NHS Performs
Weekly Update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times Statistics

Publication Date – 7 March 2017

About this release

This is the official statistics release of weekly information on attendances at Emergency Departments published by the Information Services Division. It includes information on the number of attendances and length of time patients spend in Emergency Departments in Scotland.

The statistics in this weekly update cover Emergency Departments only, and include new data for the week ending 26 February 2017.

Main points

- During the week ending 26 February 2017:
  - There were 24,835 attendances at Emergency Departments across Scotland.
  - 91.5% of people attending Emergency Departments were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours.
  - 248 patients (1.0%) spent more than 8 hours in an Emergency Department.
  - 35 patients (0.1%) spent more than 12 hours in an Emergency Department.
- The information from this publication is included in NHS Performs.

Background

Patients attending Emergency Departments are first triaged to assess the seriousness of their condition. Depending on the patient's condition, diagnostic tests may be carried out, and treatments given within the Emergency Department, before the patient is admitted to hospital, directed to another service or discharged home.

There are 92 locations providing A&E services across Scotland. Of these, 30 are classed as Emergency Departments - larger A&E services that typically provide a 24 hour consultant led service. The 30 Emergency Departments are responsible for more than 8 out of every 10 A&E attendances, 19 out of 20 breaches of the four hour waiting time standard, and 19 out of 20 admissions from A&E to hospital.

Since 3 March 2015, official statistics on Emergency Department activity and waiting times information have been released weekly for the EDs in Scotland, derived from aggregate information supplied by NHS Boards on the number of attendances and patients spending 4, 8, and 12 hours in an Emergency Department.

A National Statistics publication on A&E Activity and Waiting Times is released on the first Tuesday of every month. The statistics in the monthly publication cover attendances to all A&E services in Scotland and are derived from the A&E datamart which includes more detailed information. These statistics are subject to a higher level of quality assurance than

the weekly statistics; however, there is good agreement between the two data sources. A comparison can be found online at Emergency Care - Statistics.

Since 2007, the national standard for A&E waiting times is that new and unplanned return attendances at an A&E service should be seen and then admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours. This standard applies to all areas of emergency care, including attendances in trolleyed areas of an Assessment Unit as well as Emergency Departments and minor injury units.

ISD are currently reviewing the scope of emergency care data collection to ensure that it continues to reflect the way emergency care is carried out. ISD are working with both the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

A list of sites providing emergency care and their classification can be found online at Emergency Care - Hospital Site List.

For information on how the Scottish Government (SG) monitors NHS Boards' performance within A&E Services, please see the NHS Local Delivery Plan standards.

Contact

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Find out more

Further information can be found on the Emergency Care pages of the ISD Scotland website.

The information from this publication can be viewed as a Data Table which presents Emergency Department information for all hospitals within the same table. A metadata document has also been produced for this publication.

The latest monthly ED Activity and Waiting Times publication was released on 7 March 2017. This National Statistics publication covers all A&E services, and includes new data for the month of December 2016.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.