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 April 2012 census there were 13 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 54 at the January 2012 census and 12 at the April 2011 census.

At the April 2012 census, 108 patients were delayed over 4 weeks and 315 patients were delayed over 2 weeks.

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 out with 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.

**Contact**

Anne Stott
Senior Information Analyst/Statistician
Anne.Stott@nhs.net
0131 275 6820

**Further Information**

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

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