

ANNEX A

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 October 2020 16:59
To: Bell D (Donna)
Cc: MacAllister I (Iain) ; Williams D (David); Communications Healthier; [redacted]
Subject: Discharges to Care Homes PHS report - 28 Oct

Hi Donna,

Understand PHS are still planning to publish their report on on discharges from hospitals to care homes next Weds 28 Oct.

Do you know if we're likely to see a copy of the report before it's published or whether pre-release access is available?

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 October 2020 18:29
To: [redacted]
Cc: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Discharges to Care Homes PHS report - 28 Oct

Not yet- there is a meeting tomorrow to run cab sec through the info. They'll have pre-release properly tomorrow. Speak to PO if you want to join tomorrow?

From: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 October 2020 16:55
To: [redacted]
Subject: discharges from hospital

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 October 2020 18:07
To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: discharges from hospital

[redacted]

From: Bell D (Donna)
Sent: 23 October 2020 18:44
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: discharges from hospital

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 October 2020 20:43

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: discharges from hospital

Hi Donna,

I've made a start on a handling plan.

It clearly needs more work but if you wanted to look at it tomorrow I'd welcome any thoughts. I will probably look at it again tomorrow night with fresh eyes. Explaining the "not statistically significant" in English is challenging me too much at this time of the evening.

As I'm not in on Monday, I just wanted a starting point for the team to take forward. Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 October 2020 11:28

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Good morning Donna,

Just picking this up today, and wondered if I could get your feedback on the proposed comms handling plan?

In [redacted] absence, I'm going to aim to get the comms handling plan up to Cab Sec today, and also to send out media invites to the technical briefing – so we'll know tomorrow who is attending.

I think the main thing to discuss is how we can convert "not statistically significant" into plain English?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 October 2020 12:20

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: FW: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

As Donna appears to be offline, grateful if colleagues can advise on who else may be able to look this over?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 October 2020 13:51

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Hi Donna

Thanks for sharing. I think Iain may be leading from policy side.

[redacted]

From: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 October 2020 13:55

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

I'm going to draft the briefing this afternoon on the key findings with Anna's division doing the policy lines. We still haven't got the final report.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 October 2020 14:17

To: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Thanks Iain,

I've heard from Donna Bell via text to say she'll look at the plan too. I've pasted it below, for ease of use.

Grateful for any feedback to this.

Having spoken to PHS comms, they are not intending on issuing a news release – so I'm taking it all comms are coming from us?

I'm advised the technical briefing is likely 1pm – but I'm waiting for confirmation. Also need to know when report will be published. Once I have this info, it's my intention to draft a note to the media to go out by close of play today, asking them to confirm attendance for the technical briefing.

I'd also like to get the comms handling plan up to Cab Sec by close of play today, for her feedback. I'll probably leave out the "lines to take" and just mention we're drafting these and will send for clearance later.

Can anyone answer the point made in red – about how to explain in plainer English the term "not statistically significant"?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 October 2020 15:00
To: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

As discussed- comments attached

From: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 October 2020 17:21
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Mitchell E (Elinor) <Elinor.Mitchell@gov.scot>; Connaghan J (John) (Health) <John.Connaghan2@gov.scot>; Health and Social Care Directors <DLHSCPHSCD@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; Head of HSCA <HeadofHSCA@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) (Health and Social Care) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RESTRICTED STATISTICS: Urgent submission: Discharges from hospitals into care homes

Please find an urgent submission setting out the keys findings from the *Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes, between 1 March and 31 May 2020* report being published by Public Health Scotland at 12pm on Wednesday, 28

October. The submission and attached report **contain management information and should not be circulated further** without informing [redacted].

A handling plan will follow from communication colleagues in the morning.

Thanks,

Iain.

Iain MacAllister

Governance, Evidence and Finance Division
Mental Health and Social Care Directorate
Scottish Government

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 October 2020 13:12

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Hi all,

Tracking changes was getting too complicated so with apologies please see amends in blue attached. Also adding [redacted] who will take part in briefing tomorrow instead of Jason.

I've simplified key messages for Cab Sec (3x3 approach) and highlighted need for input what could be influencing the risk association with care home size, which I'll chase up with PHS, as well as link to PHW report.

I've filled in Q&A based on previous lines but can anyone provide a bullet-point or para on Cab Sec's regular engagement with the sector, meetings with Scottish Care etc? I'm sure we've provided something on this before but couldn't find it in any of our lines.

Grateful for any other comments/views – would like to get this up to Cab Sec by 1500 if possible.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 October 2020 14:55

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>;

Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>;
Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Hi all – appreciate there is a lot on but I'd be grateful for confirmation this was being looked at.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 October 2020 15:19
To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

Few minor tweaks highlighted – happy to incorporate any changes from older version.

From: MacAllister I (Iain)
Sent: 27 October 2020 16:06
To: Bell D (Donna); Innocent E (Emma); Leitch J (Jason) ; [redacted].
Cc: Communications Healthier; Williams D (David); [redacted].
Subject: RE: For policy views - discharges from hospital report - comms handling plan

No additional comments from my perspective. As noted on the separate email trial – CabSec has asked for an updated version of the PHS presentation from Friday. Can you send this up alongside the comms plan?

Thanks,

Iain.

From: [redacted].
Sent: 27 October 2020 16:28
To: Hutchison D (David) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>
Cc: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; McQueen F (Fiona) <Fiona.McQueen@gov.scot>; Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; [redacted].
Subject: SPAD VIEW: PHS Care Home hospital discharge report - Comms Handling plan

SpAds,

PHS will publish a report on Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes, between 1 March and 31 May 2020 tomorrow at 1200.

I'd be grateful for your views on proposed comms handling plan (below/attached) before we put to Cab Sec – this includes a technical briefing for journalists at 1500 tomorrow with CNO and the report's authors Scott Heald (PHS) and Prof Bruce Guthrie (UoE), see their presentation for that also attached.

Thanks,
[redacted].

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 October 2020 09:09

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing <MinisterPHSW@gov.scot>; Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; Communications Healthier <CommunicationsHealthier@gov.scot>; Williams D (David) <David.Williams@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) Jason.Leitch@gov.scot; [redacted]

Subject: TO CLEAR: PHS Care Home hospital discharge NR - Comms Handling plan

Cab Sec/PO,

With apologies for the delay, please see proposed news release below and comms handling attached for the PHS report on Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes, between 1 March and 31 May 2020, which will be published today at 1200. Subject to clearance we intend to issue the release after today's FM briefing.

The handling plan includes the off-the-record technical briefing for journalists at 1500 today with CNO Fiona McQueen and the report's authors Scott Heald (PHS) and Prof Bruce Guthrie (University of Edinburgh).

I will provide a list of journalists attending the technical briefing this morning once final numbers are confirmed, and a read-out afterwards.

