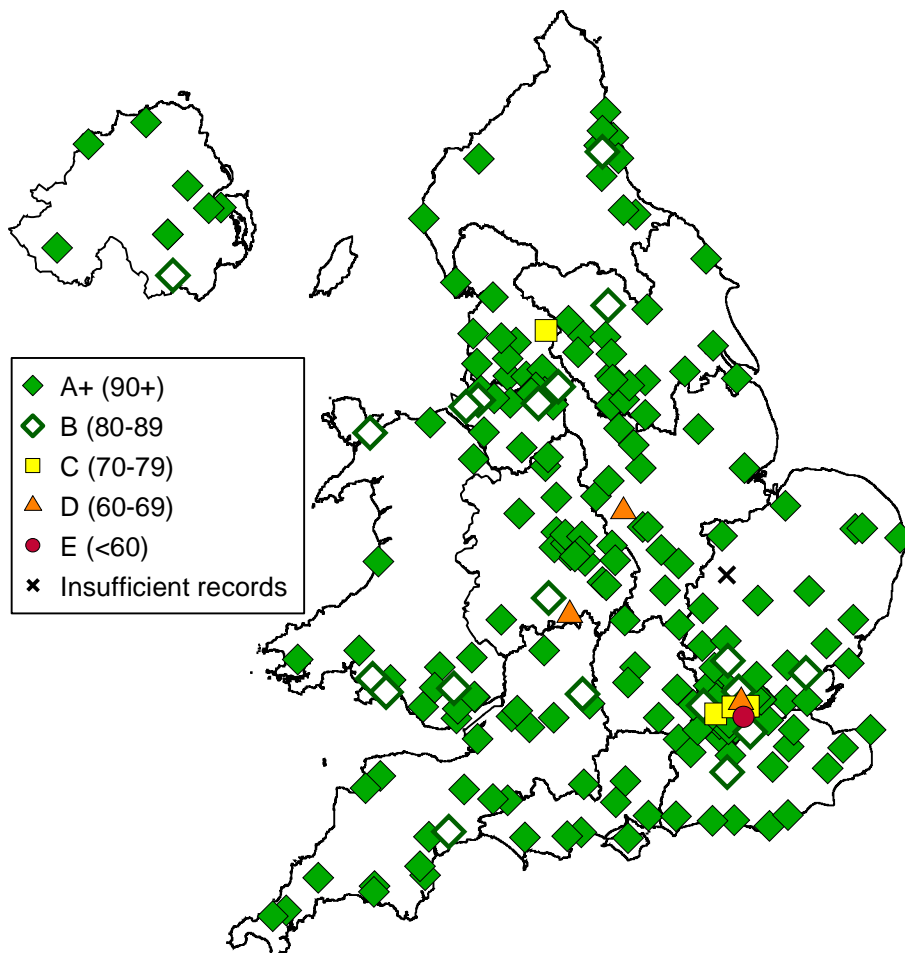
This report includes **28,156 stroke patients** admitted to hospital between **April - July 2017**.

227 hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are included in this report.

Most of these teams submitted more than **90% of their stroke patients to SSNAP**.

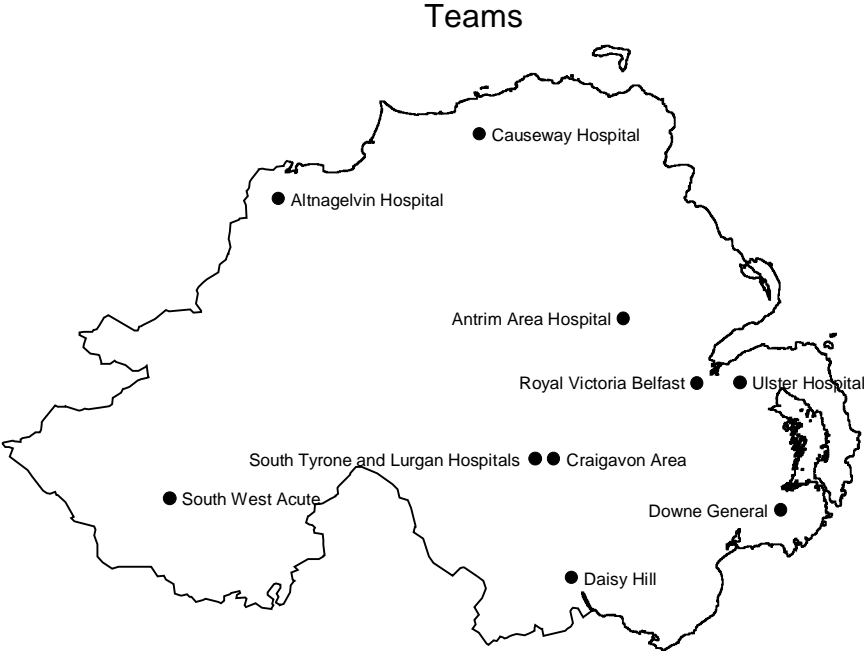
We want **all** hospitals to send in their information so that they can use the results to **improve care** for patients.

SSNAP participation



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017

This map gives the **names** of each of the hospitals in **your region**.



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017

Region: Northern Ireland

How good is your local hospital at treating stroke patients?

The **final scores** for each hospital in Northern Ireland for **April - July 2017** are shown on the next page.

To achieve a high score on SSNAP a hospital must:

- Perform **very well** in **each area of care**

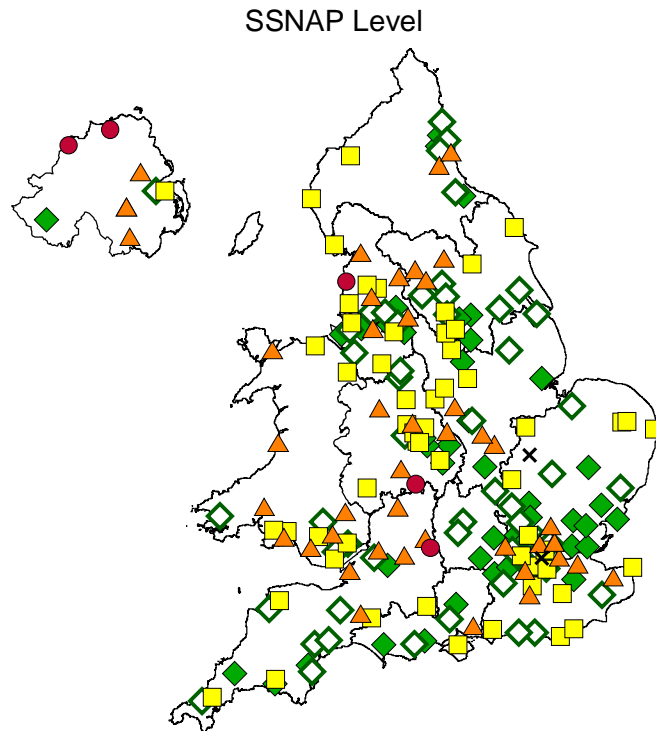
They **also** have to

- Include **all of their stroke patients** on SSNAP
- Answer **all of the questions** in the audit fully

Important Note

- The **standards of care** set by SSNAP are **very high**.
- This means that **many hospitals** have received **low scores** in the audit at present.
- This **does not mean** that their stroke services are **unsafe**.
- It **does mean** that these hospitals **need to improve** some aspects of care.
- We **expect** that hospitals will receive **higher scores in the future**.

