

# Publication Summary



## Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from October 2012 Census

Publication date – 27 November 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 quarterly reporting period is also presented in this publication.

### Key Points

Almost 122,000 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients in NHS Scotland during the quarter July to September 2012.

At the October 2012 census there were 95 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 50 at the July 2012 census and 69 at the October 2011 census.

At the October 2012 census, 220 patients were delayed over 4 weeks and 419 patients were delayed over 2 weeks.

### 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 October 2012 census (95 patients) were as follows:

- 62 patients were 'awaiting place availability in a care home'.
- 14 patients were 'waiting to go home'.
- 8 patients were 'awaiting community care assessment'.
- 2 patients were 'awaiting funding for a care home placement'.
- 9 patients were delayed for other reasons.

### Code 9 Delays

At the October 2012 census there were 237 patients reported as Code 9 delays (where the current maximum delay does not apply). Of these 62 per cent were due to the 'Adults with Incapacity Act'.

## 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

**Lisa Reddie**

Principal Information Analyst

[lisa.reddie@nhs.net](mailto:lisa.reddie@nhs.net)

0131 275 6117

## Further Information

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

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