

Weekly Bulletin No. 373 Data for week commencing 2nd January 2012 (Week 01 of 2012)

Key messages:

- Please note: week 01 includes a public holiday when GP surgeries would normally be closed. This often results in artificially lower consultation rates and therefore data for week 01 should be interpreted with caution.
- Rates of influenza-like illness remain low and stable.

A Cold Watch System operates in England from 1 November to 31 March each year. As part of the Department of Health Cold Weather Plan for England the HPA Real-time Syndromic Surveillance team will be monitoring the impact of cold weather on syndromic surveillance data during this period.

Current cold weather alert level: [Level 1 – Winter Preparedness](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/)
(<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/>)

QSurveillance® 2788 practices reported from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland with a total practice population of 19.4 million.

	Overall trend *	Rate week 01**	Rate Week 52**	Above/below Week 01 of 2011	Highest rates	Comment
Influenza-like illness	→	7.6	5.2	Below	London	
Influenza-like illness with antivirals	→	<0.1	<0.1	Below		5 cases
Pneumonia	→	1.4	1	Below	Northern Ireland, South West	Highest rates in 75+ years age group
URTI	↑	229.8	186.2	Below	West Midlands, London, North West	Highest rates in the under 1 year age group
LRTI	↑	115.9	96.1	Below	Wales, North West, West Midlands	Highest rates in the under 1 year & 75+ years age groups
Vomiting	↑	15.2	11.7	Similar	London	
Gastroenteritis	→	44.2	33.5	Similar	London, West Midlands	
Diarrhoea (all ages)	→	25.3	18.9	Similar	Yorkshire & Humberside	Nationally, 11.6% treated with oral rehydration therapy
Diarrhoea in children under 5	→	89.1	73.8	Similar	South East Coast, London	Nationally, 22.6% were treated with oral rehydration therapy
Severe asthma	↑	7.1	5.3	Below	North West, South West, West Midlands	
Wheeze	→	19.3	11.6	Similar	North East, West Midlands, North West, Yorkshire & Humberside	Highest rates in the 75+ year age group
Conjunctivitis	↑	29.1	21.7	Similar	Wales, West Midlands	
Cellulitis	→	11.6	9.2	Similar	Wales	Nationally, 84.4% were prescribed antibiotics
Impetigo	→	6.2	4.2	Similar	Wales, North West	Nationally, 51.0% were treated with fusidic acid
Chicken pox	→	5.6	3.9	Similar	London, West Midlands	
Herpes zoster	→	5.7	4.8	Similar	Wales	
Pharyngitis or scarlet fever	→	33.2	24.9	Below	London, North West	Nationally, 58.1% were prescribed antibiotics
Mumps	→	0.2	<0.1	Similar	West Midlands	42 cases (9 in West Mids)
Measles	→	<0.1	<0.1	Similar		10 cases
Rubella	→	<0.1	<0.1	Similar		2 cases
Pertussis	→	<0.1	<0.1	Similar		18 cases (4 in South West, 5 in London)

* Overall trend is the trend observed over the preceding weeks

** Rate per 100,000

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Health Protection Agency and Nottingham University Division of Primary Care Collaborative National Surveillance System

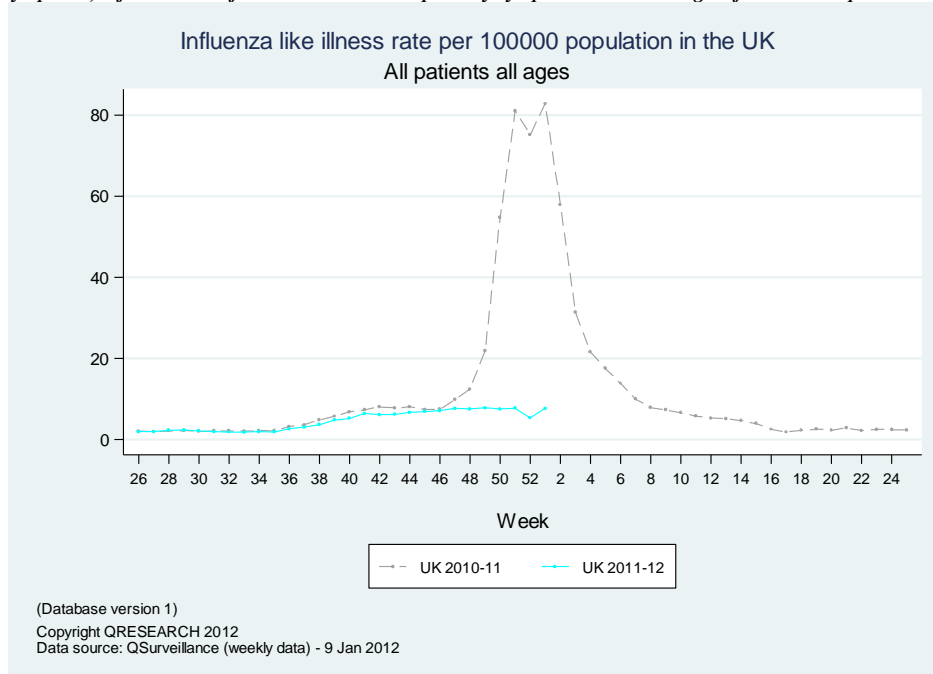


Contents:

	Page
Key Messages	1
<i>Key indicators: National rates</i>	
Graph 1: Influenza-like illness	3
Graph 2: Influenza-like illness by SHA	3
Graph 3: Influenza-like illness by age band	4
Graph 4: Influenza-like illness with antivirals	4
Graph 5: Upper respiratory tract infection	5
Graph 6: Lower respiratory tract infection	5
Graph 7: Pneumonia	6
Graph 8: Vomiting	6
Graph 9: Gastroenteritis	7
Graph 10: Diarrhoea in children aged under 5 (<i>also shows rates in those aged over 5</i>)	7
Graph 11: Severe asthma	8
Graph 12: Wheeze	8
Graph 13: Chicken pox	9
Graph 14: Pharyngitis or scarlet fever	9
<i>Key indicators: Rates by Country and Strategic Health Authority</i>	
Table 1: Influenza-like illness & Influenza-like illness with anti-virals	10
Table 2: Lower & Upper respiratory tract infection	11
Table 3: Vomiting & gastroenteritis	11
Table 4: Diarrhoea (all ages) and proportion treated with oral rehydration therapy	12
Table 5: Diarrhoea in children under 5 and proportion treated with oral rehydration therapy	13
Table 6: Severe asthma & wheeze	13
Table 7: Pneumonia	14

