

Publication Summary



Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from October 2011 Census

Publication date – 29 November 2011



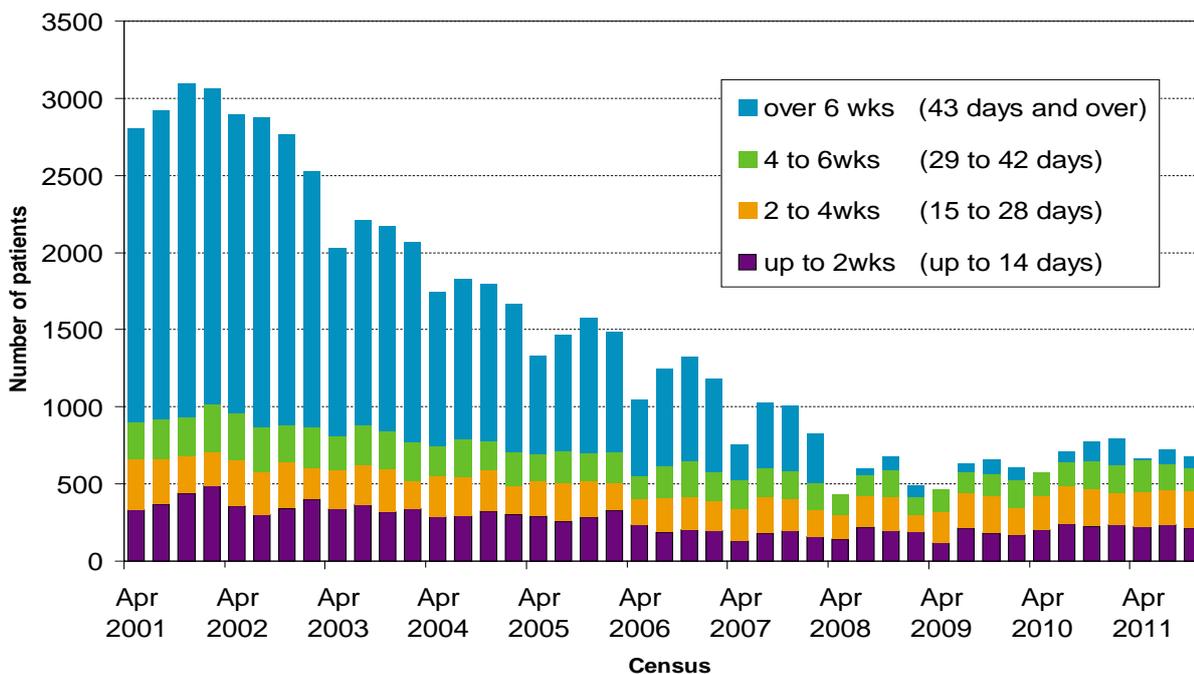
About this Release

This publication summarises the latest census results on inpatients who are delayed discharges. The information was collected as part of a quarterly census and includes only those patients delayed on the census day.

Key Points

At the October 2011 census there were 69 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 95 at the July 2011 census and 128 at the October 2010 census.

At the October 2011 census, there were a total of 675 delayed discharges in Scotland, compared with 722 at the July 2011 census and 776 at the October 2010 census.



Source: Delayed Discharges Census

Background

For most patients, following completion of health and social care assessments, the necessary care, support and accommodation arrangements are put in place in the community without any delay in the patient's safe and appropriate discharge from hospital.

A 'delayed discharge' is a hospital inpatient who has been judged clinically ready for discharge by the responsible clinician, in consultation with all agencies involved in planning the patient's discharge, who continues to occupy a bed beyond the ready for discharge date. These patients are clinically ready to move on to a more appropriate care setting either within or outwith the NHS e.g. patient's home, care home etc.

Until recently, the national target was that no patient should be delayed in hospital for longer than 6 weeks from when they were clinically ready for discharge, This target was first met in April 2008 and continues to be the national 'standard' which is applied to delays. In October 2011, two new targets were announced by the Scottish Government. These stated that by April 2013, no patient should wait more than 4 weeks from when they are clinically ready for discharge and subsequently by April 2015 no patient should wait more than 2 weeks until discharge.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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