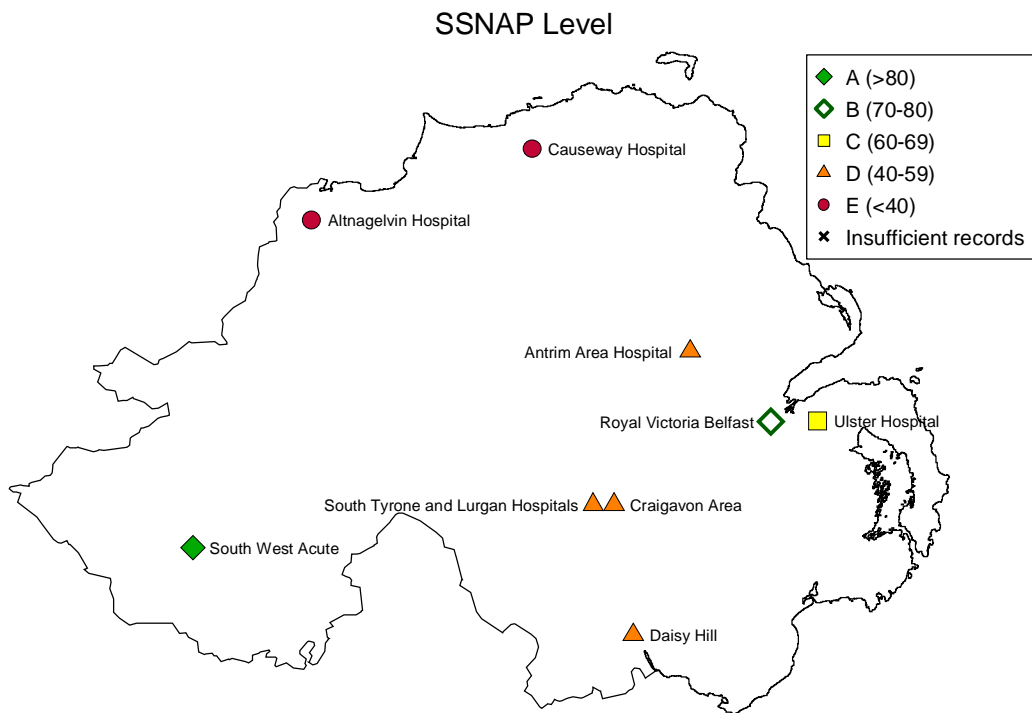
Overall SSNAP Level National Results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017
Region: Northern Ireland

1. Brain Scanning



What should be done?

All patients with stroke symptoms should have a **brain scan**



Within 1 hour



Within 12 hours

How quickly should this be done?

Patients who are **very sick** should have a scan **within 1 hour** of arriving at hospital.

All patients should have a brain scan **within 12 hours**

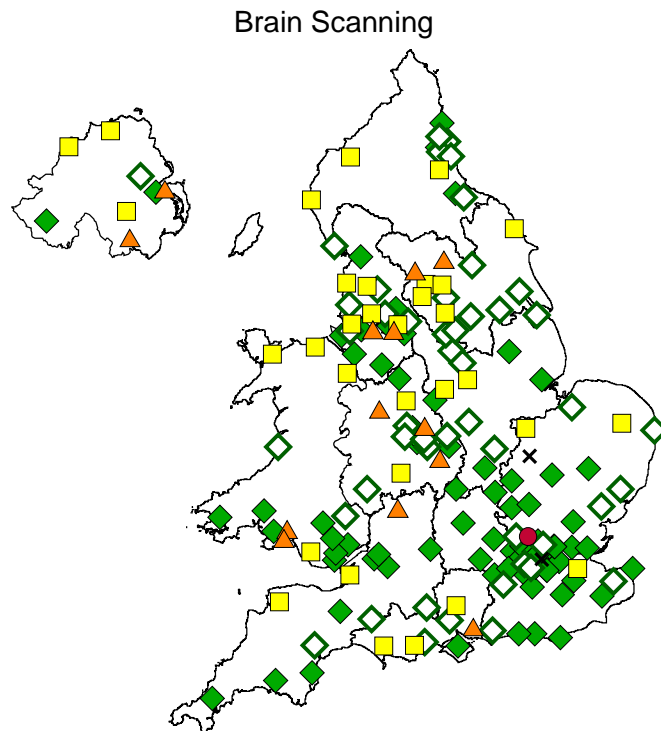


Why should this be done?

To show the doctor what **treatment** the patient **needs**.

Fast treatment can **reduce** the **damage** caused by stroke.

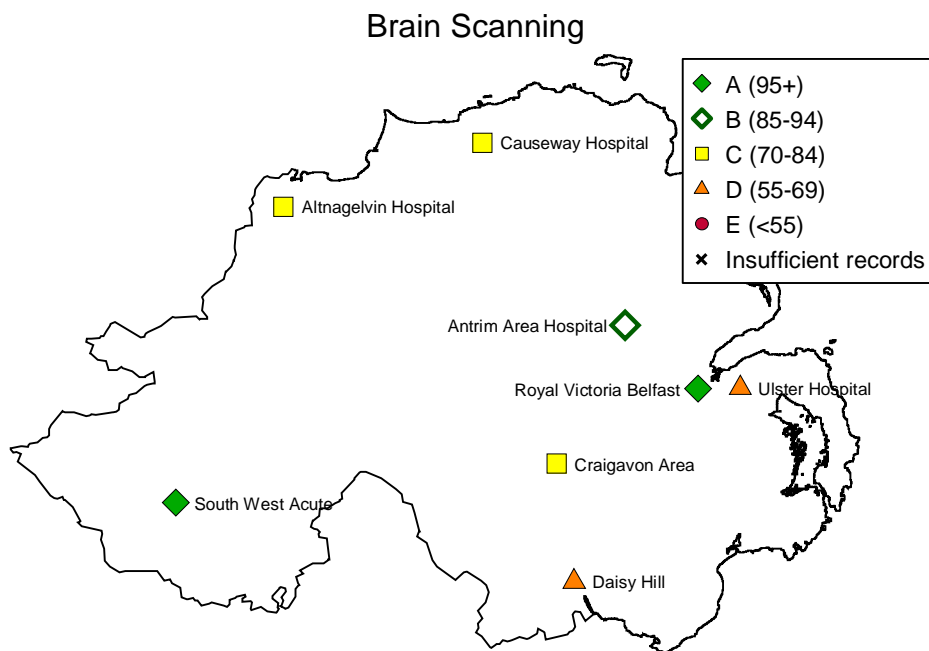
National Results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

2. Stroke unit



What should be done?

Patients should get to a **stroke unit** very quickly.

Patients should spend at least **90% of their time** in hospital on a **stroke unit**.



Within 4 Hours

How quickly should this be done?

Patients should get to a stroke unit **within 4 hours** of arriving at hospital.