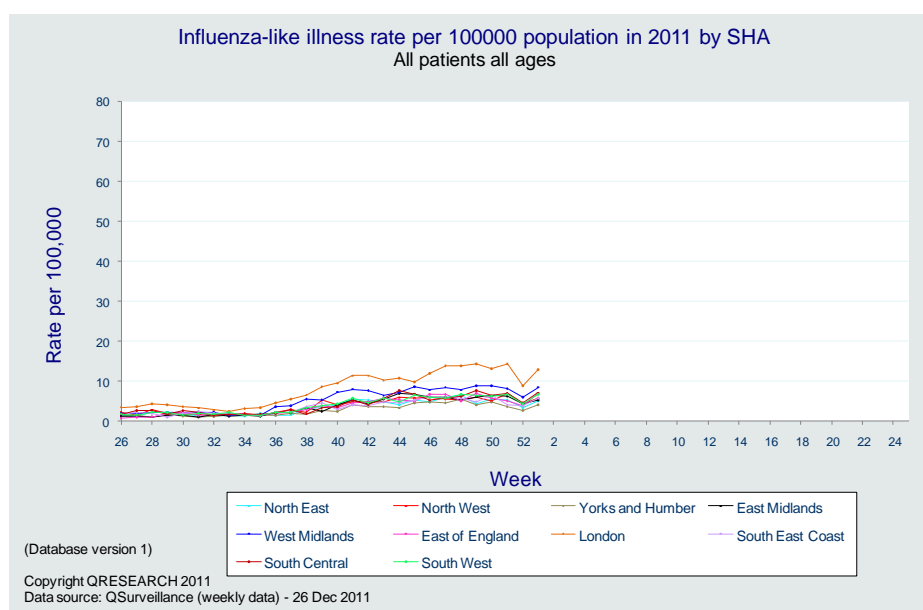
Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 1: Influenza-like illness – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 – includes patients recorded as having ‘suspected swine flu’, ‘swine flu’, influenza-like symptoms, influenza or influenza with other respiratory symptoms/condition e.g. Influenza with pneumonia.



NOTE: Weekly QSurveillance national thresholds for ILI incidence rates are: <20 per 100,000 (baseline activity); 20-70 (normal seasonal activity); 70-130 (above average activity); >130 (exceptional activity).

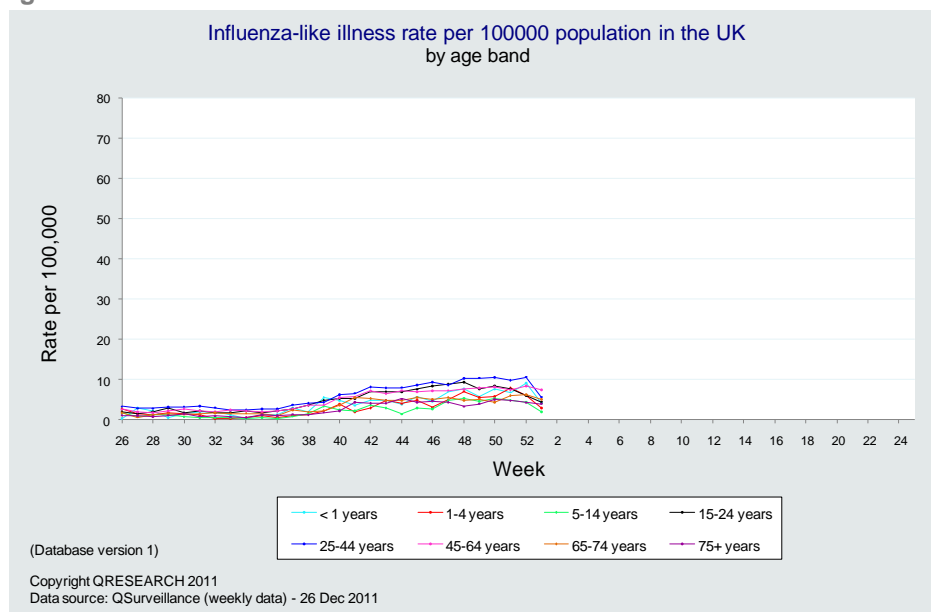
Graph 2: Influenza-like illness – rate per 100,000 practice population, 2011-12 by SHA



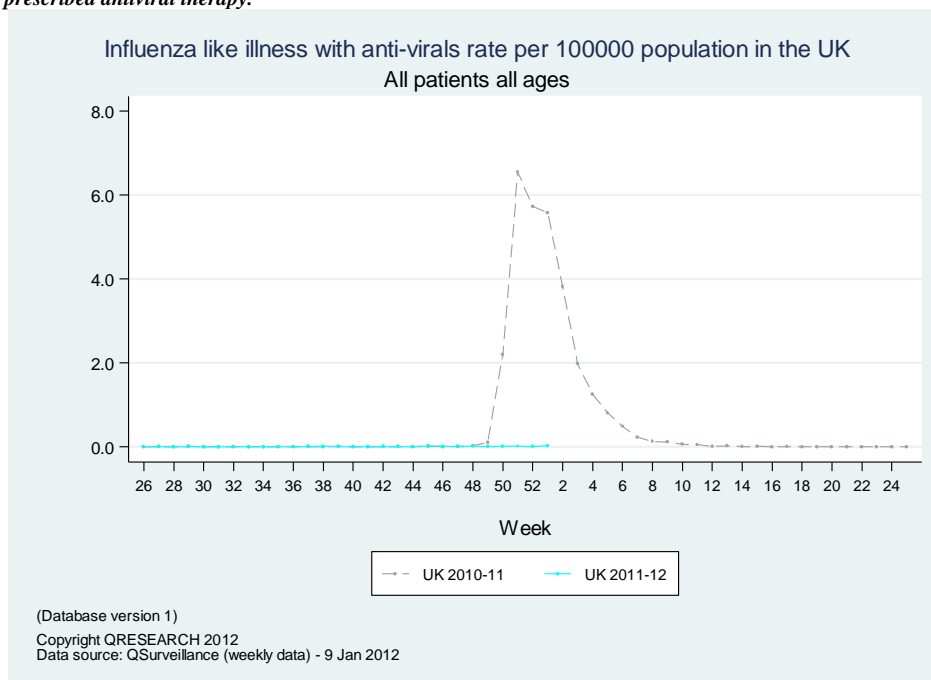
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Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012– Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 3: Influenza-like illness – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 by age band.



