

Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland

Quarter ending March 2016

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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 1.13 million outpatient total attendances in the quarter ending March 2016, similar to the previous year of 1.14 million.
- 1 in 10 patients did not attend their outpatient appointment, which is similar to the same quarter in 2015.

Inpatient and day case discharges

- There were 420,990 acute inpatient and day case episodes of care recorded in the quarter ending March 2016. This is an increase of 5.5% from quarter ending March 2015.
- This increase is part of a general increasing trend over the last 5 years in the number of episodes of care recorded.

Bed statistics

- There were 15,851 available staffed beds for all acute specialties in March 2016. This is an increase of nearly 1.5% since quarter ending December 2015 due to seasonality, and a reduction of over 5% over the last five years.

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.

Information on emergency admissions for people aged 75 and over for the last 10 financial years is available in the [Acute Activity Quarterly Report](#).

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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.](#)