I'd be grateful for confirmation that Ms Freeman is content with news release below and proposed media handling.

Thanks,
[redacted]

Hospital to Care Home discharge data published

Public Health Scotland publish report on impact of hospital discharges.

Public Health Scotland (PHS) have today published a report on discharges from NHS hospitals to care homes in Scotland.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman commissioned the report in August to identify and report on discharges from hospitals to care homes during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report found the strongest association with outbreaks of COVID-19 was care home size, even when taking account of hospital discharges and other factors such as care home type, in line with findings observed by Public Health Wales in a similar report.

PHS found that while hospital discharge is associated with an increased risk of an outbreak when considered on its own, the estimated risk of an outbreak was reduced and not statistically significant after accounting for care home size and other care home features.

Of the care homes with more than 90 residents, 90.2% had an outbreak, compared to just 3.7% of homes with fewer than 20 residents.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said:

“This is the biggest public health crisis we have faced in our lifetimes and the impact on care homes around the world has been profound. Every life lost to the virus is a tragedy and a loss that will be deeply grieved by their loved ones.

“I commissioned this report because it is right that families, staff, and Parliament, have accurate data and analysis on the transfer of patients to care homes and the impact that had in those care homes.

“Care home staff have a critical frontline role in responding to the single greatest public health crisis of our lifetimes, and I want to pay tribute to all staff involved for their heroic efforts to overcome the many challenges presented by this pandemic.

“The data from this report gives us a better understanding of the impact of discharges on outbreaks in care homes. We will be taking forward the recommendations that PHS make in their report, and we will continue to adapt our guidance and the steps we are taking to protect care home staff and residents in line with the latest data and scientific evidence.

“Keeping COVID under control requires a continued collective effort and we will succeed only if we all play our part. That is why I ask again that everyone across Scotland abides by the current restrictions. Please do the right thing and help to keep our country safe.”

Background:

[REPORT LINK]

[Public Health Wales study](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 October 2020 12:20

To: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>; MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes

For info

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 October 2020 12:20

To: 'HealthandSport@parliament.scot'

Cc: Scott Heald ; 'GUTHRIE Bruce'

Subject: Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes

Dear Mr Cullum

Public Health Scotland has today published the report on [Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes](#).

Grateful if you could share this with members of the Health and Sport Committee. The information presented is detailed and complex and we would be very happy to provide a technical briefing to the committee. If that is something the committee would find helpful please let me know and we will find an appropriate time.

[redacted]

From: Bell D (Donna) <Donna.Bell@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 October 2020 12:31

To: MacAllister I (Iain) <Iain.MacAllister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport [CabSecHS@gov.scot](#); [redacted]

Subject: RE: Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes

To see confirmation that the HSC have been informed about the publication.

Mental Health and Social Care
26 October 2020

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Publication of Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes, between 1 March and 31 May 2020

Purpose

1. To provide key findings from the *Discharges from NHSScotland hospitals to care homes, between 1 March and 31 May 2020* report being published by Public Health Scotland at 12pm on Wednesday, 28 October.

Priority

2. **Urgent**

Background

3. On 18 August 2020 you commissioned Public Health Scotland (PHS) to carry out work to identify and report on discharges from NHS Hospitals to care homes during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow were partners in the production of the report. The report presents management information statistics on people aged 18 and over who were discharged from an NHSScotland hospital to a care home between 1 March and 31 May 2020.

4. The report is split into two sections:

- Section one explains the methodology in defining the cohort of patients who were discharged, and describes their demographics and COVID-19 testing status.
- Section two defines and describes care home outbreaks of COVID-19 with an analysis of the factors associated with those outbreaks, specifically including hospital discharges.

5. Our understanding of COVID-19 infection was rapidly changing in the period between 1 March and 31 May. This evolving understanding is reflected in updated guidance over the period. To place in context with the guidance, the statistics in the report are presented in time periods which reflect the key guidance and policy changes over the period. To protect confidentiality, the information presented in this report does not identify either an individual person nor individual care homes.

Key findings

6. The key findings included in the report are:

Discharges and Testing

- Between 1 March and 31 May 2020, there were 5,204 discharges from NHS hospitals to care homes (4,807 individuals), this accounted for 5% of all hospital discharges during the same period. A total of 843 of the 1,084 care homes in Scotland received hospital discharges in this period.
- There were 3,599 discharges from hospital to a care home between 1 March and 21 April. The majority (82%) of which were not tested for COVID-19, in-

keeping with clinical guidance which restricted testing to those with symptoms of infection. Of the 650 who were tested, 78 received a positive result while in hospital.

- Of these 3,599 discharges, 1,242 were delayed discharges. The majority (89%) of which were not tested for COVID-19, in-keeping with clinical guidance. Of the 140 delayed discharges which were tested, 11 received a positive result while in hospital.
- There were 1,605 discharges from hospital to a care home between 22 April and 31 May. The majority (1,493, 93%) were tested for COVID-19, in line with the changes in clinical guidance. Of these, 1,215 tested negative and 278 tested positive. Of those who tested positive, 233 had a negative test result prior to discharge.
- Of the 1,605 discharges, 318 were delayed discharges. The majority (293, 92%) of which were tested for COVID-19, in line with the changes in clinical guidance. Of these, 237 tested negative and 56 tested positive. Of those who tested positive, all 56 had a negative test result prior to discharge.
- It is important to note that there are valid clinical reasons for individuals not to be tested prior to discharge, relating to their capacity to consent to testing and avoiding causing distress, and to appropriateness of testing, e.g. in end of life care situations.

Care Home Outbreaks

- Using laboratory confirmed cases, 348 (32%) of care homes in Scotland experienced an outbreak (defined in the report as where one or more resident had a confirmed case) of COVID-19 in the home between 1 March and 21 June.
- The percentage of care homes with an outbreak increased progressively with care home size, from 3.7% of care homes with <20 registered places to 90.2% of care homes with 90+ registered places
- COVID-19 associated mortality was concentrated in its impact, more than half of COVID-19 deaths were in 64 homes and a quarter of all COVID-19 deaths were in just 25 homes.
- 13.5% of care homes with no discharges from hospital had an outbreak, compared to 38.0% of care homes with one or more discharges. However, larger care homes were both more likely to have discharges and to have an outbreak, so a simple comparison is likely to be misleading.

Care Home Outbreaks: Statistical Modelling

7. Analysis using Cox proportion hazards regression modelling evaluates the risk of an outbreak in a care home 7 to 21 days following a discharge from hospital, known as the risk period, compared to periods where there has not been a hospital discharge. This is the same method used by Public Health Wales in previous analysis.

- Care home size has the strongest association with outbreaks of COVID-19, and this association persists after taking account of other care home characteristic, including discharge from hospital. Care homes with 90 or more registered places had a 17 times higher risk of an outbreak throughout the period compared to care homes with less than 20 registered places.