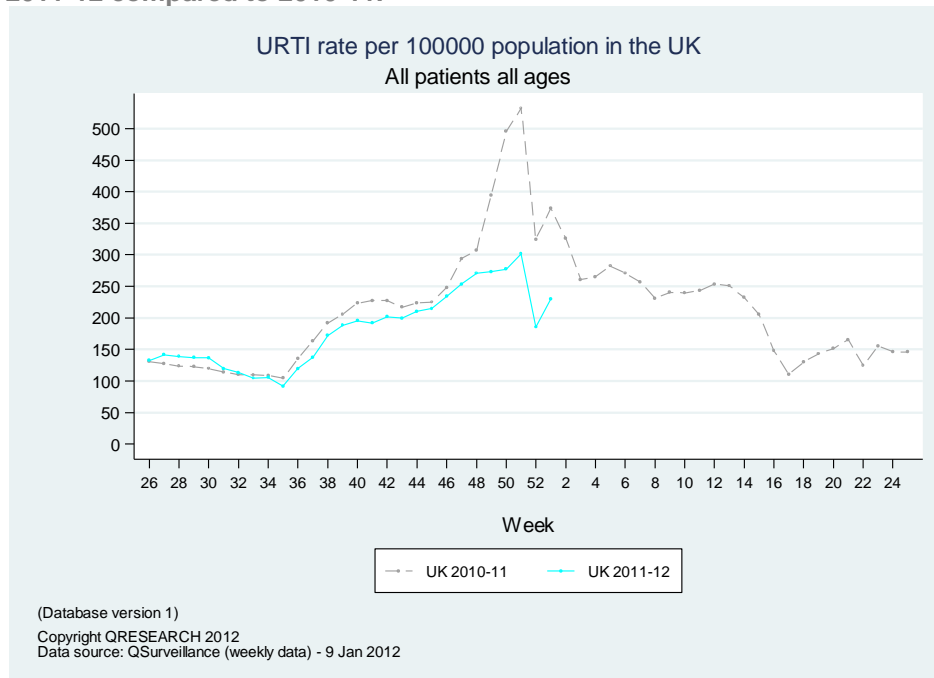
Graph 4: Influenza-like illness with antivirals– rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 - includes patients recorded with influenza-like illness who have also been prescribed antiviral therapy.



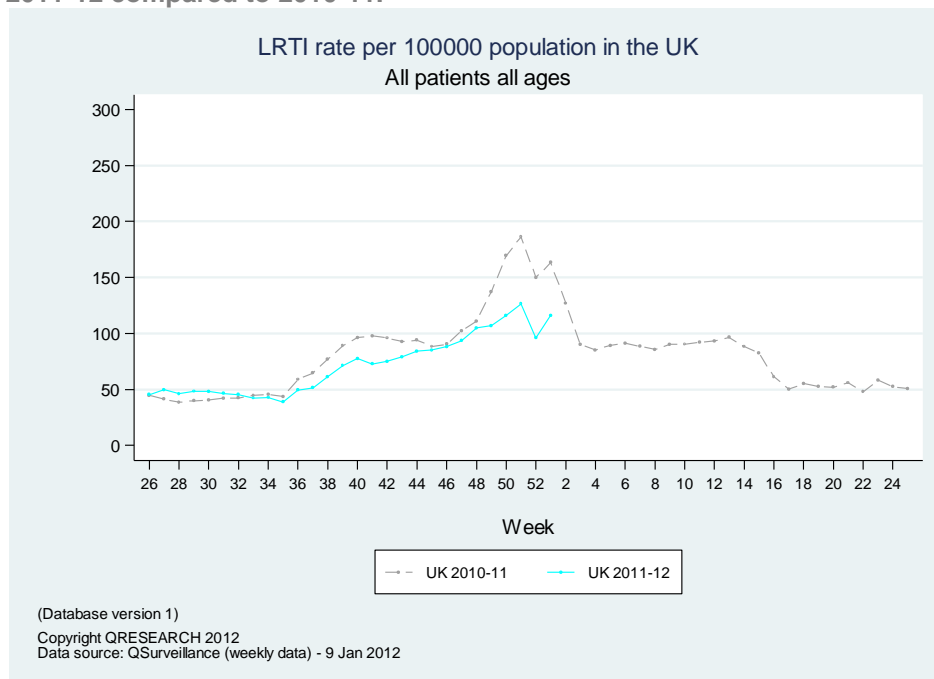
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Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 5: Upper respiratory tract infection– rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.

