

Publication Summary



Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times

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About this Release

This publication reports on attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) services across Scotland. The information presented in the publication includes trends in the number of attendances and performance against the four hour waiting time standard.

Key Points

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2014, the proportion of new attendances at A&E services across Scotland that were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours were:
 - July– 94.6%
 - August – 93.2%
 - September – 93.5%
- There were more A&E attendances (142,622) in September 2014 than in any September since comparable reporting began in 2007.
- The HEAT interim target is for 95% of patients to wait no more than 4 hours from arrival at A&E to admission, discharge or transfer. This is calculated over a 12 month period rather than on a monthly basis as per the standard. When the 95% target began in April 2013, the Scotland figure was 93.4%. For the target end point of the year ending September 2014, the Scotland figure was the same: 93.4%.
- Of the 14 NHS Boards, 9 boards met the target milestone of 95% (NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, NHS Fife, NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles).
- Patients aged 65 and over are almost 3 times as likely to be admitted to hospital following an attendance at A&E compared to those under 65. In September 2014 there were 2,742 attendances per 100,000 in the 65 and over age group, of which 54% resulted in an admission to hospital. By comparison in the under 65s age group there were 2,361 attendances per 100,000, with 18% leading to an admission.

Background

The term Accident and Emergency service is as a collective term that describes the following types of service or location:

- **Emergency Department (ED):** A 24 hour service, led by a hospital consultant with full resuscitation facilities.
- **Minor Injury Unit (MIU) / Other:** Emergency service sites including Minor Injuries Units (MIUs), small hospitals and health centres, community A&Es or community casualty departments that are GP or nurse led. They may or may not be open 24 hours.

A list of sites providing emergency care and their classification can be found online at [Emergency Care - Publications](#).

The national standard for A&E waiting times states that at least 98% of new and unplanned return attendances at an A&E Service should be seen and then admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours. This standard applies to all areas of emergency care such as assessment units, minor injury units, community hospitals, anywhere where emergency care type activity takes place. The 4-hour waiting time standard came into place in 2007 and continues to be the measure by which the Scottish Government (SG) monitors NHS boards' performance within A&E Services.

Contact

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Further Information

Further information, including the [full publication report](#), can be found on the [Emergency Care](#) pages of the ISD Scotland website.

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