

# Chronic Pain Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 31 December 2016

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A Non-Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

## About this release

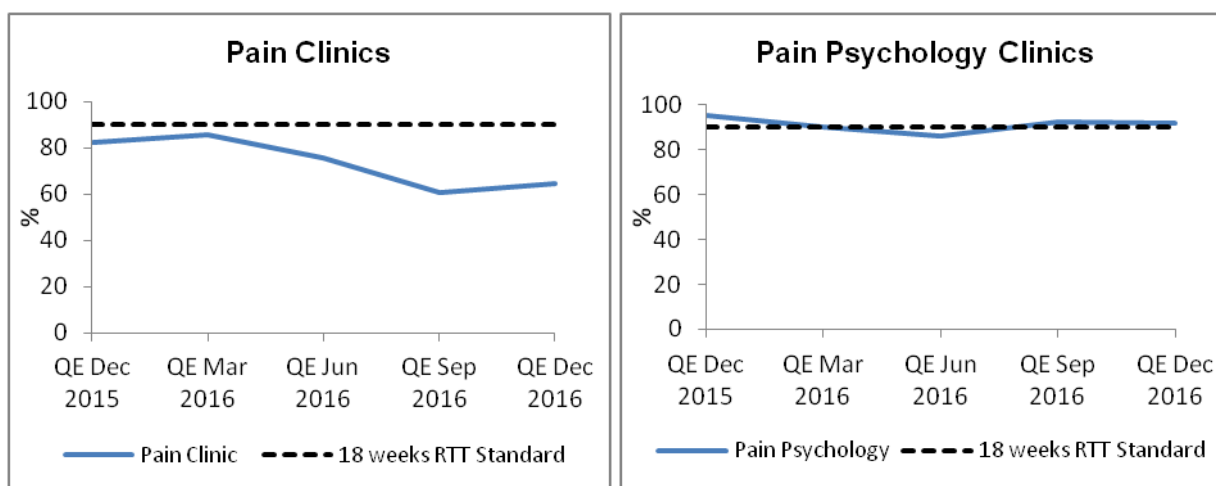
Information Services Division publishes information quarterly on the length of time people waited for a first appointment at chronic pain and pain psychology clinics provided by NHSScotland. The information is shown by NHS Board for quarter ending 31 December 2016. These data are considered developmental.

## Main Points

### Pain Clinics

- Twelve out of fourteen NHS Boards conduct pain clinics and submit data for patients seen based on the 18 weeks RTT Standard.
- As at 31 December 2016, there were 4,771 referrals to a pain clinic, a decrease from 5,235 referrals in the previous quarter. Out of these, 4,172 referrals were accepted.

**Percentage of patients attending chronic pain clinics and pain psychology clinics seen within 18 weeks; quarters ending 31 December 2015 to 31 December 2016**



- Six of the twelve NHS Boards saw over nine out of ten patients within 18 weeks. NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Fife, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian, & NHS Shetland saw all their patients within 18 weeks.
- The other six NHS Boards did not meet the standard.
- 12.4% of patients did not attend their appointment and did not notify the hospital.

## Pain Psychology Clinics

Ten NHS Boards provide this service.

- Among the six Boards which submit data for patients seen based on the 18 weeks RTT Standard, 91.7% of the 252 patients seen this quarter were treated within 18 weeks. This figure has seen little change over the past 5 quarters.

## Background

Waiting times for chronic pain services are monitored as part of the 18 weeks referral to treatment standard. Pain services are part of a centralised service (usually with consultant led outpatient appointments) to which an individual is referred to a clinic for chronic pain assessment and management. The pain psychology service is a service provided for pain management led by psychological therapy specialists. The data related to patients seen presented here has been adjusted for periods of patient unavailability. This information is considered developmental as the 14 NHS Boards are working with ISD and the Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of the information collected.

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## Further Information

The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#). A [metadata](#) document has been produced for this publication.

For more information see the [Waiting Times](#) section of our website.

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## ISD and Official Statistics

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