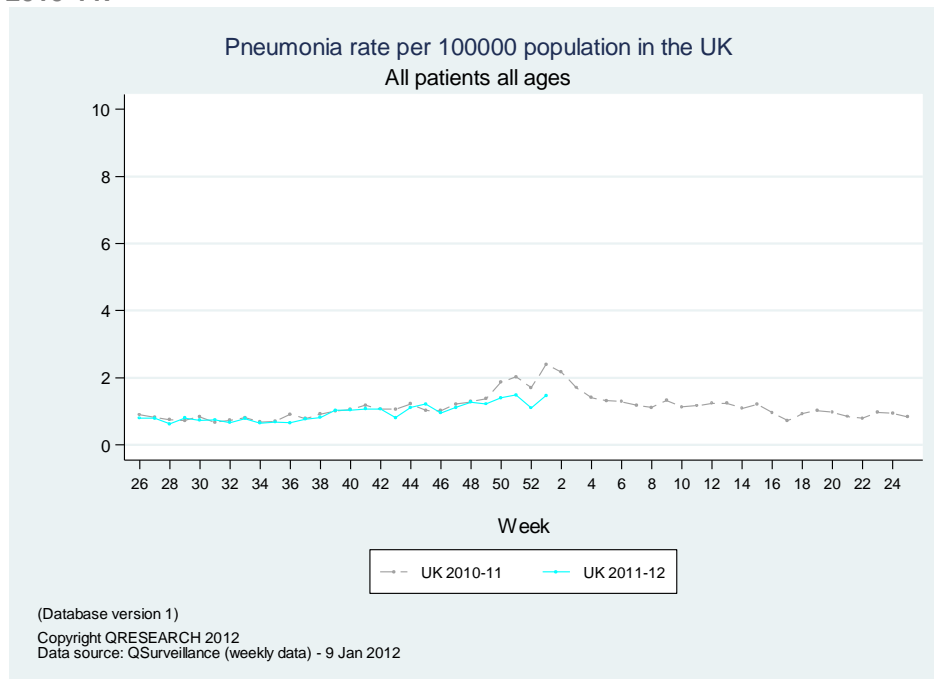


Graph 6: Lower respiratory tract infection– rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.

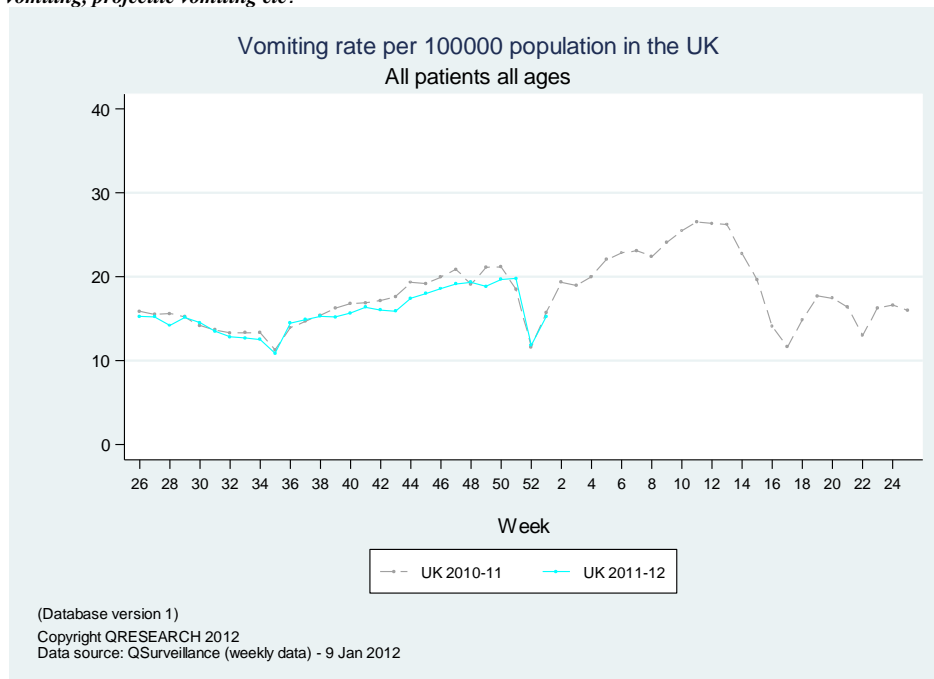


Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 7: Pneumonia – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.



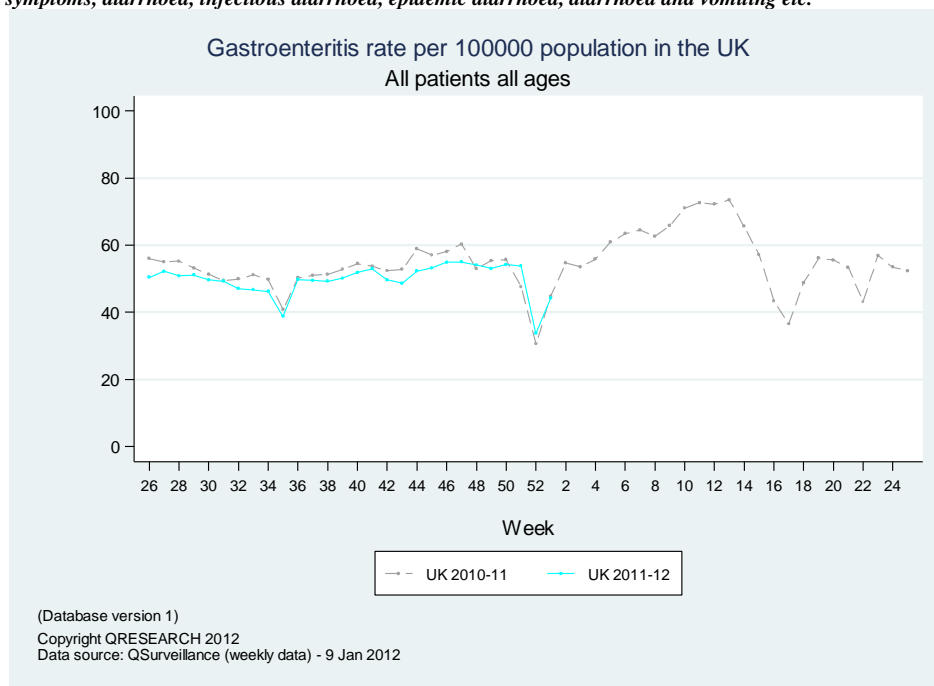
Graph 8: Vomiting – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 — includes patients recorded as having e.g. Vomiting, nausea and vomiting, vomiting symptoms, diarrhoea and vomiting, projectile vomiting etc.



