

Publication Summary



Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from April 2014 Census

Publication date – 27 May 2014



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

148,079 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients in NHS Scotland during the quarter January to March 2014.

At the April 2014 census, 173 patients were delayed over 4 weeks. This compares with 254 at the January 2014 census and 44 at the April 2013 census.

At the April 2014 census there were 107 patients delayed for over 6 weeks. This compares with 151 at the January 2014 census and 24 at the April 2013 census. 418 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 April 2014 census (173 patients) were as follows:

- 72 patients were 'awaiting place availability in a care home'.
- 56 patients were 'waiting to go home'.
- 9 patients were 'awaiting community care assessment'.
- 8 patients were 'awaiting funding for a care home placement'.
- 5 patients were 'awaiting healthcare arrangements'.
- 23 patients were delayed for other reasons.

Code 9 Delays

At the April 2014 census there were 311 patients reported as Code 9 delays (where the current maximum delay does not apply). Of these 56 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.

Prior to April 2013, 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. The current target, which came into effect in April 2013, stated that 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 as a delayed discharge.

Contact

Lisa Reddie / Stephen Halcrow

Principal Information Analyst

nss.delayedischarges@nhs.net

0131 275 6117 / 0131 275 6342

Martin McKenna

Senior Information Analyst

nss.delayedischarges@nhs.net

0141 282 2179

Further Information

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

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/