

Publication Summary



Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from July 2012 Census

Publication date – 28 August 2012



About this Release

This publication summarises the latest quarterly census results on inpatients who are delayed discharges and includes only those patients delayed on the census day. The number of bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients in the previous quarter is also presented in this publication for the first time.

Key Points

At the July 2012 census there were 50 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 13 at the April 2012 census and 95 at the July 2011 census.

At the July 2012 census, 164 patients were delayed over 4 weeks and 390 patients were delayed over 2 weeks.

Over 119,000 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients in NHS Scotland during the quarter April to June 2012. This accounts for around 5% of the available staffed bed days during that period.

Principal Reason Category for Delay

The principal reason for delay may change during an individual's period of delay as arrangements for discharge are put in place. The principal reasons supplied for those who had been delayed for more than 6 weeks at the July 2012 census (50 patients) were as follows:

- 27 patients were 'awaiting place availability in a care home'.
- 12 patients were 'waiting to go home'.
- 6 patients were 'awaiting community care assessment'.
- 1 patient was 'awaiting funding for a care home placement'.
- 4 patients were delayed for 'other patient/family/carer related reasons' or as a result of 'disagreement'.

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.

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Further Information

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

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