

# Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland

Quarter ending December 2015

Publication Date – 29 March 2016

---



## About this release

The Information Services Division has updated a range of statistics on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. These include information on trends in outpatient, inpatient and day case activity, and bed statistics.

## Main points

### Outpatients

- There were around 1.14 million outpatient total attendances in the quarter ending December 2015, similar to the previous year.
- Around 1 in 10 patients did not attend their outpatient appointment, which is similar to both the previous quarter and the same period in 2014.

### Inpatient and day case discharges

- There were 415,210 acute inpatient and day case episodes of care recorded in the quarter ending December 2015. This is an increase of around 4% from the same quarter of the previous year.

### Emergency Admissions

- In NHSScotland in 2014/15 there were 156,000 emergency admissions for patients aged 75 and over, an increase of 3.7% from 2013/14.

### Bed statistics

- There were around 15,600 available staffed beds for all acute specialties in December 2015. This is a reduction of nearly 3% since quarter ending December 2013 (when data for Scotland were last available), and a reduction of over 5% over the last five years. A long term trend in these figures is not available due to problems of submission from several NHS Boards' patient admission systems.
- For Scotland, excluding Grampian and Highland NHS Boards, the number of available staffed beds in acute specialties was around 13,300 in the quarter ending December 2015. This is a decrease of almost 3% from around 13,700 beds in December 2014.

## Background

Outpatient attendances are categorised as new or follow-up (return) attendances. Less complex operations may also be undertaken in an outpatient setting. Inpatients refers to people who are admitted and either remain in hospital overnight or are expected to remain overnight but are discharged earlier.

Day cases refer to episodes where a person makes a planned admission to an available staffed bed in a hospital for clinical care, and requires the use of a bed (or trolley in lieu of a bed). For the purposes of national data a day case episode refers to a patient who is admitted as a day case and is discharged on the same day as planned.

Available staffed beds is the number of bed days available for inpatient or day case care over a period of time.

## Contact

### Sophie David

Principal Information Analyst

[sophie.david@nhs.net](mailto:sophie.david@nhs.net)

0131 275 6190

### Ruth Farquharson

Information Analyst

[r.farquharson@nhs.net](mailto:r.farquharson@nhs.net)

0131 275 6067

## Find out more

More information is available on the [Acute Hospital Activity](#) web pages.

Further information can also be found in the accompanying [Acute Activity Quarterly Report](#) published today.

## 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. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)