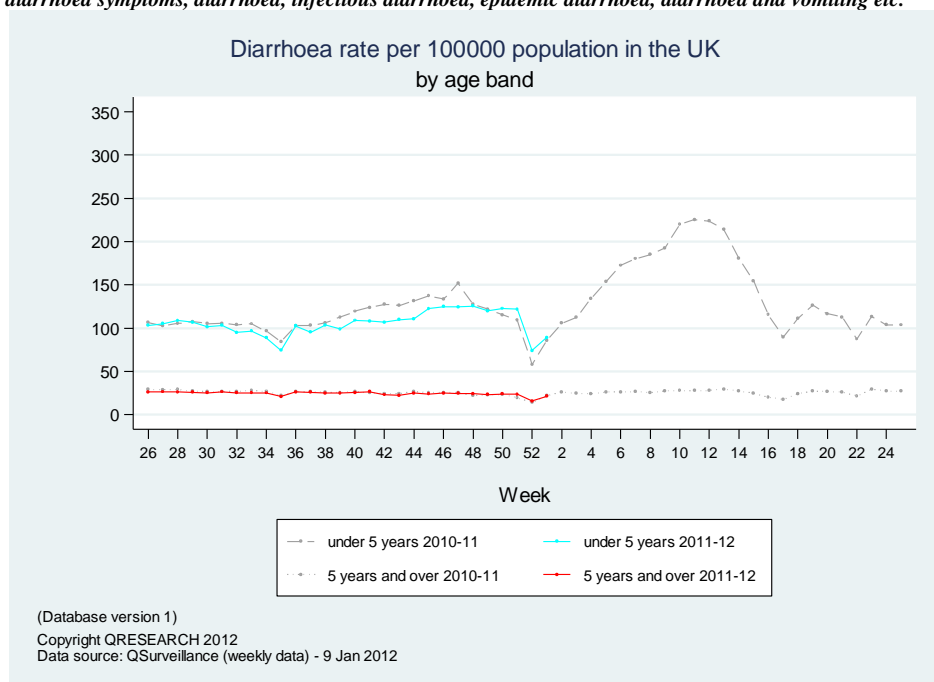
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Graph 9: Gastroenteritis – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 — includes patients recorded as having e.g. vomiting, vomiting symptoms, vomiting-infective, diarrhoea symptoms, diarrhoea, infectious diarrhoea, epidemic diarrhoea, diarrhoea and vomiting etc.



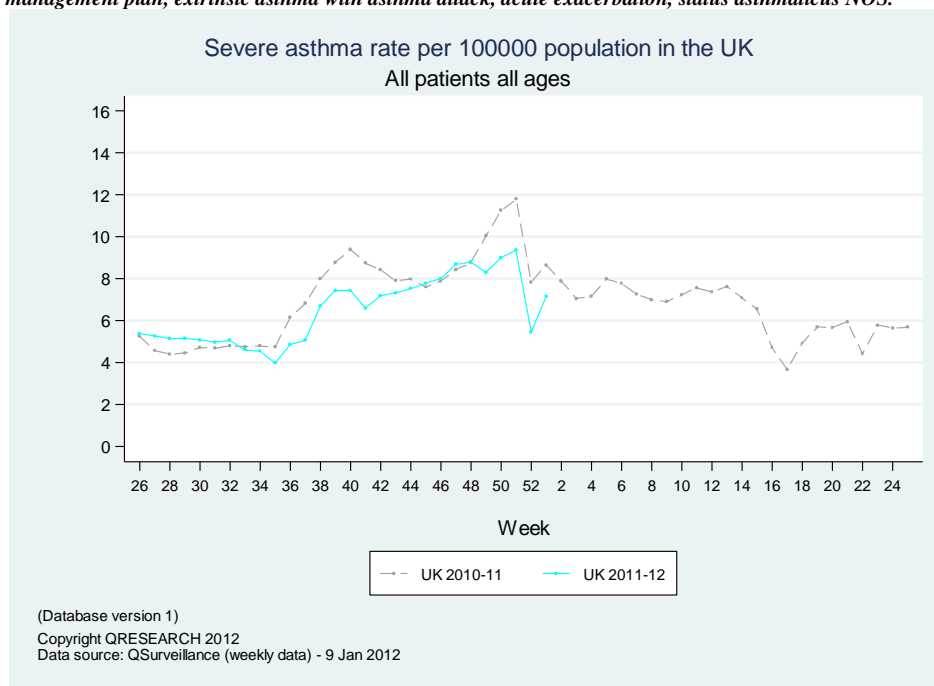
Graph 10: Diarrhoea in children aged under 5 and aged 5 and over – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 — includes patients recorded as having e.g. diarrhoea symptoms, diarrhoea, infectious diarrhoea, epidemic diarrhoea, diarrhoea and vomiting etc.



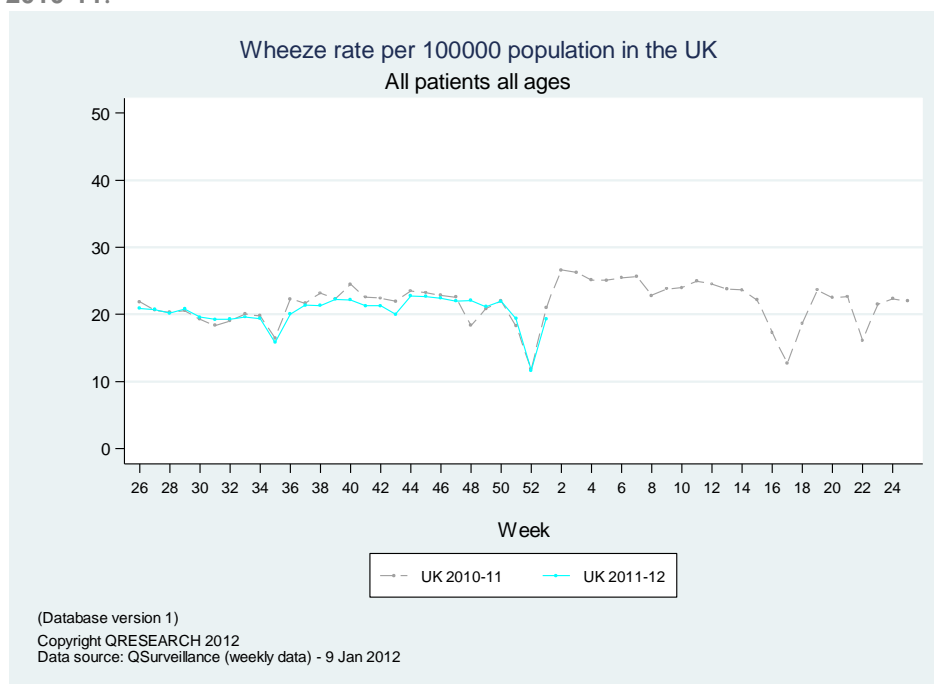
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Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 11: Severe asthma – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 — includes patients recorded as having e.g. severe asthma attack, asthma attack, a step up change in asthma management plan, extrinsic asthma with asthma attack, acute exacerbation, status asthmaticus NOS.



