

Publication Summary



Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from October 2013 Census

Publication date – 26 November 2013



About this Release

This publication summarises the latest quarterly census results on delayed discharge patients 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

126,000 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients in NHS Scotland during the quarter July to September 2013.

At the October 2013 census, 156 patients were delayed over 4 weeks. This compares with 118 at the July 2013 census and 220 at the October 2012 census.

At the October 2013 census there were 100 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 59 at the July 2013 census and 95 at the October 2012 census. 383 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 4 weeks at the October 2013 census (156 patients) were as follows:

- 80 patients were 'awaiting place availability in a care home'.
- 44 patients were 'waiting to go home'.
- 13 patients were 'awaiting community care assessment'.
- 1 patient was 'awaiting funding for a care home placement'.
- 1 patient was 'awaiting healthcare arrangements'.
- 17 patients were delayed for other reasons.

Code 9 Delays

At the October 2013 census there were 280 patients reported as Code 9 delays (where the current maximum delay does not apply). Of these 55 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. However the new targets, announced by the Scottish Government in October 2011, 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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