

## **Accepted aggregate data requests – Thrombolysis eligibility split by patient characteristics**

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### **Use of SSNAP data for external validity check on study exploring factors that influence clinicians' decisions to offer intravenous alteplase for patients with acute ischaemic stroke**

Given that treatment with intravenous alteplase (thrombolysis) for eligible patients with acute ischemic stroke is underused and treatment rates vary across the UK, we conducted a study that sought to elucidate factors influencing variation in clinicians' decision-making about the offer of thrombolytic treatment. A discrete choice experiment (DCE) using hypothetical patient vignettes was conducted with UK-based clinicians to provide insight into what patient and clinician factors influenced decision-making.

In order to assess the external validity of our findings, we compared a number of patient vignettes included in the study with national patient data. In consultation with the SSNAP team, six subsets of patient data were collated to compare decision-making about thrombolysis in the current study with real-world decision-making for UK patients admitted to hospital (or date of stroke onset if already in hospital) between April 2013 and March 2015. Six patient vignettes from the study were chosen as they represented the extremes of decision-making observed in the current study (high rates of offering and not offering thrombolysis respectively) and were chosen to ensure vignettes were sufficiently different so that no one patient would appear in more than one of the SSNAP data subsets. Access to the SSNAP data facilitated meaningful comparisons between decision-making in the study for hypothetical patients, and real-world clinical decision-making.