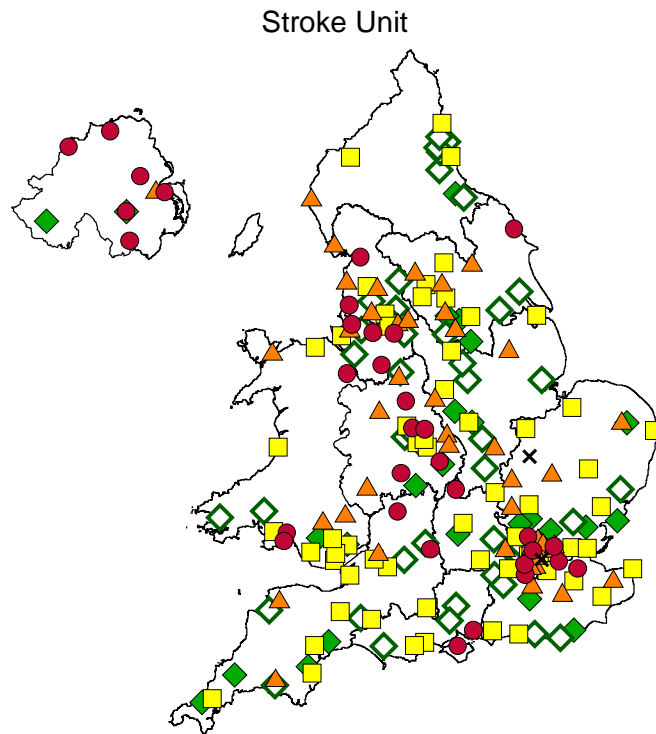


Why should this be done?

Stroke units give the **best care** to stroke patients.

This can save lives and reduce disability.

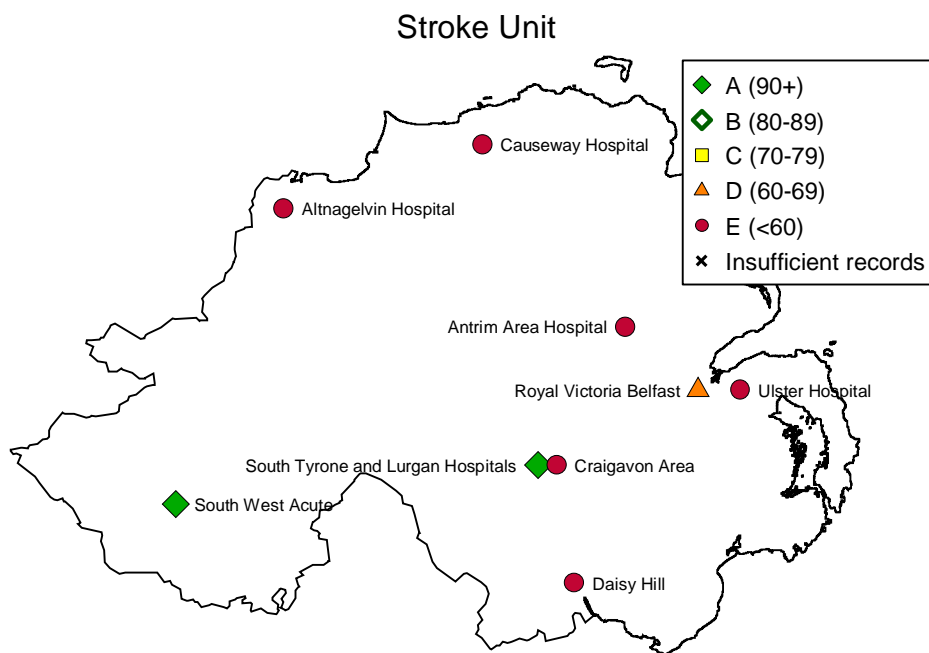
National Results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
 Region: Northern Ireland

3. Clot Busting Treatment (Thrombolysis)



What should be done?

Between 15-20% of patients should receive a **clot-busting drug**.

Patients who have a stroke caused by a **clot** and who **get to hospital quickly** can be given this drug.

These patients should receive clot busting treatment **at the earliest possible time** after arriving at hospital.



Within 4.5 hours

How quickly should this be done?

It should be given up to **4 and a half hours** after a stroke.

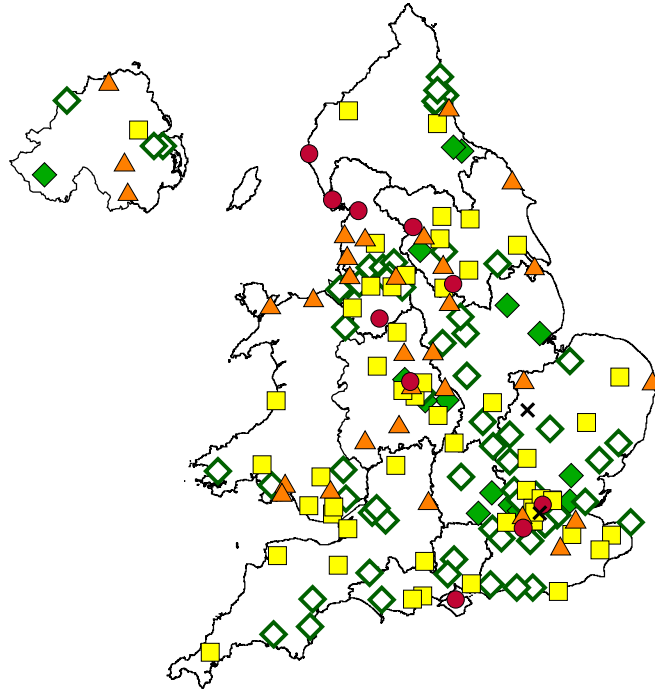


Why should this be done?

Clot-busting drug treatment can **reduce disability**.

National Results

Clot Busting Treatment (Thrombolysis)

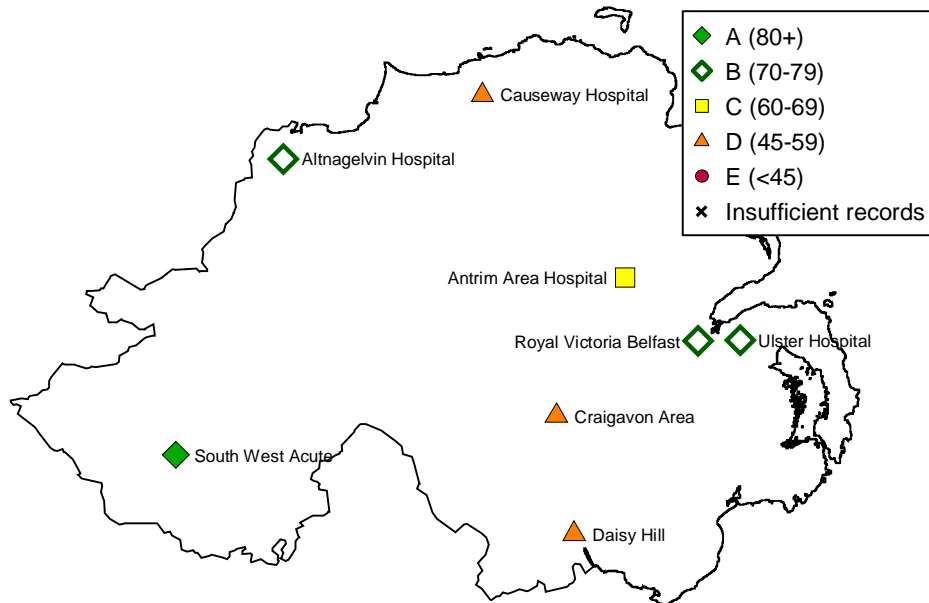


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Clot Busting Treatment (Thrombolysis)



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

4. Specialist Assessments



What should be done?

