Greetings from the team at Capacity Tracker

From all of us here at Capacity Tracker, we wish you very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. A heartfelt thank you for your commitment to keeping the Capacity Tracker updated and engaging with our team.

Over the year we have met many of you at our regular training sessions and engaged with you through emails and telephone calls. It has been our pleasure. The hard work and dedication shown by the people working in the care sector is truly inspirational.

Monitoring flu and Covid-19 cases in the community

As you will be aware, while Covid-19 continues to circulate, we also expect to see a resurgence of flu and other respiratory viruses. This is likely to place significant additional pressure on the social care system, as well as on healthcare. For this reason, we ask for your continued support to keep data updated in the Capacity Tracker so that it can be relied on by NHS and Local Authority teams.

Specifically, we ask you to:

- Keep bed vacancy data up-to-date (ideally daily) to avoid duplication of daily 'ring arounds' by Local Authority discharge teams, and to support effective discharges of patients from hospital.
- Keep workforce data up to date so that our understanding of the recruitment and retention challenges in the sector are as accurate and timely as possible.
- Record the number of employees, and for care homes the number of residents, known to have received the flu vaccine and the Covid-19 Autumn Booster at least weekly.
- Record confirmed and suspected Covid-19 cases in staff and residents so we can monitor prevalence of the virus and target support appropriately.

Please take some time to review your information under the *'Provider Details'* tab in the Capacity Tracker to ensure we have the correct details for people working in your organisation.

At this time of year it is useful to know if care homes are accepting admissions out of hours, so please be sure to add your admissions status when you update vacancies.

Community rehabilitation beds

Providers of NHS-commissioned community rehabilitation beds are reminded to update their data each day in the Capacity Tracker to ensure the visibility of community beds for Integrated Care System (ICS), NHS and Local Authority teams.

To support providers, from the end of January the Capacity Tracker will send an email alert to the provider where they have not updated the system for 24 hours.

For help with submitting data, email: necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net.

Vaccination survey

Thank you to everyone at a care home or home care provider who has completed the DHSC survey about understanding the challenges when gathering information on vaccinations. We had a fantastic response. If you haven't been able to complete this yet, we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to do so.

Find out about how people use the Capacity Tracker

A special thank you to those who have featured in our case studies and testimonials this year.

It was great to hear from Matt Callaghan at Knoll Care Partnership in Manchester, who said:

"The Capacity Tracker has an identifiable purpose; it really makes sense to have a single database to enter all our information. We recognise the need for accurate, up to date data and understand that this can influence national policy and practice, for the benefit of our residents and the adult social care sector."

Read the full case study here.

Also, from Josh Mancini who works in a Discharge Team in Kent, who said:

"Capacity Tracker saves us approximately five or six hours a week worth of telephone calls. This is not only a benefit to us, but also to the providers we work with as it reduces the volume of speculative calls the homes receive, allowing them to get back to delivering the care they strive to do."

Read the full case study here.

Read all our case studies and testimonials here.

Need further help?

Please contact capacitytracker-guidance@dhsc.gov.uk if you need non-technical assistance on how to answer the questions in Capacity Tracker.

Please contact necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net for further information and technical support.

Guidance for Capacity Tracker is available online.

Our **Contact Centre** is open 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays - 0191 691 3729.

Warm wishes for a safe and healthy Christmas and 2023

Thank you again!

Sent on behalf of Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC, NHS England and the Capacity Tracker Team.