One third of patients aged under 55 had one or more all-cause readmissions within 90 days, rising to 41% for 55-64 year olds and 46% for those aged over 75.

The report said that many patients ‘appeared to be on a continuous cycle of hospital admission, suggesting that the needs of this challenging group have received insufficient attention’.

The researchers said high admission and readmission rates could be due to poor coordination between primary and secondary care services, and a lack of social care.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust respiratory nurse consultant Jane Scullion said care failings were not always the cause of readmissions.

She said: ‘It might be that they are very sick and they get to go home for a while. Instead of staying in hospital for two months as they die, they are getting home for periods of time.’

To read the report go to tinyurl.com/jz7tpab