Understanding the Profile Format

Confidence Intervals
For each indicator, upper and lower confidence intervals are given. Confidence intervals provide a range around the practice rate or proportion being looked at. It is used to describe the uncertainty around the rate or proportion. This uncertainty arises as factors influencing the indicator are subject to chance occurrences that are inherent in the world around us. These occurrences result in random fluctuations in the numbers between different areas and time periods. Confidence intervals quantify the uncertainty in this estimate and, generally speaking, describe how much different the practice rate or proportion could have been if the underlying conditions stayed the same, but chance had led to a different set of data. The wider the confidence interval the greater is the uncertainty in the estimate.

The confidence interval has been used to determine whether the practice rate or proportion is statistically significantly different to the CCG mean.

Spine chart
The chart gives a visual presentation of how the practice rate/proportion compares to the local and national levels. The chart displays proportional bars which represent the range of indicator values within the CCG in which the selected practice is located. For each indicator, minimum/maximum CCG values are shown at either side of the bar column. The dark grey sections on the bar mark the range within which the middle half of the observed values lie (25th to 75th percentiles). Therefore the light grey areas on the left and right of the bar mark the lowest and highest quartiles of the range.

The central red vertical line represents the CCG average. The diamond on the proportional bar shows the England average.

The round dot shows the point on the bar for the practice rate or proportion. The confidence intervals have also been used to make comparisons against the CCG average. For this purpose the confidence interval has been used to test whether the practice rate or proportion is statistically significantly different to the CCG average. If the practice confidence interval includes the CCG average, the difference is not statistically significant and the value is shown on the spine chart as a blue symbol. If the interval does not include the CCG value, the difference is statistically significant and the value is shown on the spine chart with an amber symbol.

The position of the practice with respect to the range of other practices within the CCG should be taken as possibly indicative of an effect of interest, but not conclusive. You will want to particularly consider the indicators for which your practice is significantly different from the CCG mean, to better understand the reasons and if any actions need to be taken in the practice or by others providing services or interventions on that part of the patient pathway. These statistical significance calculations take into account the small numbers present for some of the indicators. However indications of statistical significance are again not conclusive – in some cases they are caused by chance fluctuations. We anticipate many practices being significantly different to the mean on one or two indicators. In general, for any practice, the more indicators that are significantly different the stronger the argument for understanding why this should be the case. This explanation will often be grounded in the population age and socio-economic status. The General Practice Profile/Audit leads will be available to support the interpretation and actions being taken.

Comments and new development options – following the 1st iteration of the GP practice profiles, comments have been taken on board and future releases will include changes that have been requested (such as selecting a selection of individual GP practices and key metrics to review).
**Practice Indicator Value**

This is the number of people, referrals or procedures for the practice in relation to the relevant indicator e.g. the number of people aged 65 and over that are registered at the practice. The socio-economic deprivation indicator is slightly different as it provides the socio-economic quintile that the practice is in e.g. Quintile 1 is the most affluent. Please refer to ‘Meta-data for profile indicators’ document for information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Indicator Value</th>
<th>Practice Rate or Proportion</th>
<th>Source and Period Columns</th>
<th>Confidence Intervals</th>
<th>CCG and England average</th>
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**Practice Rate or Proportion**

This displays a % or a rate (relevant to the indicator being looked at) e.g. % of practice population aged 65 and over. A quick description of the rate or proportion is provided in the brackets in the indicator column. A fuller description of how the rate and proportions have been calculated can be found in the ‘Meta-data for profile indicators’ document.

**Source and Period Columns**

The time period and data source that each indicator relates to. More information can be found in the ‘Meta-data for profile indicators’ document.

**Confidence Intervals**

See above

**CCG and England average**

The average rate or proportion for the CCG, in which the practice is located. The England average is also provided, making it possible to see how the practice compares locally and nationally.

**Spine chart**

See above