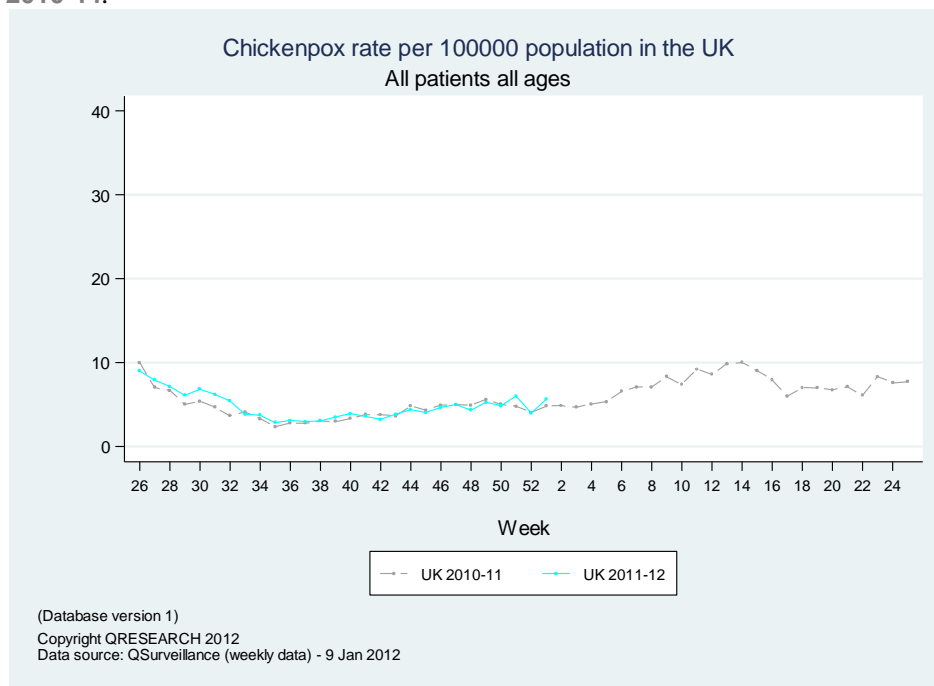
Graph 12: Wheeze – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.



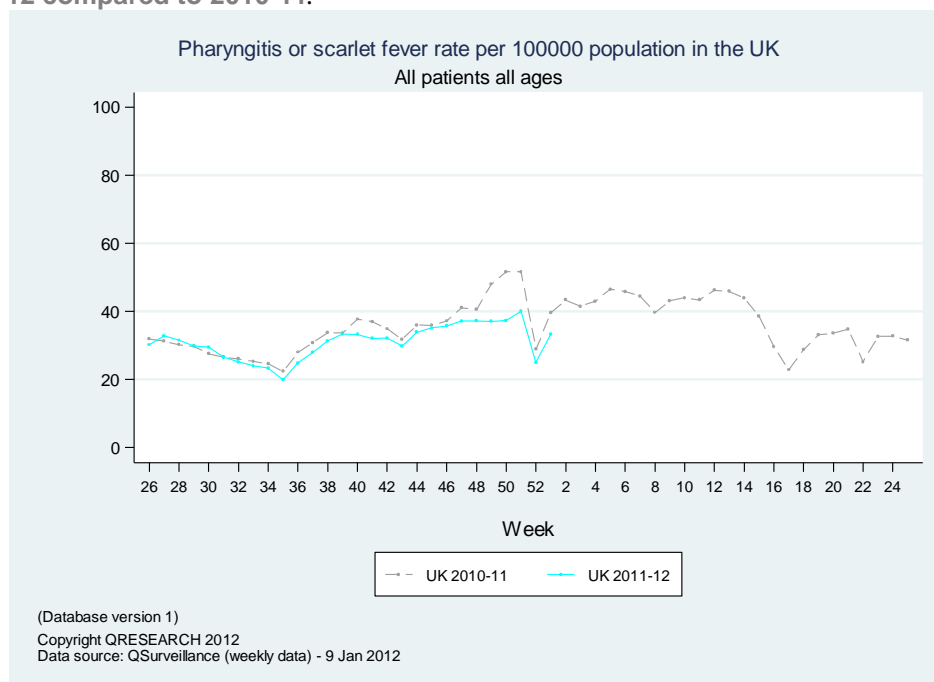
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Key Indicators: National rates for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Graph 13: Chicken pox – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.



Graph 14: Pharyngitis or scarlet fever – rate per 100,000 practice population, UK, 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.



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Key Indicators: Rates by Country and Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for week commencing 2nd January 2012 – Week 01 of 2012.

Notes to accompany all tables:

- Only practices with data for the entire week have been included in the analysis for this current week and SHAs or countries where there are less than 3 practices reporting are excluded from the tables to ensure confidentiality of participating practices. The SHAs /countries not included in this week's tables are:

Scotland and unclassified were excluded.
- Cells highlighted in yellow are considered to be a significantly high result. Coded yellow if both the upper and lower confidence limits are above 100. The Standardised Incidence Ratio (SIR) is calculated using the UK as the standard population.
- PCT level data are included in Appendix A.