Patients should

- see a **stroke consultant**
- see a **stroke nurse**
- be **screened** for swallow safety
- have a **swallow assessment** if needed



How quickly should this be done?



Within **4 hours**: swallow screen

Within **1 day**: **stroke nurse** and **stroke consultant**

Within **3 days**: **swallow assessment**



Why should this be done?

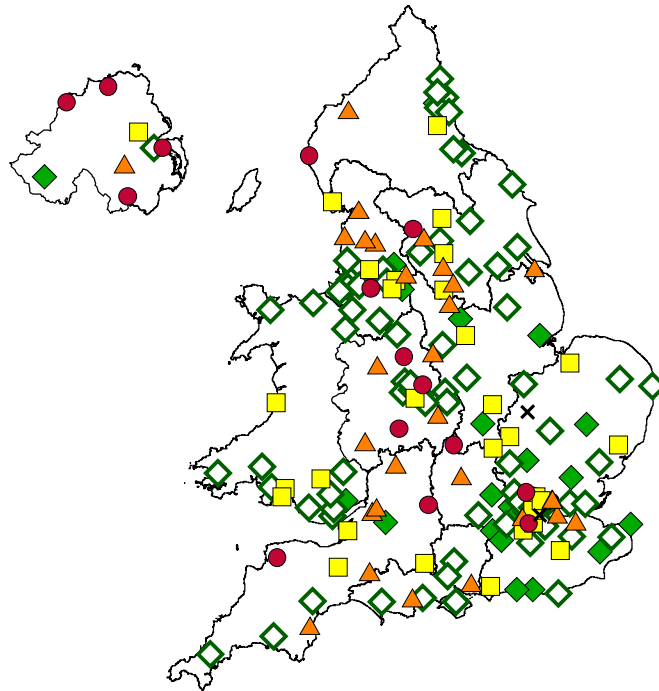
Stroke specialist professionals give patients the care they need.

This will **improve their recovery**.

Swallow screening checks if **the patient can swallow food and drink safely** and therefore reduce the risk of choking.

National Results

Specialist Assessments

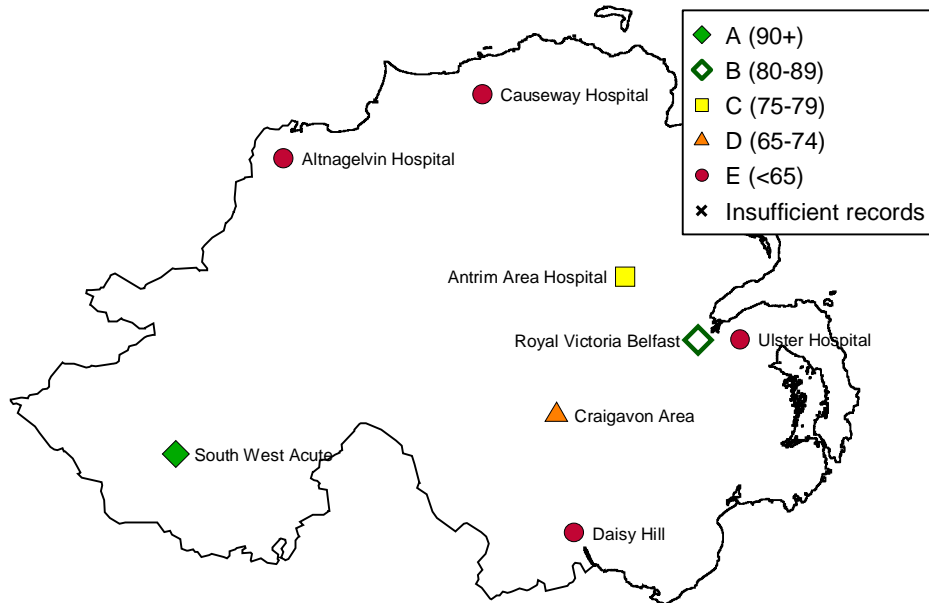


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Specialist Assessments



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

5. Occupational Therapy (OT)



What should be done?

All **patients** (who are well enough and need it) should get

- at least **45 minutes** of occupational therapy
- on at least **5 days a week**
- for the duration of their stroke care.



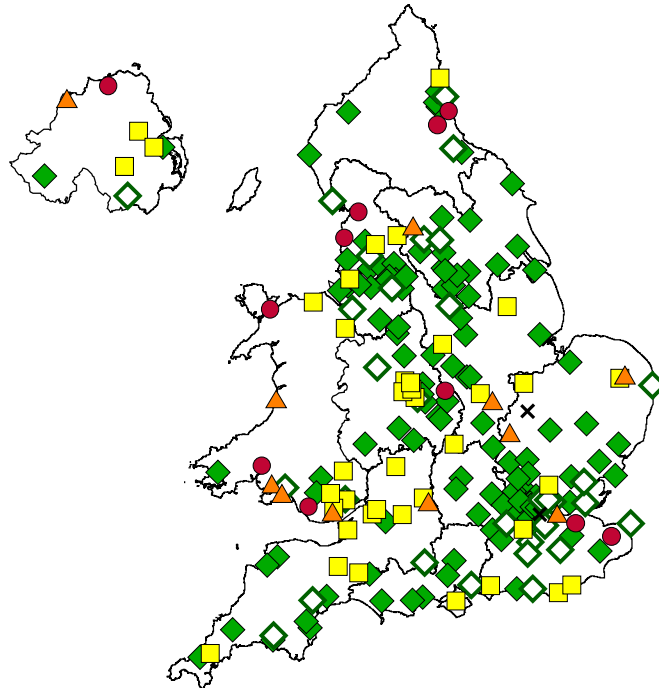
Why should this be done?

Occupational therapy helps people to **re-learn everyday activities and skills** following a stroke.

This may include **tasks** such as getting dressed or **hobbies** such as painting.

National Results

Occupational Therapy (OT)

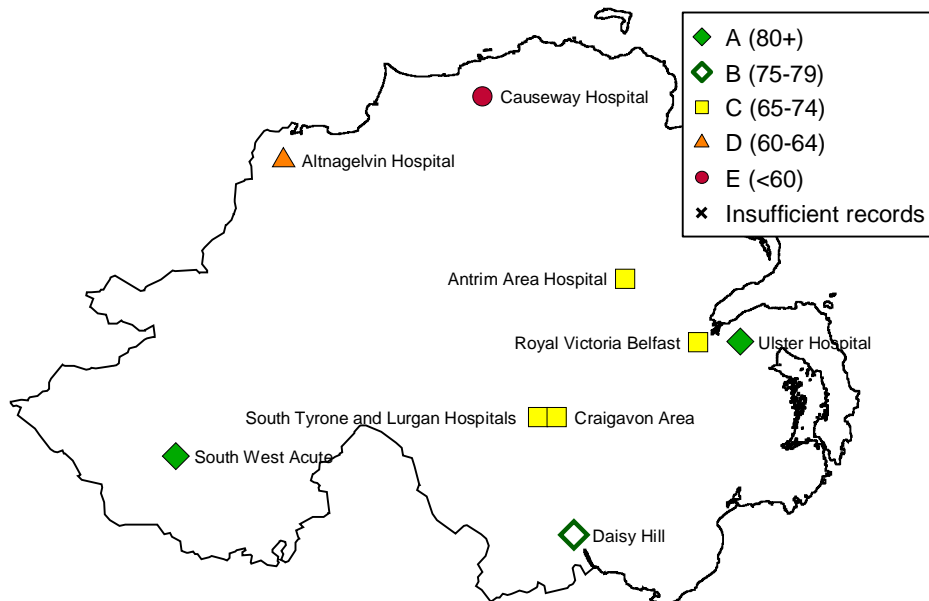


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Occupational Therapy (OT)



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

6. Physiotherapy



What should be done?

