

Publication Summary



Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times

Publication date – 3 March 2015



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.](#)

Waiting times in A&E are subject to seasonal and random variation. For this reason, the publication includes rolling annual statistics covering a full year of data, and the key points include statistics based on the last 12 months.

Key Points

- During the month ending 31 January 2015:
 - There were 129,269 attendances at A&E services across Scotland.
 - 87.1% of attendances at A&E services were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours.
 - 3215 (3%) patients spent more than 8 hours in the department
 - 703 (0.6%) patients spent more than 12 hours in the department.
 - 29% of attendances led to an admission to hospital.
- The total number of attendances in the last 12 months (1 February to 31 January 2015), and the same period in the previous 2 years were:
 - 2015: 1,645,639
 - 2014: 1,611,887
 - 2013: 1,639,159
- The percentage seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours in the last 12 months (1 February to 31 January 2015), and the same period in the previous 2 years were:
 - 2015: 92.3%
 - 2014: 93.8%
 - 2013: 94.1%

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 aggregated for all emergency departments (EDs). A data file (csv format) containing raw data at a low level of aggregation is also available online.

A&E sites submit data as either episode level files containing a detailed record for each attendance or as aggregate files containing monthly summary attendance and compliance figures only. Information on the number of patients waiting for more than 8 hours, 12 hours and attendances leading to an admission is not available for those sites which submit aggregate data - 6% of attendances at A&E services across Scotland. These statistics are based on attendances to sites submitting episode level data.

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](#). From 3 March 2015, Scottish Government are releasing [weekly A&E activity and waiting times information](#) for the 32 Emergency Departments in Scotland.

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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