Publication Summary

Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times
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About this Release

This publication reports key statistics on new and unplanned return attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) services across Scotland. The information presented in the publication includes trends in the number of attendances and admissions, and performance against the four hour waiting time standard. Detailed Hospital, NHS Board and Scotland information is available online.

Key Points

- The number of attendances at A&E services across Scotland over the last 3 years were:
  - 2014 – 1,645,200
  - 2013 – 1,608,789
  - 2012 – 1,642,816

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2014, the proportion of attendances at A&E services that were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours were:
  - October – 91.8%
  - November – 91.8%
  - December – 89.9%

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2014, 4028 (1%) patients spent more than 8 hours in the department, and 517 (0.1%) spent more than 12 hours in the department.

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2014, 27% of attendances at A&E led to an admission to hospital.
Background

The detailed A&E analysis is supplied in an Excel Workbook with interactive tables and charts showing: number of attendances, over 4, 8 and 12 hour waits and destination on discharge from A&E by NHS Board, site and, for the first time, aggregated for all emergency departments (EDs). A data file (csv format) containing raw data at a low level of aggregation is also available online.

Since 2007, the national standard for A&E waiting times is that 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 EDs, assessment units, minor injury units, community hospitals, anywhere where emergency care type activity takes place. A list of sites providing emergency care and their classification can be found online at Emergency Care - Hospital Site List.

For information on how the Scottish Government (SG) plans to monitor NHS Boards’ performance within A&E Services, please see the NHS Local Development Plan standards.

This timing and content of this publication has been revised following consultation with users of these data. From this release onwards, key A&E statistics will be published monthly.

Contact

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the Emergency Care pages of the ISD Scotland website. A metadata document has been produced for this publication.

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