All **patients** (who are well enough and need it) should get

- at least **45 minutes** of physiotherapy
- on at least **5 days a week**
- for the duration of their stroke care.



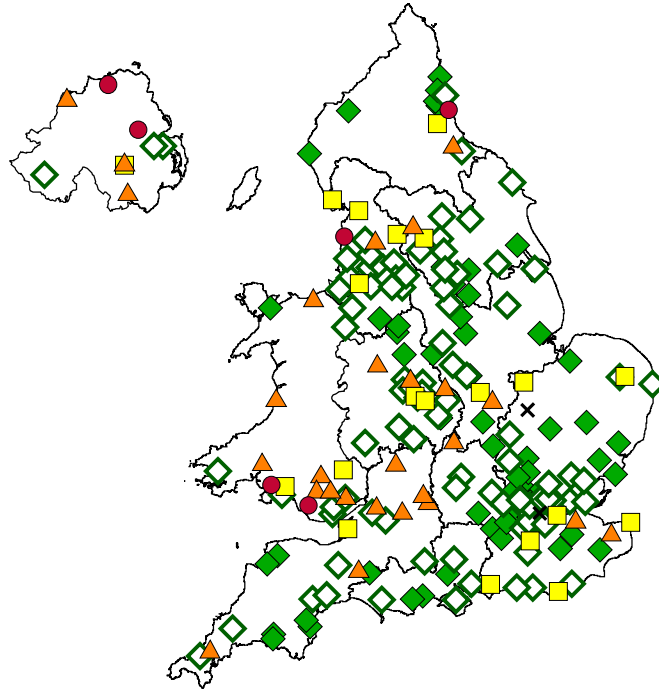
Why should this be done?

Physiotherapy helps people to **overcome or adapt to weakness** on one side of the body.

It also helps people to **improve** their **balance** and **movement**.

National Results for Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy (PT)

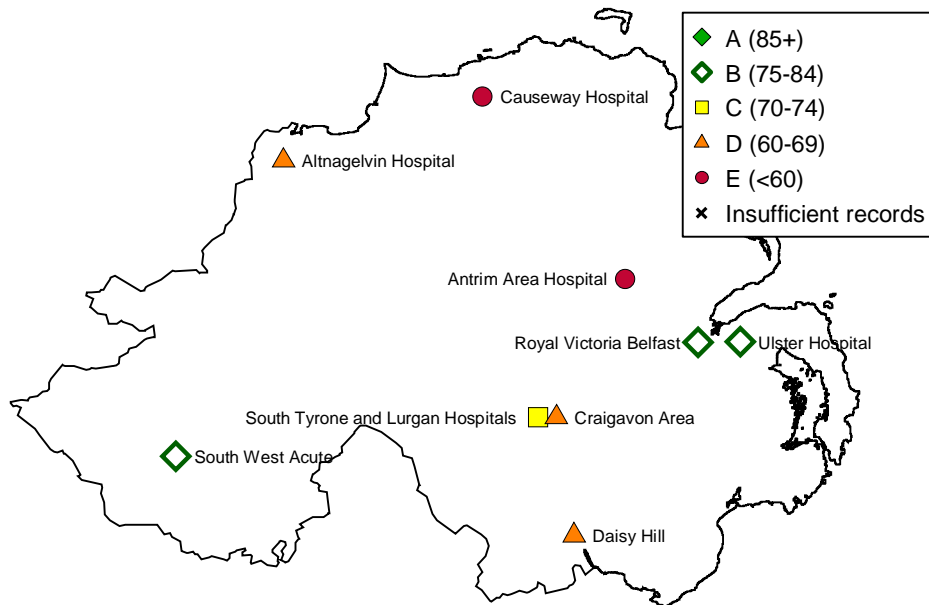


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Physiotherapy (PT)



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

7. Speech and Language Therapy



What should be done?

All **patients** (who are well enough and need it) should get

- at least **45 minutes** of speech and language therapy
- on at least **5 days a week**
- for the duration of their stroke care.

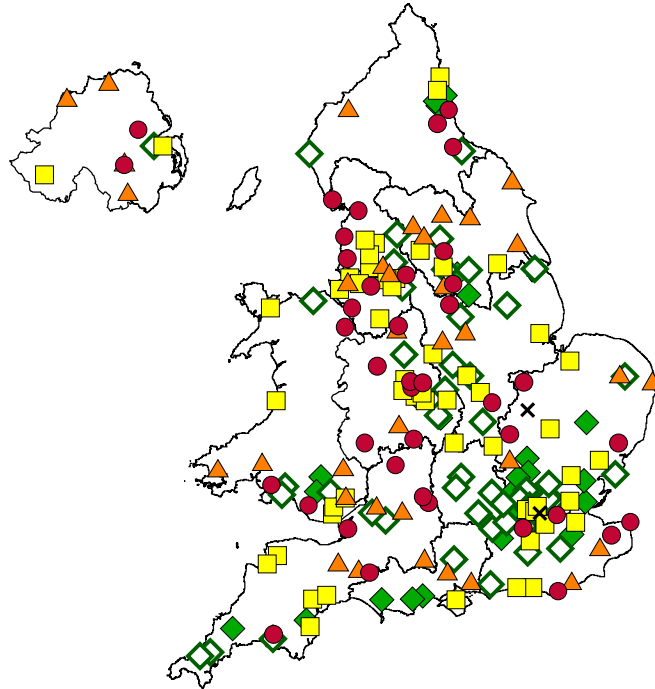


Why should this be done?

Speech and language therapy helps people to recover from communication problems following a stroke.

National Results for Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

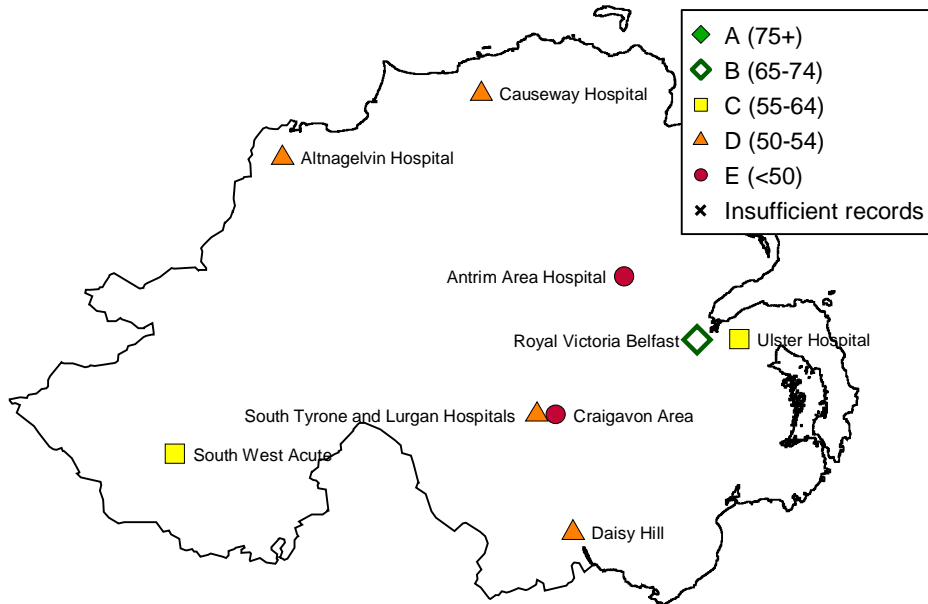


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

8. Team Working



What should be done?

