

Publication Summary



Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Occupied Bed Days in April 2015 and May 2015 - Census Figures

Publication date – 30 June 2015



About this Release

Information Services Division (ISD) report on the number of NHSScotland patients who were judged to be clinically ready for discharge but who remained in a hospital bed on the May 2015 census day; and the total number of days that delayed discharge patients remained in hospital beds during the month of April 2015.

Occupied Bed Days

- In April 2015, there were 47,476 days where a hospital bed was occupied by a patient who was judged to be clinically ready for discharge but who remained in hospital.
- Of those bed days, almost three quarters were occupied by patients aged 75 and over.

May 2015 census

- A total of 1,126 patients were delayed at the May 2015 census; this is an increase of 3% compared to the April 2015 census. These delays comprise of a total of 793 standard delays and 333 code 9 delays
- At May 2015, there were 408 patients who had experienced a standard delay of more than two weeks. This is an increase of 14% from the April 2015 census.
- Of the 408 patients who had experienced a standard delay of over two weeks, the main reasons for delay were:
 - 166 patients (41%) were awaiting place availability in a care home;
 - 157 patients (38%) were waiting to go home;
 - 38 patients (9%) were awaiting a community care assessment.
- Of the 333 code 9 delays, 70% were delayed due to the 'Adults with Incapacity Act'.

Background

A hospital inpatient that has been judged clinically ready for discharge by the responsible clinician but who continues to occupy a bed beyond the ready for discharge date is classified as a 'delayed discharge'. The current target states that from April 2015, no patient should wait more than two weeks from when they are clinically ready for discharge. For some patients, discharge will take longer to arrange and therefore the standard maximum delay period is not applicable. These delays, classified as 'code 9s', include patients who are 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.

The Information Services Division (ISD) publishes information on delayed discharges to support local partnerships in the arrangements they make for the patient's timely, appropriate and safe transfer to the next stage of care.

The Scottish Government has legislated for the integration of health and social care through the [Public Bodies \(Joint Working \) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). Underpinning this legislation are nine [health and wellbeing outcomes](#).

The outcomes provide a national framework for measuring the impact of integrated health and social care on the health and wellbeing of individuals. Their aim is to improve the quality and consistency of services for individuals, carers and their families, and those who work within health and social care. All Health Boards, Local Authorities and Integration Authorities are jointly responsible and accountable for their delivery. To measure achievement against these national outcomes a [core suite of integration indicators](#) have also been developed. There are two that relate directly to delayed discharges and include:

- Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged.
- Percentage of people who are discharged from hospital within 72 hours of being ready.

Information to support the above indicators is not yet available but will feature on the [NHS Performs](#) web pages in the future.

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Further Information

All of our published information on Delayed Discharges is available on the [ISD website](#). This includes all of the statistics in this report for NHSScotland, NHS Board and Local Authority level in downloadable data tables.

[Background information with a glossary](#) and [metadata](#) are also available for this publication.

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/