- Other factors found to have a significantly higher risk of an outbreak were sector, with Local Authority/NHS care homes having a 1.7 times higher risk of an outbreak compared to private care homes, and nursing care, with care homes providing nursing care having a 1.4 times higher risk of an outbreak compared to care homes without nursing care.
- Discharge from hospital, when other factors such as care home size are controlled, was not found to have contributed to a significantly higher risk of an outbreak. This is similar to the findings observed by Public Health Wales.
- Further analysis broke down by type of discharge from hospital, for example whether a person tested negative for Covid-19 prior to discharge, was untested or tested positive, similarly found there was not a significantly higher risk of an outbreak in a care home during the risk period regardless of whether a person tested negative or positive for Covid-19 prior to discharge or indeed whether they were not tested at all.

Handling

8. Communication colleagues are preparing a handling plan and this will be provide on Tuesday morning for your approval.

Recommendation

9. You are asked to:

- Note the key findings included in paragraph 6, to be published by Public Health Scotland at 12pm on 28 October;
- Note that communication colleagues will provide a handling plan on Tuesday morning.

Iain MacAllister

Mental Health and Social Care

26 October 2020

Comms handling plan

Discharges from hospitals to care homes March – May 2020

Objectives

- Inform the public and stakeholders of the publication of Public Health Scotland's report and raise awareness of its findings.
- Reaffirm the Scottish Government's commitment to protecting care homes residents, their families and the care home workforce.
- Recognise the commitment of staff working in care homes and the provision of high quality care.
- Reassure public confidence in the NHS:

- discharge policies – decisions are based on patients’ needs with safety at the core.
 - NHS support for care homes – the health service is providing direct support to care homes during COVID to ensure safe care is provided on a daily basis with high quality infection control measures.
- Ensure that the impact on patients/residents, families and staff - those most affected by the outbreaks - are considered at all times. We need to particularly careful that care home staff are not blamed for transmitting the virus.

Key messages

[redacted]

Tactics and timeline

DATE	ISSUE	HANDLING
27 Nov	Clearance of comms products	SG comms will seek clearance of comms products and coordinate logistics for technical briefing with PHS (Scott Heald, Bruce Guthrie) and CNO.
28 Nov	Publication of the report	PHS publish report with news story on their website.
	1215 FM Media Briefing	FM briefing and lines to take prepared in anticipation of any questions at the briefing.
	1500 Technical briefing for media	SG will facilitate a technical briefing with the media and Scott Heald and Bruce Guthrie. <i>Logistic for the briefing (including informing the media) will take place on 26 Oct. Cab Sec will be informed of media attendance in advance (27 Oct).</i>
	Social content	ScotGov Health to retweet PHS tweet with link to the report to highlight publication.
	Possible media bids	Cabinet Secretary to undertake broadcast media interviews. Support will be offered from DGHSC/CNO/CMO/Clinical Director and comms

Evaluation

An evaluation will be carried out on the amount and tone of media and online coverage achieved.

ANNEX –

Lines to take:

[redacted]

Background

Visiting in care homes is still subject to care homes being free of any COVID-19 symptoms for 28 days, actively participating in the care home testing programme and having visiting risk assessments approved by the local Director of Public Health.

Public Health Scotland – Publication Briefing

Please see Annex B

Discharges from NHS Hospitals to Care Homes

1 March to 31 May 2020



University
of Glasgow



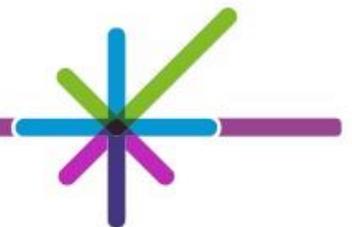
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Public Health
Scotland



Background

- This publication by PHS presents management information statistics on people aged 18 and over who were discharged from an NHSScotland hospital to a care home between 1 March and 31 May 2020.
- Joint work with Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- The report is split into two sections:
 - Section one explains the methodology in defining the cohort of patients who were discharged, and describes their demographics and COVID-19 testing status.
 - Section two defines and describes care home outbreaks of COVID-19 with an analysis of the factors associated with those outbreaks, specifically including hospital discharges.
- **To protect confidentiality, the information presented in this report will not identify either an individual person nor individual care homes.**

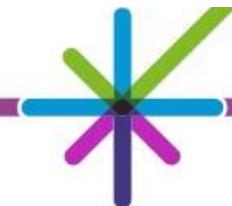
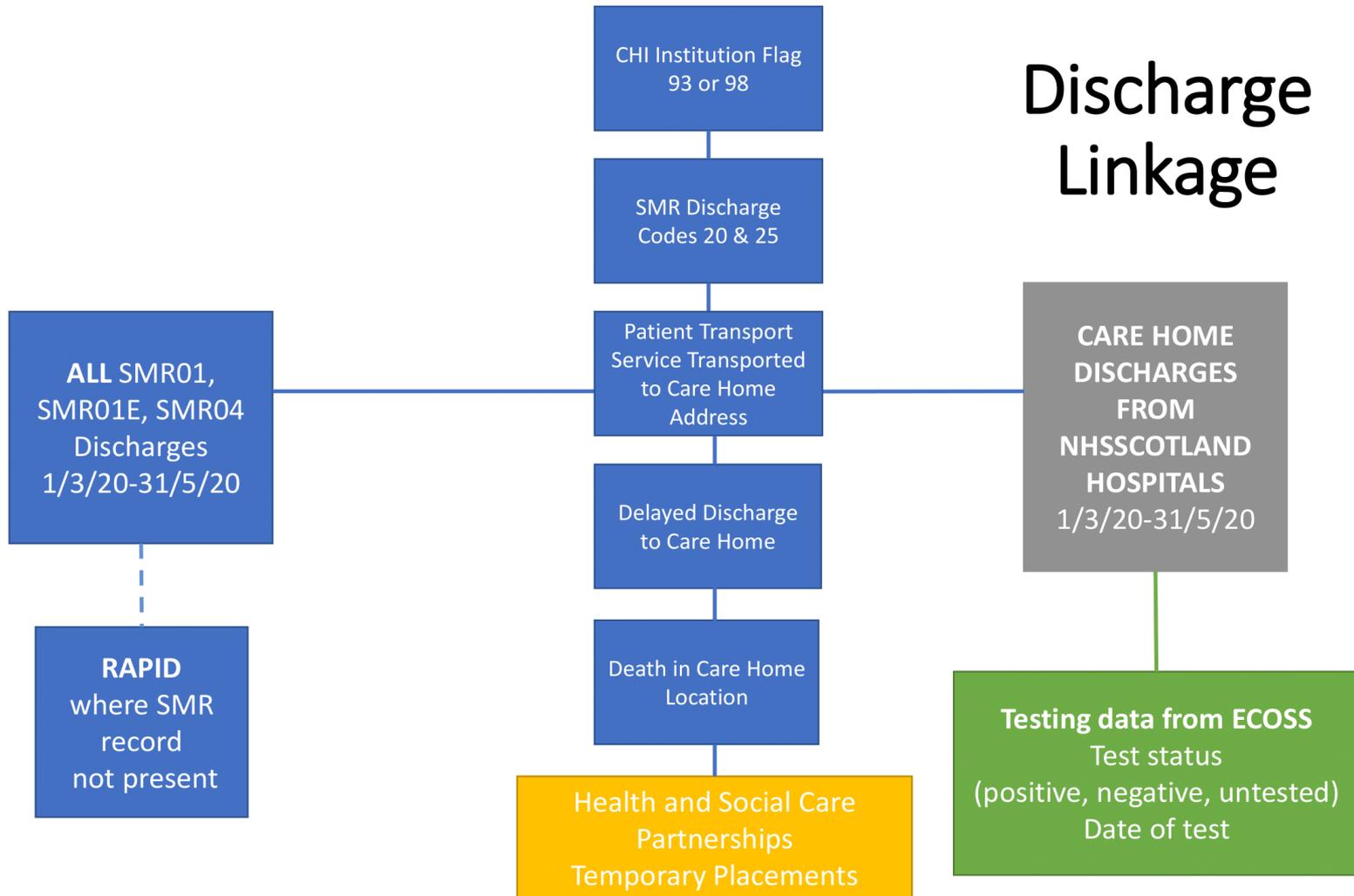