Patients should

- see a **stroke nurse**
- be **assessed** if needed by all relevant therapists (for example a speech and language therapist)
- agree **rehabilitation goals** with the staff



How quickly should this be done?

Within **1 day**: **stroke nurse** and at least **1 therapist**

Within **3 days**: **all relevant therapists**.

Within **5 days**: **all rehabilitation goals agreed**

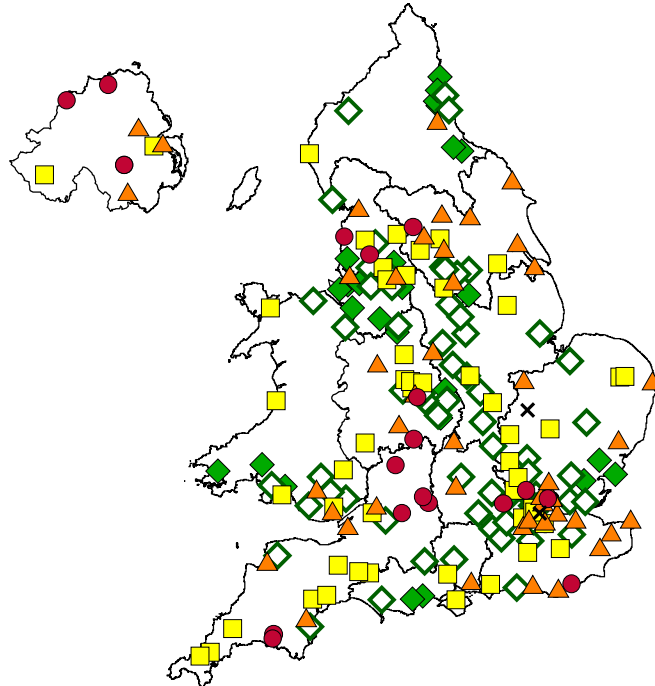


Why should this be done?

Each member of the **stroke team** can give patients the care that they need to **improve their recovery**.

National Results

Team Working

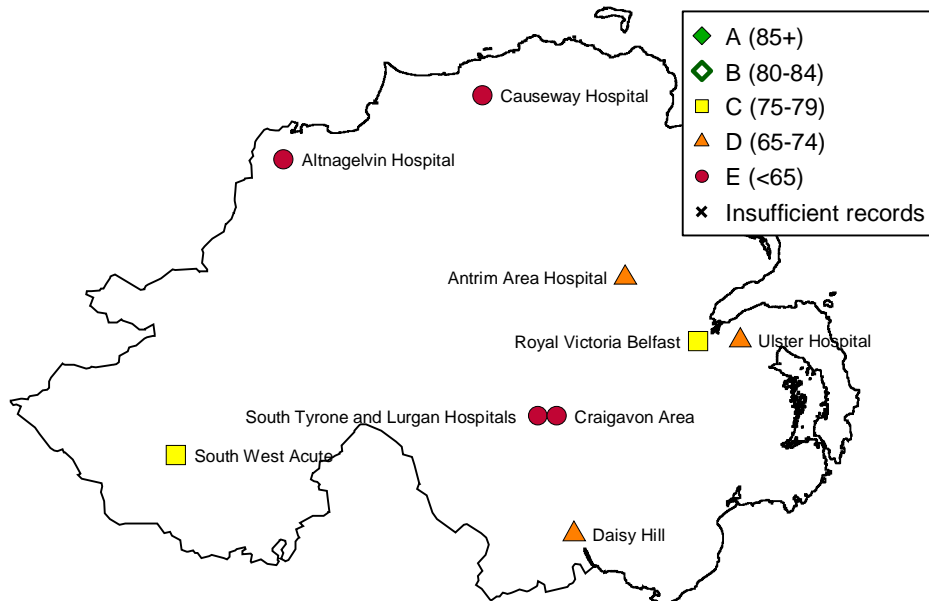


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Team Working



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

9. Standards met by Discharge



What should be done?

If needed, before leaving hospital a patient should

- be **screened for nutrition** and seen by a dietitian
- have a **continence plan** drawn up. This should be done **within 3 weeks** of arriving at hospital
- be **screened for mood and cognition**



How quickly should this be done?

By discharge: nutrition screening

Within 3 weeks: continence plan

By discharge: mood screening



Why should this be done?

Nutrition screening checks if the patient is at **risk of malnourishment**.

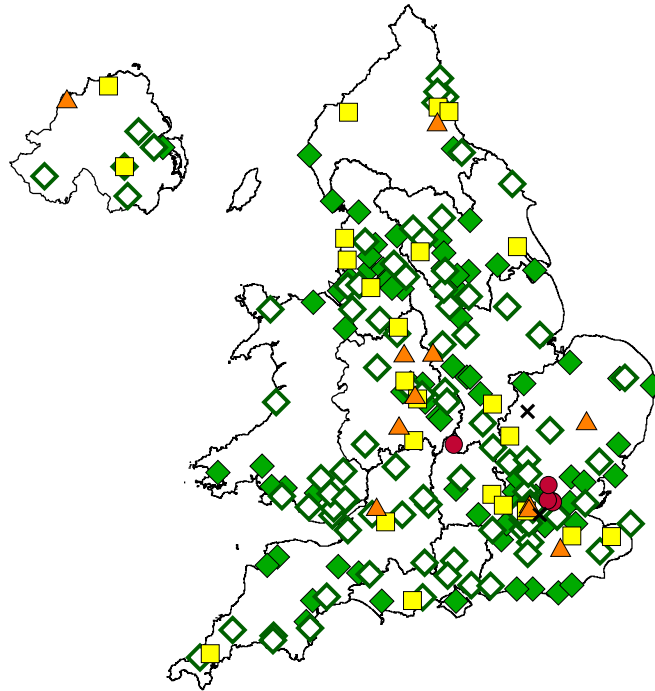
Patients say **continence management** is one of the **most important** areas of care.

Mood screening identifies feeling of **distress** or **lack of confidence**.

Cognitive screening identifies difficulties **thinking, concentrating** or **remembering** after a stroke.

