NHS Performs
Weekly Update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times Statistics
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication Date - 27 March 2018

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 18 March 2018.

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. Other than the issues with NHS Lothian, ISD does not have concerns about the quality of the published A&E statistics. When the external investigation has reported, ISD will consider whether any revisions are required to previously published A&E statistics.

Starting 17 April 2018 this summary will be published in a new interactive format with interactive chart and tables on the ISD website. As part of this change the weekly excel file will be replaced with 3 csv files with NHSScotland, NHS Board and Hospital level data. If you have feedback or suggestions for improvements you would like to see, please contact us on nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net or call us on 0131 314 1707.

Main points
During the week ending 18 March 2018:

● There were 26,386 attendances at Emergency Departments across Scotland.
● 86.7% of people attending Emergency Departments were admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours.
● 478 (1.8%) patients spent more than 8 hours in an Emergency Department.
● 115 (0.4%) 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 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 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
If you have any further questions about this publication, you can contact the team:

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Further Information
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 06 March 2018. This National Statistics publication covers all A&E services, and includes new data for the month of January 2018.

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.