Section One

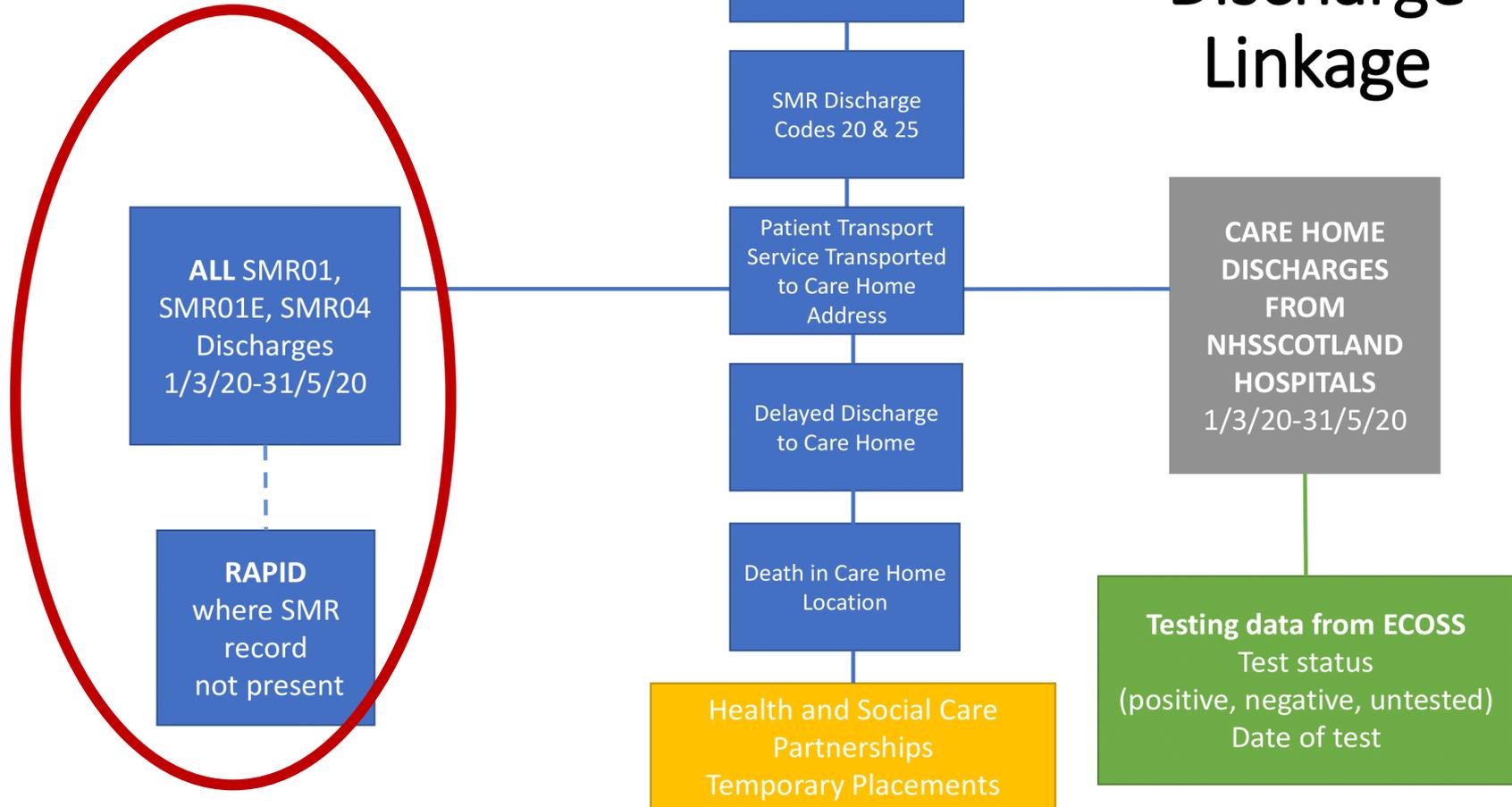
Defining the cohort of patients who were discharged, and describing their demographics and COVID-19 testing status.



