

Allied Health Professionals – Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHS Scotland

Quarter ending 31 December 2016

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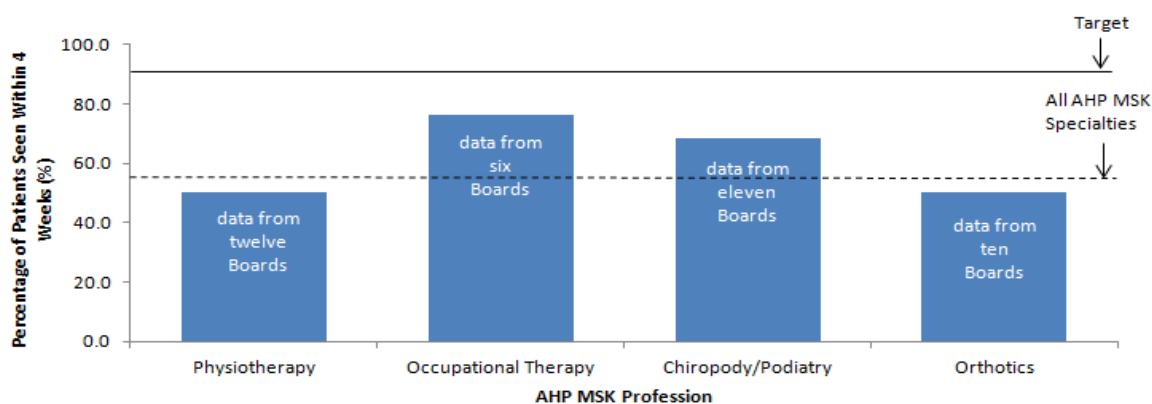
About this release

This publication by Information Services Division (ISD) presents information on how long patients wait for Musculoskeletal (MSK) services that are delivered by Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody/Podiatry and Orthotics. This publication includes waiting times information for 13 NHS Boards, but not for every indicator, for the quarter ending 31 December 2016. These data are considered developmental.

Main Points

- Over half (54.0%) of the 73,907 patients who had a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service were seen within 4 weeks. This is an increase compared to quarter ending 30 September 2016 when 52.5% of patients were seen within 4 weeks.
- Nine out of ten patients were seen within 18 weeks.
- 86,913¹ people were referred to AHP MSK services compared to 96,775 for the quarter ending 30 September 2016.
- In the quarter ending 31 December 2016, 8.1% adults did not attend their out-patient appointment for AHP MSK services.

Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks



¹ NHS Tayside did not provide Referral or Ongoing Waits information for this publication but did provide Completed Waits information.

Background

MSK problems include a diversity of complaints and diseases localised in joints, bones, cartilage, ligaments, tendons, tendon sheaths, bursa and muscles. MSK problems also include outpatient pre or post orthopaedic surgery, peripheral nerve lesions (e.g. carpal tunnel, sciatica) or complication of fracture/dislocation/trauma.

The Scottish Government has determined that at least 90% of AHP MSK patients should wait no longer than 4 weeks from receipt of referral from a patient or health or social care professional. See [NHSScotland Waiting Times Guidance](#) for more information. The guidance target should be met by each profession individually within each Board.

Progress continues to be made with NHS Boards who are developing their IT systems in order to provide the data. Last quarter only eleven Boards were included. The thirteen NHS Boards providing AHP MSK data this quarter are; NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles.

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [AHP MSK Waiting Times pages of the ISD website](#). You may also be interested in our other [waiting times information](#).

ISD and Official Stats

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