NHS Performs
Weekly Update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times Statistics

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About this release
This is the official statistics release of weekly information on attendances at Emergency Departments published by the Information Services Division. It includes information on the number of attendances and length of time patients spend in Emergency Departments in Scotland.

The statistics in this weekly update cover Emergency Departments only, and include new data for the week ending 17 December 2017.

Information Services Division is aware of an investigation into recording practices of A&E waiting times in NHS Lothian. The investigation is concerned with the accuracy of the figures included with this release of statistics for NHS Lothian only. When the external investigation has reported, ISD will consider whether any revisions are required to previously published A&E waiting times statistics.

Main points
During the week ending 17 December 2017:

● There were 29,054 attendances at Emergency Departments across Scotland.
● 81.1% of people attending Emergency Departments were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours.
● 783 (2.7%) patients spent more than 8 hours in an Emergency Department.
● 241 (0.8%) patients spent more than 12 hours in an Emergency Department.

The information from this publication is included in NHS Performs.

Background
Patients attending Emergency Departments are first triaged to assess the seriousness of their condition. Depending on the patient’s condition, diagnostic tests may be carried out, and treatments given within the Emergency Department, before the patient is admitted to hospital, directed to another service or discharged home.

There are 91 locations providing A&E services across Scotland. Of these, 30 are classed as Emergency Departments - larger A&E services that typically provide a 24 hour consultant led service. The 30 Emergency Departments are responsible for more than 8 out of every 10 A&E attendances, 19 out of 20 breaches of the four hour waiting time standard, and 19 out of 20 admissions from A&E to hospital.

A National Statistics publication on A&E Activity and Waiting Times is released on the first Tuesday of every month. The statistics in the monthly publication cover attendances to all
A&E services in Scotland and are derived from the A&E datamart which includes more
detailed information. These statistics are subject to a higher level of quality assurance
than the weekly statistics; however, there is good agreement between the two data
sources. A comparison can be found online at Emergency Care - Statistics.
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,
including attendances in trolleyed areas of an Assessment Unit as well as Emergency
Departments and minor injury units.
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) monitors NHS Boards’ performance
within A&E Services, please see the NHS Local Delivery Plan standards.

Contact
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Find out more
Further information can be found on the Emergency Care pages of the ISD Scotland
website.

The information from this publication can be viewed as a Data Table which presents
Emergency Department information for all hospitals within the same table. A metadata
document has also been produced for this publication.

The latest monthly ED Activity and Waiting Times publication was released on 05
December 2017. This National Statistics publication covers all A&E services, and includes
new data for the month of October 2017.

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.