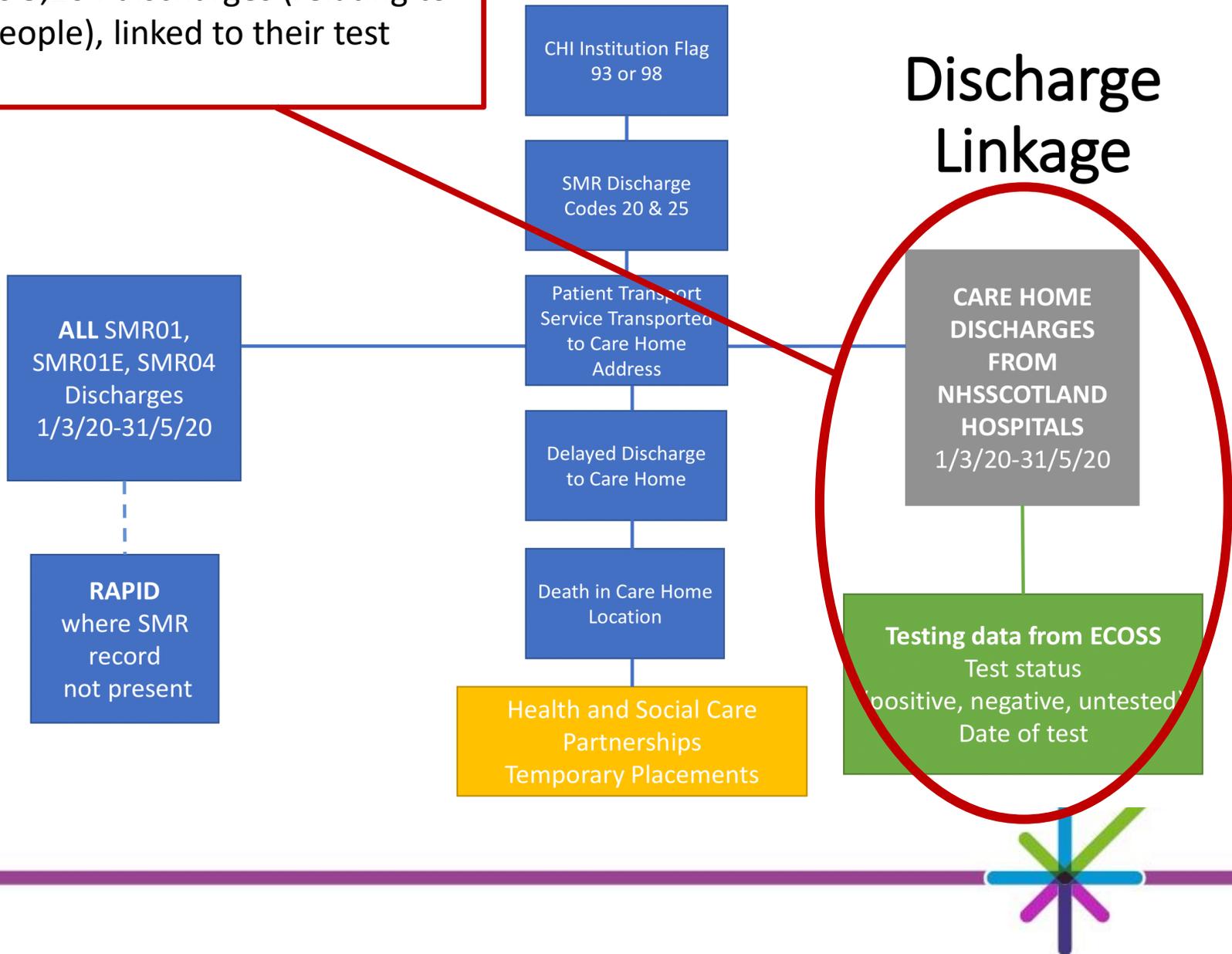
Discharge Linkage



The main hospital data-sets only explicitly identified c70% of discharges to care homes; used a variety of other data sources to identify the others)



Full data-set, verified with NHS Boards contains 5,204 discharges (relating to 4,807 people), linked to their test results



	1-31 March	1-21 April	22-30 April	1-31 May
Number of discharges to care homes	2,555	1,044	350	1,255
Number not tested prior to discharge²	2,309	640	73	39
Number tested prior to discharge²	246	404	277	1,216
Always negative³	242	330	224	991
Positive test then negative test before discharge⁴				
One negative test before discharge	-	4	7	5
At least two negative tests before discharge	-	6	24	197
Positive test without negative test before discharge⁵				
First positive test >14 days before discharge	-	11	4	8
First positive test 8-14 days before discharge	1	24	7	6
First positive test 0-7 days before discharge	3	29	11	9



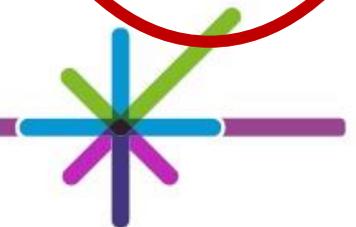
There were 3,599 discharges from hospital to a care home between 1 March and 21 April. The majority (82%) of which were not tested for COVID-19, in-keeping with clinical guidance which restricted testing to those with symptoms of infection. Of the 650 who were tested, 78 received a positive result while in hospital.

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First positive test >14 days before discharge	-	11	4	8
First positive test 8-14 days before discharge	1	24	7	6
First positive test 0-7 days before discharge	3	29	11	9



There were 1,605 discharges from hospital to a care home between 22 April and 31 May. The majority (1,493, 93%) were tested for COVID-19, in line with the changes in clinical guidance. Of these, 1,215 tested negative and 278 tested positive. Of those who tested positive, 233 had a negative test result prior to discharge.

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Positive test without negative test before discharge⁵				
First positive test >14 days before discharge	-	11	4	8
First positive test 8-14 days before discharge	1	24	7	6
First positive test 0-7 days before discharge	3	29	11	9