Table 1: Influenza-like illness & Influenza-like illness with anti-virals – rates per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 1: Influenza-like illness			Table 1: Influenza-like illness with anti-virals		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
North East	1132678	56	4.9	64.2 (48.8 - 83.8)	<5	0	342.6 (14.3 - 2141.3)
North West	2136417	123	5.7	74.8 (62.3 - 89.4)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Yorkshire & Humberside	1345142	55	4	53.1 (40.3 - 69.5)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
East Midlands	1267999	66	5.2	67.6 (52.6 - 86.4)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
West Midlands	1816827	153	8.4	109.4 (92.9 - 128.4)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
East of England	1901372	132	6.9	90.2 (75.6 - 107.2)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
London	4092228	524	12.8	166.3 (152.5 - 181.3)	<5	0	94.8 (4.0 - 592.7)
South East Coast	1560128	89	5.7	74.1 (59.7 - 91.5)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
South Central	1605953	113	7	91.4 (75.6 - 110.2)	<5	0	241.7 (10.1 - 1510.3)
South West	1886483	126	6.6	86.7 (72.5 - 103.5)	<5	0.1	411.4 (64.1 - 1612.1)
Wales	261873	21	8	104.2 (65.7 - 161.4)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	397194	36	9	117.7 (83.3 - 164.3)	0	0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
All England	18745227	1437	7.6	99.6 (94.5 - 104.9)	5	0	103.5 (36.7 - 252.5)
UK	19404294	1494	7.6	100	5	0	100
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 2: Lower & Upper Respiratory Tract Infections – rates per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 2: Lower Respiratory Tract Infection			Table 2: Upper Respiratory Tract Infection		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
North East	1132678	1320	116.5	100.5 (95.1 - 106.1)	2128	187.8	81.7 (78.3 - 85.3)
North West	2136417	3186	149.1	128.6 (124.2 - 133.1)	5283	247.2	107.6 (104.7 - 110.5)
Yorkshire & Humberside	1345142	1619	120.3	103.8 (98.8 - 109.0)	2727	202.7	88.2 (84.9 - 91.6)
East Midlands	1267999	1607	126.7	109.3 (104.0 - 114.8)	2813	221.8	96.5 (93.0 - 100.2)
West Midlands	1816827	2584	142.2	122.6 (117.9 - 127.5)	4830	265.8	115.7 (112.4 - 119.0)
East of England	1901372	2367	124.4	107.3 (103.1 - 111.8)	4280	225.1	97.9 (95.0 - 100.9)
London	4092228	3103	75.8	65.4 (63.1 - 67.7)	10292	251.5	109.4 (107.3 - 111.6)
South East Coast	1560128	1971	126.3	108.9 (104.2 - 113.9)	3511	225	97.9 (94.7 - 101.2)
South Central	1605953	1734	107.9	93.1 (88.8 - 97.6)	3639	226.5	98.6 (95.4 - 101.8)
South West	1886483	2047	108.5	93.5 (89.6 - 97.7)	3545	187.9	81.8 (79.1 - 84.5)
Wales	261873	393	150	129.4 (117.0 - 142.9)	640	244.3	106.3 (98.3 - 115.0)
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	397194	577	145.2	125.2 (115.3 - 136.0)	913	229.8	100.0 (93.7 - 106.7)
All England	18745227	21538	114.8	99.1 (97.7 - 100.4)	43048	229.6	99.9 (99.0 - 100.9)
UK	19404294	22508	115.9	100	44601	229.8	100
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3: Vomiting and Gastroenteritis – rates per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 3: Vomiting			Table 3: Gastroenteritis		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
North East	1132678	174	15.3	100.9 (86.6 - 117.3)	467	41.2	93.3 (85.1 - 102.2)
North West	2136417	322	15.0	99.0 (88.6 - 110.5)	964	45.1	102.1 (95.8 - 108.8)
Yorkshire & Humberside	1345142	219	16.2	106.9 (93.4 - 122.3)	607	45.1	102.1 (94.2 - 110.6)
East Midlands	1267999	153	12.0	79.3 (67.4 - 93.1)	487	38.4	86.9 (79.4 - 95.0)
West Midlands	1816827	277	15.2	100.2 (88.8 - 112.8)	863	47.5	107.5 (100.5 - 114.9)

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Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 3: Vomiting			Table 3: Gastroenteritis		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
East of England	1901372	223	11.7	77.0 (67.4 - 88.0)	755	39.7	89.8 (83.6 - 96.5)
London	4092228	715	17.4	114.8 (106.6 - 123.6)	2071	50.6	114.5 (109.6 - 119.6)
South East Coast	1560128	245	15.7	103.2 (90.8 - 117.1)	672	43.0	97.4 (90.3 - 105.2)
South Central	1605953	259	16.1	105.9 (93.6 - 119.8)	710	44.2	100.0 (92.8 - 107.7)
South West	1886483	269	14.2	93.7 (82.9 - 105.7)	743	39.3	89.1 (82.8 - 95.8)
Wales	261873	41	15.6	102.8 (74.5 - 140.5)	119	45.4	102.8 (85.4 - 123.3)
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	397194	57	14.3	94.3 (71.9 - 122.8)	119	29.9	67.8 (56.3 - 81.3)
All England	18745227	2856	15.2	100.1 (96.5 - 103.8)	8339	44.4	100.6 (98.5 - 102.8)
UK	19404294	2954	15.2	100	8577	44.2	100
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Diarrhoea (all ages) and proportion treated with oral rehydration therapy – rates per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012.