National Results

Standards by Discharge

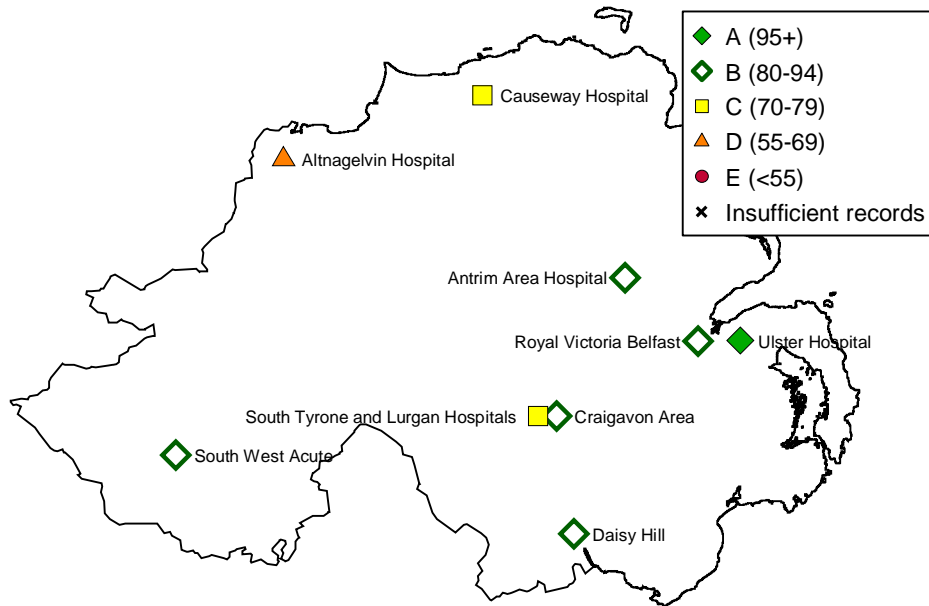


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Standards by Discharge



Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

10. Discharge Processes



What should be done?

When leaving hospital, patients should

- have received a **joint health and social care plan**
- be given the name of a **person they can contact**

Some patients may be well enough to leave hospital early.

These patients should be **provided with further rehabilitation** at home if they need it.

An **Early Supported Discharge (ESD)** team can provide this rehabilitation.

About **40% of patients** could benefit from ESD.

Patients in Atrial Fibrillation (a completely **irregular heartbeat**) should be given **medication to prevent blood from clotting**.



Why should this be done?

Health and social care services should work together in a way that **best suits the needs of patients**.

Rehabilitation in the community means getting **treatment** including **rehabilitation** in a **home environment**.

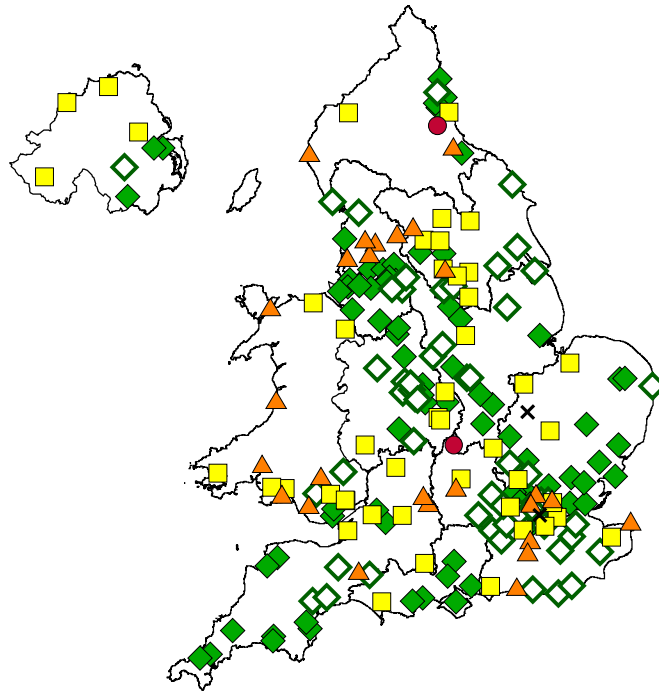
It can **improve** patients' **recovery**.

Blood clotting medication **improves blood** flow.

It **reduces the chance of another stroke occurring**.

National Results

Discharge Processes

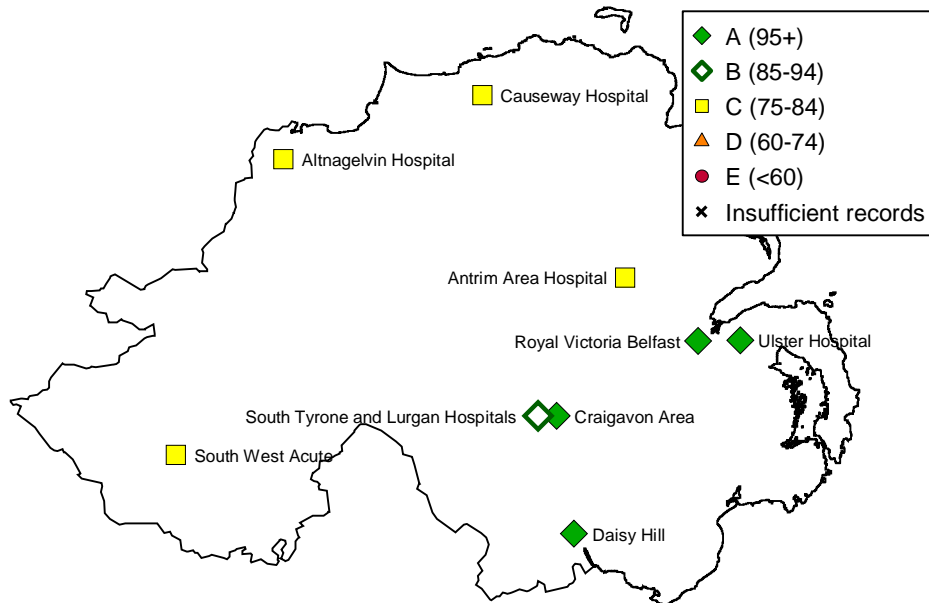


Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)

How well did your local hospital perform?

Northern Ireland results

Discharge Processes



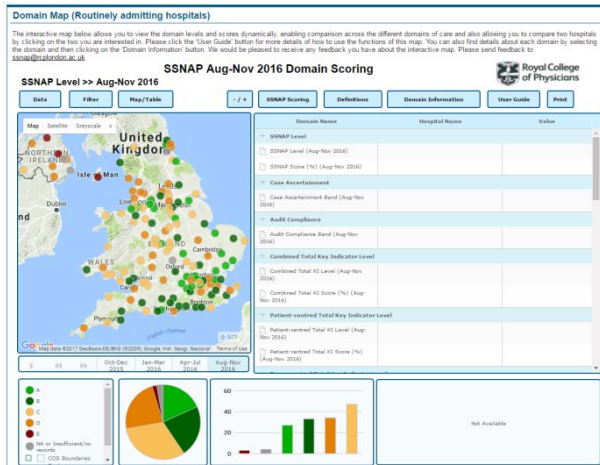
Source: SSNAP Apr-Jul 2017 (Patient Centred)
Region: Northern Ireland

Interactive Maps

You can view the information in this report using interactive maps on the internet.