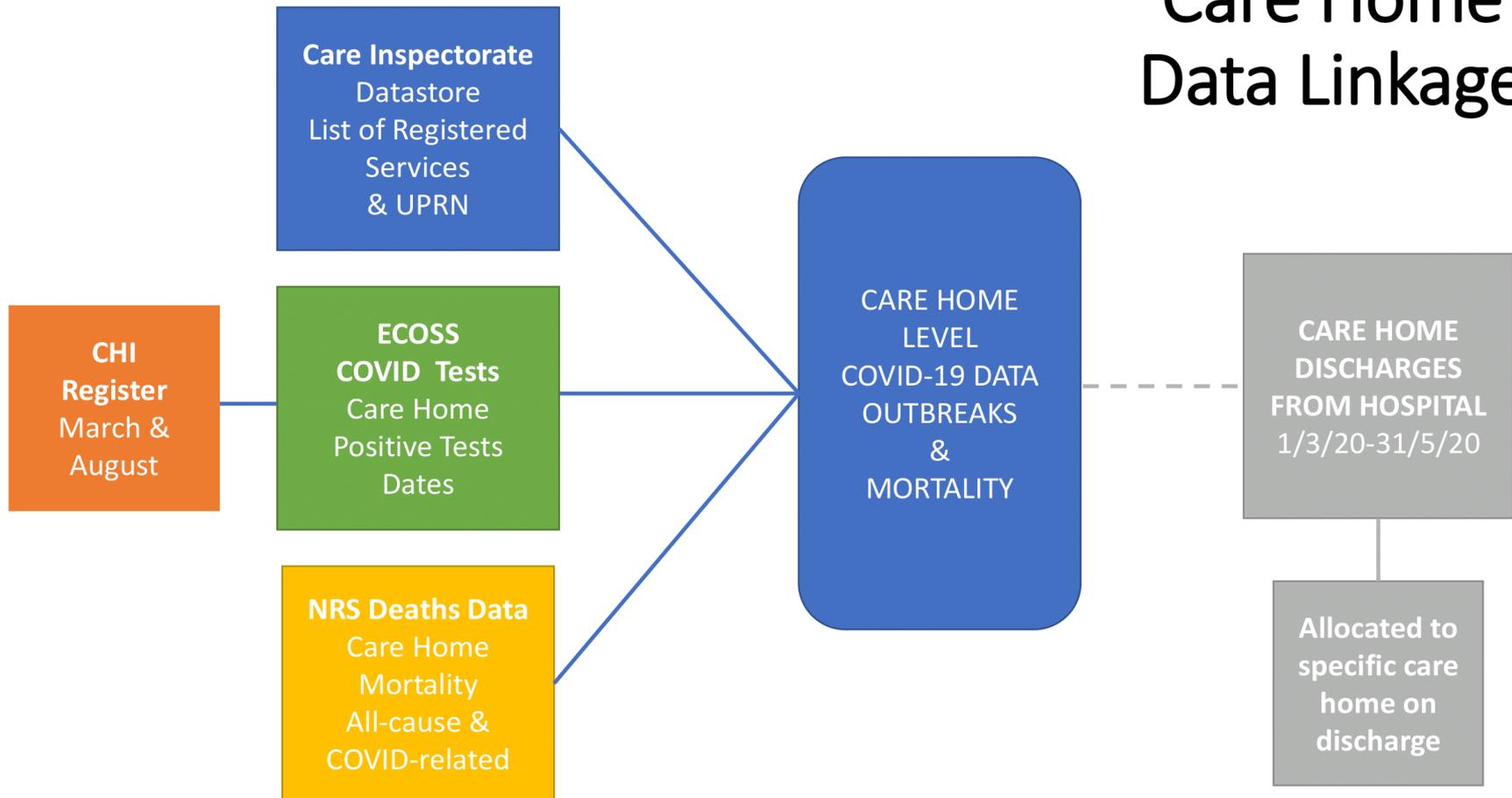
Section Two

Defines and describes care home outbreaks of COVID-19 with an analysis of the factors associated with those outbreaks, specifically including hospital discharges.

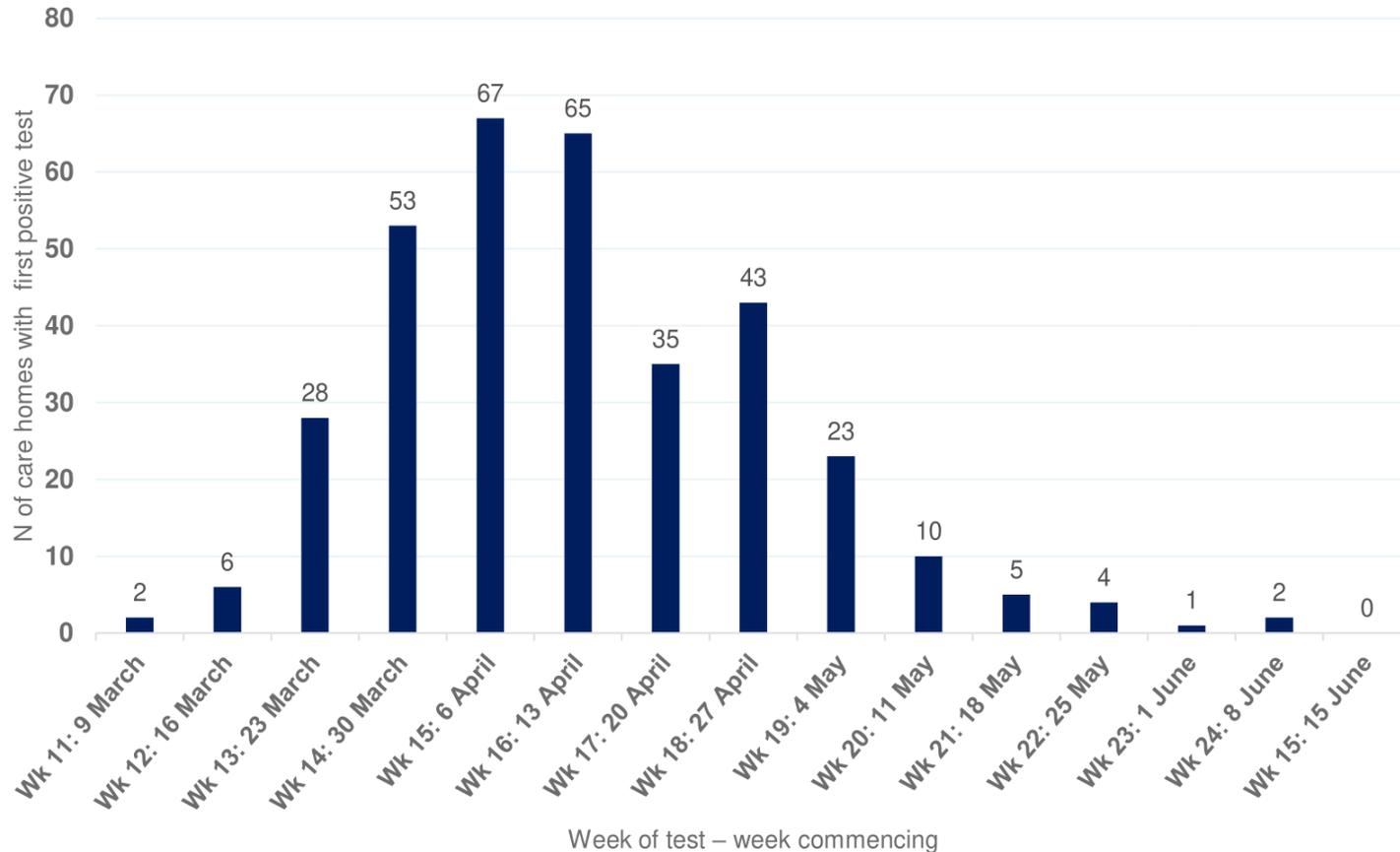
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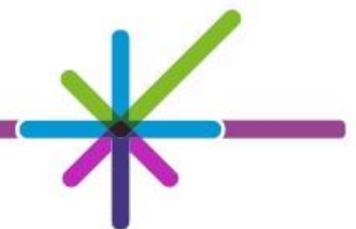
Care Home Data Linkage



