**CCU024 CovPall-Connect**

**Analysis plan: Descriptive analysis of ED visits in the last 12 months of life for all deaths in England in 2019 and 2020**

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**Background:**

For people approaching the end of life, out of hours care is critically important. The out of hours period (after 17:00 and before 8:00) makes up the majority of time for patients and carers and we know from priority setting work from the James Lind Alliance that improving out of hours care is a priority for patients and families. The pandemic has placed additional strain on community services which potentially has placed additional strain on hospitals particularly emergency departments. Understanding variation in the provision of out of hours care for people with terminal illness is important for identifying ways to improve care.

This descriptive analysis will form part of a wider report (funded by Marie Curie: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/policy/better-end-life-report>) that will report the results from a large survey designed to understand the provision of out of hours palliative care across the 4 nations of the UK. The descriptive data will provide contextual information on the rate of ED visits for people in the last 12 months of life. Following on from this descriptive analysis, a more detailed analysis is planned and will be detailed in a separate protocol document.

**Aim:** To provide descriptive analysis of the rate of ED visits for people in the last year of life in England

(NB data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be included in the report and is being accessed via respective TREs for those nations)

**Methods:**

Data source: mortality data linked to ED data for all deaths in 2019 and 2020. ED data includes data for 2018-2020 to provide ED records for the last 12 months of life for all decedents in 2019 and 2020.

Population: all deaths in England in 2019 and 2020 – no restrictions by age, cause of death

Descriptive analysis will include:

* Comparison of the rate of ED visits in 2019 and 2020 (to understand the effect of the pandemic on rate of ED visits)
* Description of the rate of ED visits (per 1000 deaths) over the last 12 months of life
* Description of the rate of ED visits (per 1000 deaths) by deprivation, age and sex
* Description of the age and sex standardised rates (per 1000 deaths) by Integrated Care System (ICS).

Age and sex standardisation is used to facilitate comparisons between areas. The direct method of age and sex standardisation will be used and deaths for the whole of England in 2019 will be used as the standard population.