

# Publication Summary



## Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures from January 2015 Census

Publication date – 03 March 2015



### 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 January 2015. It also presents the number of bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients during the period October to December 2014.

### Key Points

- During the quarter October to December 2014, 168,526 bed days were occupied by delayed discharge patients. This compares with 154,588 during the quarter July to September 2014 and 134,978 during the quarter October to December 2013.
- Almost three quarters of total delayed discharge bed days are occupied by patients aged 75 and over.
- At the January 2015 census, 329 patients were delayed over four weeks which is the national target. This compares with 321 at the October 2014 census and 254 at the January 2014 census.
- There were 224 patients delayed for over six weeks at the January census. This compares with 215 at the October 2014 census and 151 at the January 2014 census.
- At the January 2015 census, 517 patients were delayed over two weeks. This compares with 587 at the October 2014 census and 448 at the January 2014 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 January 2015 census (329 patients) were as follows.
  - Awaiting place availability in a care home – 161 patients.
  - Waiting to go home – 95 patients.
  - Awaiting community care assessment – 26 patients.

- Awaiting funding for a care home placement - 5 patients.
  - Awaiting healthcare arrangements - 11 patients.
  - Other reasons such as disagreements – 31 patients.
- There were 336 patients reported as 'Code 9' delays where the current maximum delay does not apply. Of these, 61 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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