

21. Time use of community care professionals

The following table provides information from an online survey carried out by PSSRU in 2014/15 (see Preface to the Unit Costs of Health & Social Care 2015 for more details). The link for the survey was distributed non-selectively through various channels. **Given the small sample from which the ratios of direct to indirect time have been calculated, the ratios have not been used in the unit cost calculations**, but have been tabulated here so that readers can use them where appropriate.

Community professionals	Sample size	Average number of hours worked (including unpaid overtime)	% of hours worked spent with patients	% of hours worked spent on other patient-related tasks (a)	% of hours worked spent on non-direct activities (b)	Other time (definition not provided but includes travel)	Average mileage per professional per week	Ratios of direct to indirect time on: client-related work
Nurses								
(bands 5 and 6)	44	39	54%	29%	13%	5%	102	1:0.20
(bands 7 and 8)	31	40	42%	33%	19%	6%	71	1:0.33
Physiotherapists	11	41	35%	38%	22%	5%	132	1:0.37
(bands 5-8)								
Occupational therapists	6	40	51%	36%	11%	2%	42	1:0.15
(bands 4-7)								
Speech and language therapists	7	40	38%	50%	9%	3%	84	1:0.14
(bands 5-6)								

References from past editions :

Clinical Psychologist: Ratio of face-to-face contacts to all activity: 1:1.25. Based on the National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Mapping data and returns from over 500 principal clinical psychologists, 44.5 per cent of time was spent on direct clinical work. (See: Department of Health (2002) National child and adolescent mental health service mapping data, Department of Health, London).

GP Practice Nurse: Ratio of direct to indirect time on face to face contacts to all activity: 1:0.30. Time spent on surgery consultations (67.9%), phone consultations (5.2%), clinics (2.5%) and home and care home visits (1.2%). Taken from the 2006/2007 UK General Practice Workload Survey. (See: Information Centre (2007) 2006/07 UK general practice workload survey, Primary Care Statistics, Information Centre, Leeds).

Nurse advanced/nurse practitioners: Ratio of patient contacts to all activity: 1:0.71. Based on information provided by 27 nurse practitioners, 58% of time was spent on surgery consultations, 0.4% on home visits, 6.4% on telephone consultations and 1.4% of time was spent on getting prescriptions signed. See Curtis, L & Netten, A. (See: The costs of training a nurse practitioner in primary care: the importance of allowing for the cost of education and training when making decisions about changing the professional mix, Journal of Nursing Management, 15, 4, 449-457).

a) Includes time researching and gathering information before each patient/client contact, writing-up case notes after each patient/client contact, and liaising with or meeting with other professionals in relation to patients/clients

b) Non-direct activities include training (either others or self), supervision and general administration.