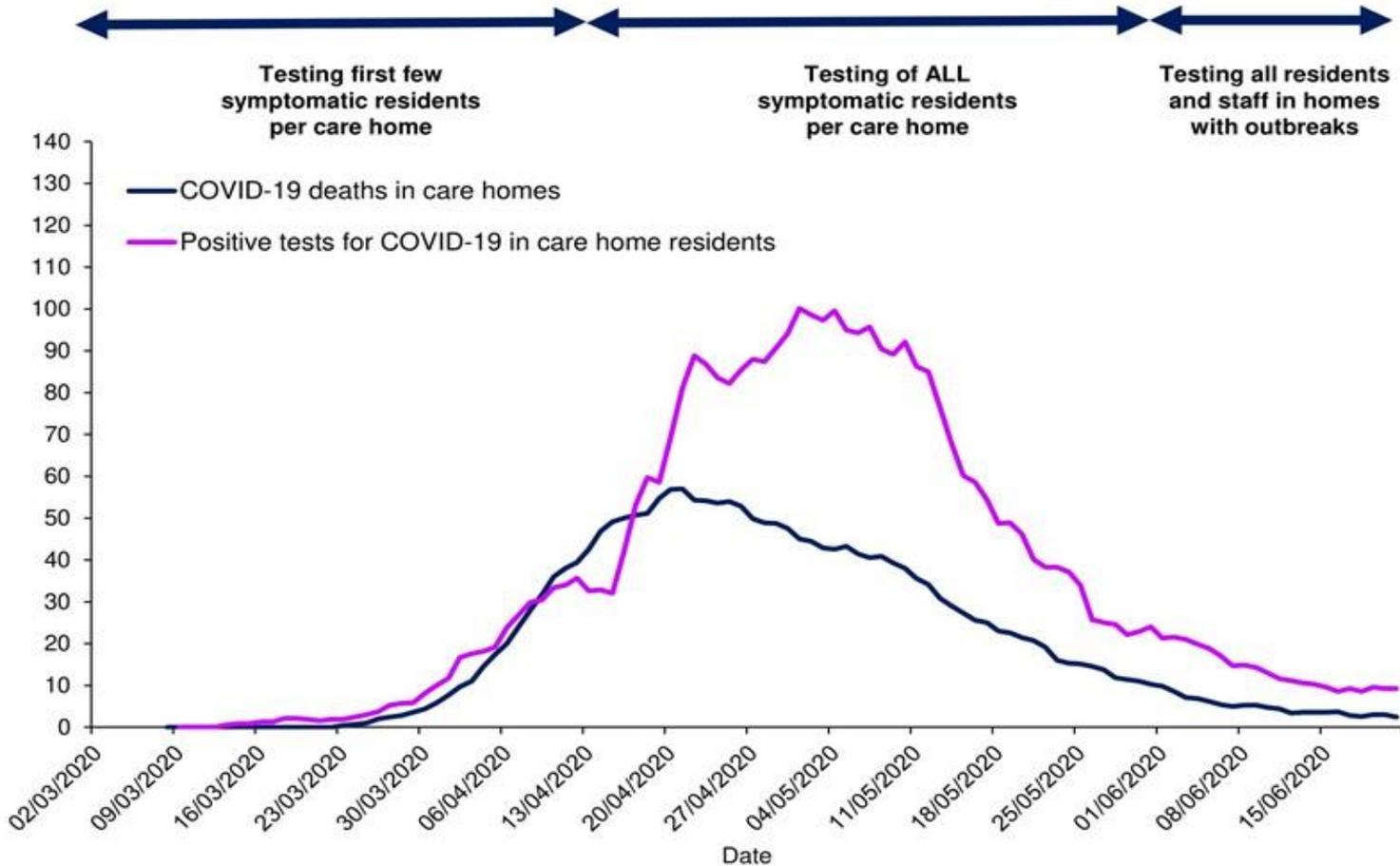
Key findings



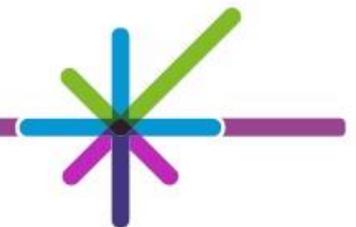
348 (32.1%) care homes have a laboratory confirmed outbreak



Key findings

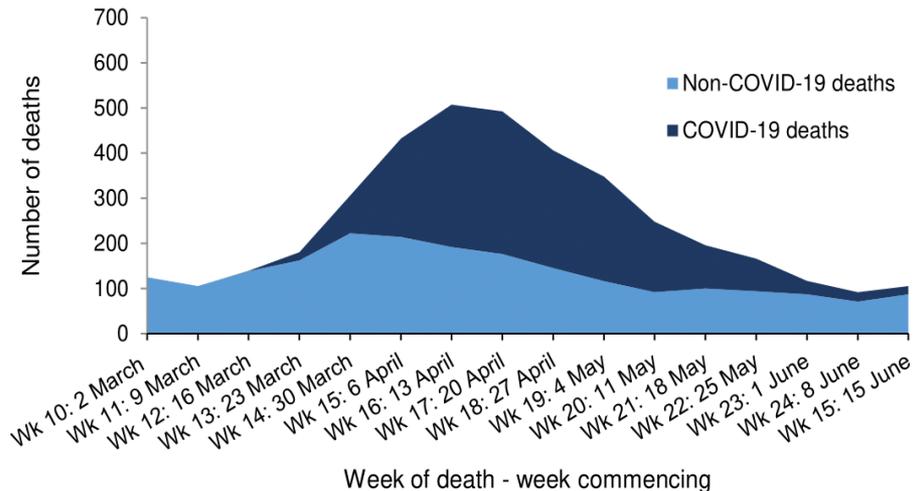


3,278 residents have a positive test in the care home
1,915 resident COVID-related deaths in the care home

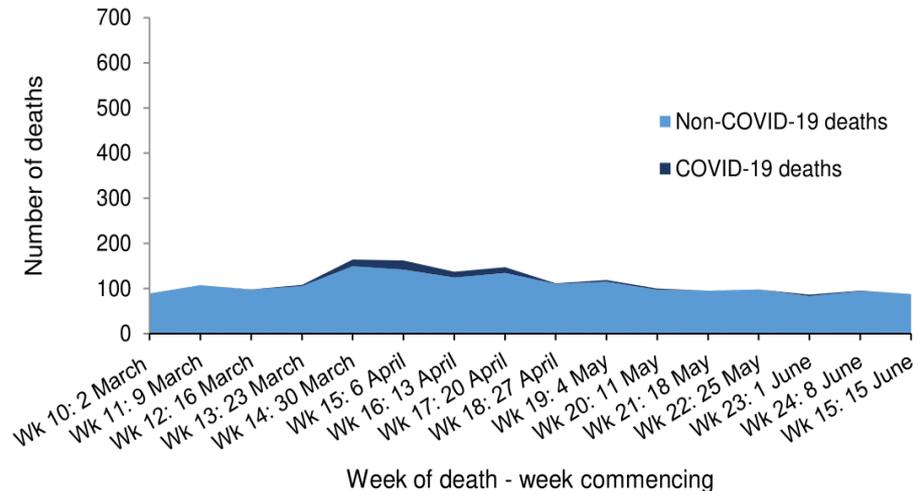


Key findings

B: Deaths of residents occurring in the care home – homes with an outbreak

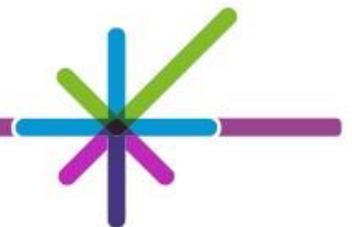


C: Deaths of residents occurring in the care home – homes without an outbreak



Key findings

- More care homes with an outbreak receive a hospital discharge than care homes without an outbreak
 - 90% with an outbreak vs 69% without an outbreak
- BUT care homes with an outbreak are also:
 - Much larger (75% with an outbreak have 40+ beds vs 28% without an outbreak)
 - More likely to serve older people (97% vs 65%)
 - More likely to provide nursing care (79% vs 45%)
- All single characteristic comparisons are problematic because all characteristics are related to care home size