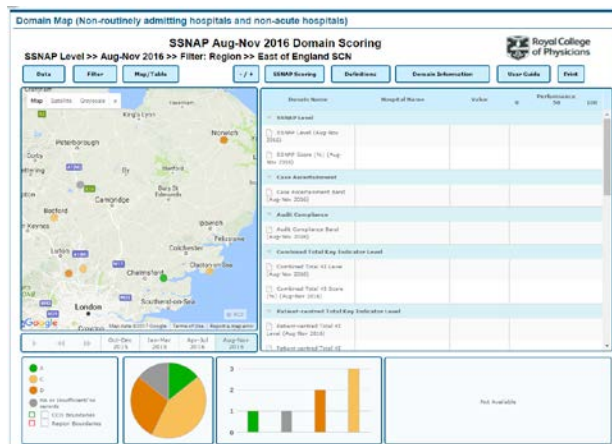
To see the maps go to:

www.strokeaudit.org/results/Clinical-audit/Maps



- These maps are **easy to read**
- They include **all hospitals** treating stroke patients in England and Wales
- Results are also presented using **graphs and pie charts**
- The maps will be **updated every 4 months** with up to date results

These maps enable patients and carers to:

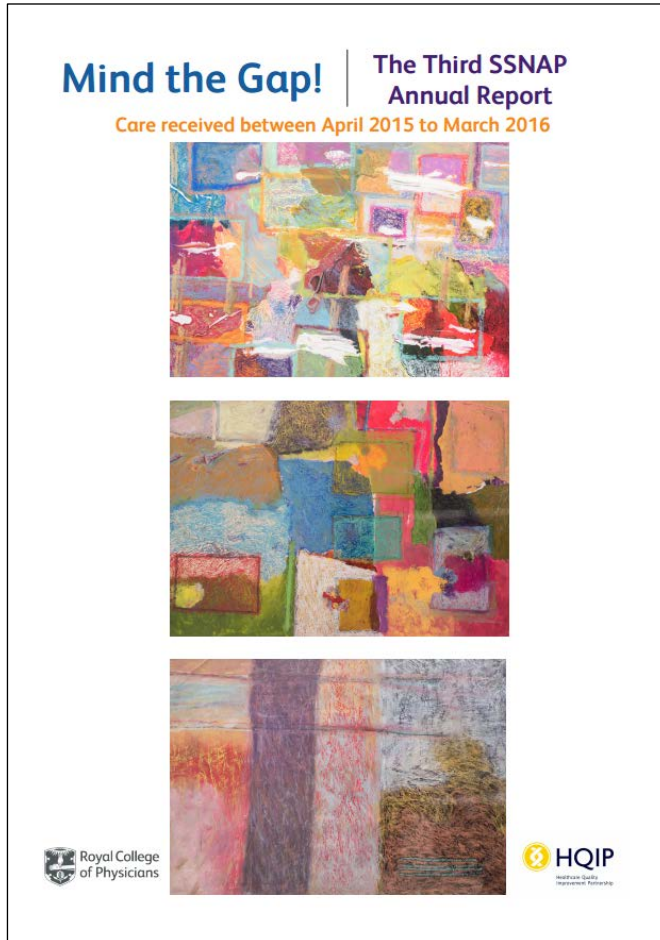


- **Identify** areas where care is good and where improvements are needed
- **Compare** aspects of **stroke care** within and across hospitals
- **Compare** hospitals' performance **over time**
- **Search for specific information** you are most interested in
- **Save and print** the information

Mind the Gap! SSNAP's Third Annual Report

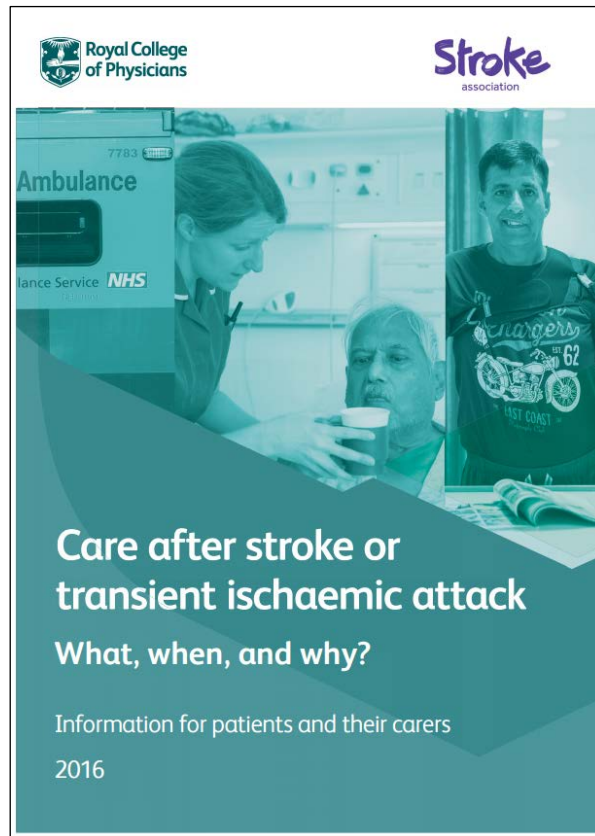
You can view the SSNAP Annual Report on our website:

www.strokeaudit.org/AnnualReport



- This report is written by doctors
- It gives an overview of **how good stroke care is** across **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**.
- The information in this report is from **2015 and 2016**
- This report is **patient friendly**
- It uses **patient experiences** of stroke care
- The report uses **maps and graphs** to show information
- Visit the website to listen to an Audio Version of the report

Further information on stroke care for patients and carers



- This booklet is a **shorter version** of the ‘National Clinical **Guideline** for Stroke’ (2016).
- It is written for **stroke survivors and their carers** but is also useful for anyone who has an interest in stroke care and management.
- It gives **information and advice** on the **care and treatment** of adults **after a stroke** or TIA (mini stroke).
- It also has listings of **organisations and support groups** who can help stroke patients and their families or carers.
- The patient version of the **Guideline** is available here:
<https://www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Patient-Guideline.aspx>

Useful contacts and websites

Stroke Association

Helpline: 0303 3033 100
Textphone: 18001 0303 3033 100
stroke.org.uk
info@stroke.org.uk

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Advice Line: 0808 801 0899
www.chss.org.uk
advice@chss.org.uk

Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke

Helpline: 028 9032 0184
www.nichs.org.uk
mail@nichs.org.uk

Different Strokes (run by and for younger stroke survivors)

Helpline: 0845 130 7172
www.differentstrokes.co.uk
info@differentstrokes.co.uk

NHS Choices (Medical advice and information on health services)

NHS non-emergency number: 111
www.nhs.uk

Headway (Charity for people who have had a brain injury)

Helpline: 0808 800 2244 (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)
www.headway.org.uk
helpline@headway.org.uk

Brain and Spine Foundation

Helpline: 0808 808 1000
www.brainandspine.org.uk
helpline@brainandspine.org.uk

Disabled Living Foundation

Helpline: 0300 999 0004 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm)
helpline@dlf.org.uk
www.dlf.org.uk

Mind / Mind Cymru (England and Wales)

Infoline: 0300 123 3393
Text: 86463
info@mind.org.uk
www.mind.org.uk

Niamh Mental Wellbeing (Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health)

Enquiries: 028 9032 8474
info@niamhwellbeing.org
www.niamhwellbeing.org

Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH)

0141 530 1000
enquire@samh.org.uk
www.samh.org.uk

Age UK

England: 0800 169 2081
Northern Ireland: 0808 808 7575
Scotland: 0800 4 70 80 90
Wales: 08000 223 444
www.ageuk.org.uk

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

Helpline: 0303 123 9999
helpline@rnib.org.uk
www.rnib.org.uk

Alzheimer's Society (Information and support on all types of dementia)

Helpline: 0300 222 1122
enquiries@alzheimers.org.uk
www.alzheimers.org.uk

We hope you found this report helpful and useful

There is more information about SSNAP on the Royal College of Physicians website.

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/ssnap

If you have any questions about this report please contact the Stroke

Programme at the Royal College of Physicians:

Tel: **020 3075 1318** or **02030751383**

Email: ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk

We want to know.....

What do you think of this report? Have you found it useful?

Please email ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk and let us know.