

# Publication Summary



## Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures from October 2014 Census

Publication date – 25 November 2014



### About this Release

This publication summarises the latest quarterly census results on delayed discharge patients. It reports on patients who were judged to be clinically ready for discharge but who were still occupying a bed on the census day in October 2014. It also presents the number of bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients during the period July to September 2014.

### Key Points

- During the quarter July to September 2014, 154,588 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients. This compares with 149,226 during the quarter April to June 2014 and 126,531 during the quarter July to September 2013.
- At the October 2014 census, 321 patients were delayed over four weeks. This compares with 274 at the July 2014 census and 156 at the October 2013 census.
- There were 215 patients delayed for over six weeks at the October census. This compares with 175 at the July 2014 census and 100 at the October 2013 census.
- At the October 2014 census, 587 patients were delayed over two weeks. This compares with 518 at the July 2014 census and 383 at the October 2013 census.
- 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 four weeks at the October 2014 census (321 patients) were as follows.
  - Awaiting place availability in a care home – 145 patients.
  - Waiting to go home – 90 patients.
  - Awaiting community care assessment – 34 patients.
  - Awaiting funding for a care home placement - 13 patients.
  - Awaiting healthcare arrangements - 11 patients.

- Other reasons such as disagreements – 28 patients.
- There were 334 patients reported as 'Code 9' delays where the current maximum delay does not apply. Of these, 58 per cent were due to the 'Adults with Incapacity Act'.

## Background

A 'delayed discharge' is identified as 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.

The current target states that no patient should wait more than four weeks from when they are clinically ready for discharge and that by April 2015, no patient should wait more than two weeks as a delayed discharge.

Some patients discharge will take longer to arrange and therefore the standard maximum delay is not applicable. Cases classified as 'Code 9s' include patients delayed due to awaiting place availability in a high level needs specialist facility and where an interim option is not appropriate, patients for whom an interim move is deemed unreasonable or where an adult may lack capacity under adults with incapacity legislation.

## Contact

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## Further Information

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

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