

1. Method

Sample size & data collection

1,129 operated cases and 106 non-operated cases were expected during the study period. These figures were based on a percentage of the data from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for the year 2002/03. An estimate was made for cases from the independent sector.

Retrospective data collection took place for two months from 1st February until 31st March 2004.