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance					
Country, SHA	Table 4: Diarrhoea (all ages) and proportion treated with oral rehydration therapy				
	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Number Treated	% Treated
North East	257	22.6	89.7 (79.1 - 101.5)	16	6.2%
North West	545	25.5	100.8 (92.6 - 109.7)	61	11.2%
Yorkshire & Humberside	387	28.7	113.7 (102.7 - 125.7)	26	6.7%
East Midlands	302	23.8	94.1 (83.9 - 105.5)	23	7.6%
West Midlands	446	24.5	97.0 (88.3 - 106.5)	77	17.3%
East of England	462	24.2	96.0 (87.5 - 105.3)	33	7.1%
London	1098	26.8	106.0 (99.9 - 112.5)	209	19.0%
South East Coast	420	26.9	106.4 (96.5 - 117.2)	30	7.1%
South Central	394	24.5	97.0 (87.7 - 107.1)	40	10.2%
South West	475	25.1	99.5 (90.8 - 108.9)	40	8.4%
Wales	71	27.1	107.1 (84.1 - 135.7)	5	7.0%
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	53	13.3	52.7 (39.8 - 69.4)	10	18.9%
All England	4786	25.5	100.9 (98.1 - 103.8)	555	11.6%
UK	4910	25.3	100	570	11.6%
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 5: Diarrhoea in the under 5's and proportion treated with oral rehydration therapy - rate per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012.

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance					
Country, SHA	Table 5: Diarrhoea with Oral Rehydration - children under 5				
	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Number Treated	% Treated
North East	50	81.7	91.7 (68.5 - 121.6)	8	16.0%
North West	109	87.4	98.1 (80.8 - 118.7)	25	22.9%
Yorkshire & Humberside	70	99.4	111.5 (87.4 - 141.5)	12	17.1%
East Midlands	54	80.2	90.0 (68.0 - 118.1)	8	14.8%
West Midlands	83	75.6	84.9 (67.9 - 105.6)	32	38.6%
East of England	82	73.5	82.5 (65.9 - 102.8)	11	13.4%
London	297	106.5	119.5 (106.4 - 134.0)	91	30.6%
South East Coast	101	114.8	128.8 (105.3 - 157.0)	13	12.9%
South Central	79	80.8	90.7 (72.1 - 113.5)	16	20.3%
South West	79	78.0	87.5 (69.6 - 109.5)	12	15.2%
Wales	10	70.7	79.3 (39.6 - 149.7)	0	0.0%
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	12	45.6	51.2 (27.3 - 91.4)	<5	33.3%
All England	1004	90.4	101.4 (95.3 - 107.9)	228	22.7%
UK	1026	89.1	100	232	22.6%
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6: Severe Asthma and Wheeze – rates per 100,000 practice population – Week 01 of 2012.

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 6: Severe Asthma			Table 6: Wheeze		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
North East	1132678	73	6.4	90.2 (71.0 - 113.8)	307	27.1	140.1 (125.0 - 156.8)
North West	2136417	197	9.2	129.0 (111.8 - 148.6)	493	23.0	119.2 (109.0 - 130.3)
Yorkshire & Humberside	1345142	94	6.9	97.8 (79.3 - 120.0)	304	22.5	116.8 (104.1 - 130.8)
East Midlands	1267999	80	6.3	88.3 (70.3 - 110.3)	233	18.3	95.0 (83.3 - 108.1)
West Midlands	1816827	156	8.5	120.1 (102.2 - 140.8)	453	24.9	128.8 (117.3 - 141.4)
East of England	1901372	140	7.3	103.0 (86.9 - 121.8)	326	17.1	88.6 (79.3 - 98.9)
London	4092228	211	5.1	72.1 (62.8 - 82.7)	532	13.0	67.2 (61.6 - 73.2)
South East Coast	1560128	88	5.6	78.9 (63.5 - 97.6)	280	17.9	92.7 (82.3 - 104.4)

Data for week commencing 00.01hrs Monday 2nd January 2012 from version 1 of the QSurveillance® database. Information from this bulletin may be quoted provided the source of the data and version of the database is included in any publication or presentation. We acknowledge the contribution of EMIS and EMIS practices.

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance							
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 6: Severe Asthma			Table 6: Wheeze		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)	Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
South Central	1605953	119	7.4	103.7 (86.1 - 124.4)	306	19.0	98.5 (87.8 - 110.3)
South West	1886483	169	8.9	125.3 (107.4 - 146.0)	400	21.2	109.6 (99.2 - 121.0)
Wales	261873	25	9.5	133.6 (87.7 - 199.4)	50	19.0	98.7 (73.8 - 130.9)
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	397194	35	8.8	123.3 (86.8 - 172.9)	71	17.8	92.4 (72.5 - 117.0)
All England	18745227	1327	7.0	99.0 (93.8 - 104.5)	3634	19.3	100.2 (97.0 - 103.5)
UK	19404294	1387	7.1	100	3755	19.3	100
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7: Pneumonia - rate per 100,000 practice population - Week 01 of 2012.

Week commencing 02 January 2012 from QSurveillance				
Country, Strategic Health Authority	Denominator pop	Table 7: Pneumonia		
		Observed number of cases	Rate per 100,000	SIR (95% upper and lower confidence limits)
North East	1132678	13	1.1	78.1 (42.9 - 136.4)
North West	2136417	28	1.3	89.2 (60.1 - 130.3)
Yorkshire & Humberside	1345142	25	1.8	126.5 (83.1 - 188.9)
East Midlands	1267999	10	0.7	53.7 (26.8 - 101.3)
West Midlands	1816827	25	1.3	93.7 (61.6 - 139.9)
East of England	1901372	34	1.7	121.7 (85.2 - 171.6)
London	4092228	36	0.8	59.9 (42.4 - 83.6)
South East Coast	1560128	25	1.6	109.1 (71.7 - 162.9)
South Central	1605953	24	1.4	101.7 (66.2 - 153.2)
South West	1886483	42	2.2	151.6 (110.2 - 206.4)
Wales	261873	0	0.0	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Scotland	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	397194	23	5.7	394.3 (254.1 - 598.9)
All England	18745227	262	1.3	95.2 (84.1 - 107.5)
UK	19404294	285	1.4	100
Unclassified	-	-	-	-

Your comments on this bulletin and the key indicators are welcomed. Further information on the project or the key indicators presented here can be obtained by contacting the Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team on 0844 225 3560 > Option 4 > Option 2 (email syndromic-surveillance@hpa.org.uk).

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