Statistical modelling – any discharge

Care home characteristic	% of homes with outbreaks	Univariate Hazard Ratio 95% Confidence Interval	Adjusted Hazard Ratio 95% Confidence Interval
Care home size			
<20	4%	Reference	Reference
20-29	20%	5.8 (2.9 to 11.4)	3.6 (1.6 to 8.0)
30-39	28%	8.8 (4.6 to 17.1)	4.5 (2.1 to 9.9)
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80-89	75%	38.0 (18.6 to 77.6)	16.4 (6.8 to 39.6)
≥90	90%	60.3 (31.1 to 116.8)	17.3 (7.5 to 40.1)

Also adjusted for subtype, sector, RAD score, nursing care and Integration Authority



Statistical modelling – any discharge

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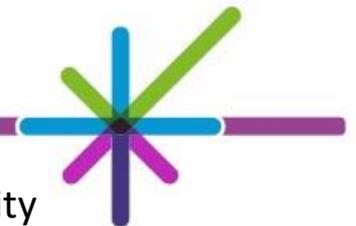


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Univariate = doesn't account for other care home characteristics
 Adjusted = accounts for all other care home characteristics

Also adjusted for subtype, sector, RAD score, nursing care and Integration Authority



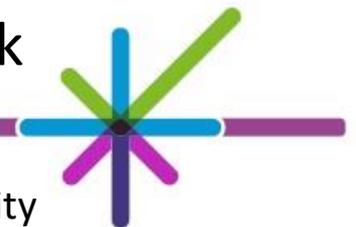
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Hazard ratio = the best estimate of the risk of an outbreak *compared to* a reference category

HR >1 = higher risk than reference, HR<1 = lower risk

Also adjusted for subtype, sector, RAD score, nursing care and Integration Authority

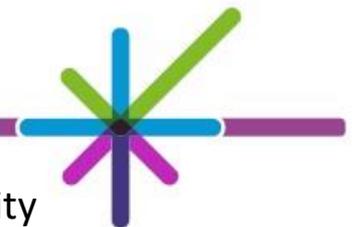


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Confidence interval = the range we are confident the true value lies in

CI includes 1 = HR not statistically significant from 1

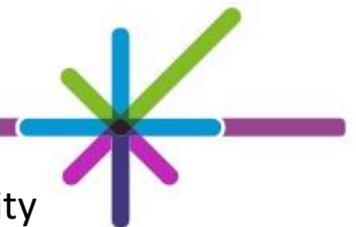


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Discharges			
No discharge	14%	Reference	
Discharge	38%	2.9 (2.3 to 3.6)	

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Statistical modelling - any discharge

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Discharges			
No discharge	14%	Reference	Reference
Discharge	38%	2.9 (2.3 to 3.6)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)

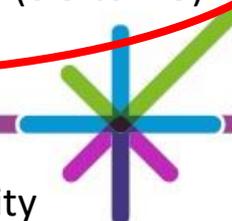
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Discharges			
No discharge	14%	Reference	Reference
Discharge	38%	2.9 (2.3 to 3.6)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)
Public Health Wales analysis		2.5 (2.0 to 3.1)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)

Also adjusted for subtype, sector, RAD score, nursing care and Integration Authority



Statistical modelling – type of discharge

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≥90	90%	60.3 (31.1 to 116.8)	17.3 (7.5 to 40.2)
Discharges			
No discharge	14%	Reference	
Discharge Negative		2.2 (1.5 to 3.3)	
Discharged Untested	38%	3.0 (2.4 to 3.9)	
Discharged Positive		5.6 (2.3 to 13.7)	

Also adjusted for subtype, sector, RAD score, nursing care and Integration Authority



Statistical modelling – type of discharge

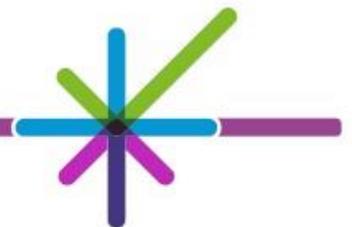
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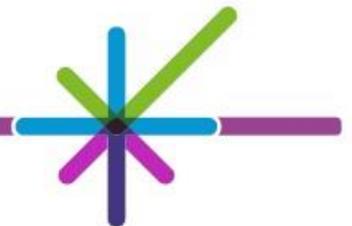
Statistical Modelling

- Overall, the analysis of ‘any hospital discharge’ does not find statistical evidence that hospital discharges were associated with care home outbreaks.
 - The best estimate of the hazard ratio for hospital discharge is >1 and the confidence interval in the adjusted analysis is relatively wide. We therefore cannot statistically exclude the presence of a small risk from hospital discharge.
 - By comparison, the risk of an outbreak associated with care home size is much larger than any plausible risk from a hospital discharge.



Statistical Modelling

- Overall, the analysis accounting for testing status does not find statistical evidence that hospital discharges of any kind were associated with care home outbreaks.
- Our certainty about the three types of hospital discharge defined by testing status varies.
 - There was good evidence that there was no risk associated with discharges where the person had tested negative before discharge
 - We cannot confidently exclude a small excess risk from a care home receiving a discharge where the person was untested
 - We cannot confidently exclude a moderate to large excess risk from a care home receiving a discharge where the last test was positive.
 - Again, in this analysis the risk of an outbreak associated with care home size is much larger than any plausible risk from a hospital discharge.



Conclusion

- COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease. Many people are infectious while asymptomatic, and many older people in particular only ever have atypical symptoms. Any person coming into the care home therefore carries some risk of introducing the virus to the care home.
- Some risk of introduction therefore exists when someone is discharged from hospital or admitted from the community, but also from other people coming into the care home including members of staff, visiting GPs or district nurses, or visiting family members or friends.
- It is therefore likely that hospital discharges are the source of introduction of infection in a small number of cases. However, based on this analysis, any effect of hospital discharge is small compared to the effect of care home size (which is a proxy for wider level of footfall and activity within the home).

