Dental Statistics – NHS Treatment and Fees

Statistics as at March 2018

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides information on NHS General Dental Service (GDS) treatment and fees annually. This publication provides statistics for 2017/18 with comparisons with previous years.

Main Points

Treatment

Children (under 18)

- Between 2000/01 and 2017/18 the number of fillings undertaken steadily decreased from around 775,000 to around 313,000.

- Similarly, the number of teeth extracted decreased overall from over 133,000 in 2000/01 to less than 89,000 in 2017/18.

- A third (33%) of the claimable dental treatments provided to children were given under the Childsmile programme in 2017/18. These include fluoride varnish application, toothbrushing instruction and dietary advice.

- In 2017/18, the number of claimable courses of treatment given to children was around 498,000, slightly less than in recent years.

Adults (18 and over)

- Since 2007/08, the number of courses of treatment given to adults has risen sharply, year on year, from nearly 3 million to over 4.2 million in 2017/18, the highest figure reported. This may be due to increasing numbers of patients participating in GDS.

- Around a third (31%) of the treatments claimed for adults were for examinations or provision of a care and treatment summary report.
Fees

In 2017/18, around £293 million in GDS fees were authorised in Scotland, an increase of £3.5 million (1.2%) from 2016/17.

• GDS fees have increased each year since 2003/04, although the rate of increase has slowed in recent years.
• When adjusted for inflation, GDS fees increased each year from 2005/06 until 2011/12, and have since stabilised.

Background

Treatment

NHS dentists can provide a wide range of treatments to their patients, from a simple examination to complex surgical treatment. The Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) lists all the items of service (IOS) (i.e. treatments) which dentists can provide and claim payment for.

Fees

Dentists are paid fees for each patient they have registered with them (capitation and continuing care payments) and for the treatments they provide.

Childsmile

Childsmile is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland, and reduce inequalities, both in dental health and access to dental services.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a background information and glossary, and metadata document.

The next release of this publication will be September 2019.

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.