

Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Annual summary of occupied bed days and census figures



Figures up to March 2016

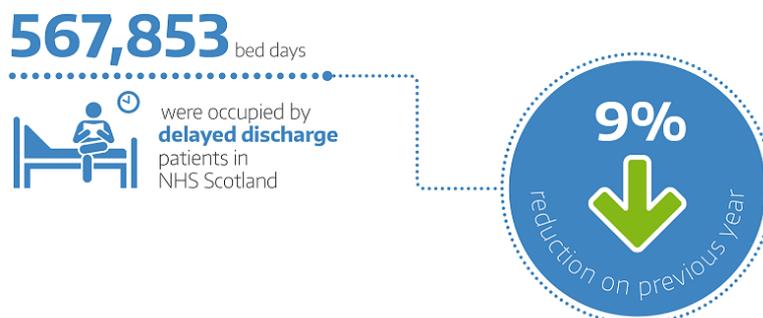
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About this release

This is the first annual publication from Information Services Division providing a summary of delayed discharge information across NHSScotland up to March 2016.

Main Points

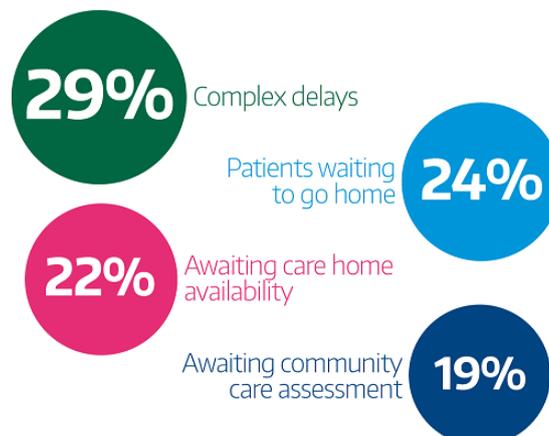
- In 2015/16 there were 567,853 bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients in NHSScotland which is a 9% reduction on the previous year. Of these around $\frac{3}{4}$ were occupied by patients aged 75+.



- 1 in 12 hospital bed days were due to delayed discharges in 2015

- The main reasons for delay are:

- complex delays which account for 29%
- patients waiting for care arrangements to be put in place in order to go home (24%)
- patients waiting for a care home place (22%) and
- patients waiting for a community care assessment (19%)



- In 2013/14 the estimated cost of delayed discharges in NHSScotland was £114 million, with an estimated average daily cost of £214.

Background

A delayed discharge is a hospital inpatient that is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care but continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the ready for discharge date. Timely discharge from hospital is an important indicator of quality and is a marker for person centred, effective, integrated, and harm free care.

Data have been collated from previous monthly publications in order to create annual comparisons. In addition information is also presented on the proportion of total hospital bed days that are occupied by delayed discharge patients and estimated costs for 2013/14 (latest available data).

Reasons for delay figures are based on an average of the number of delays at each monthly census point within the specified year. Complex delays include patients delayed due to adults with incapacity legislation.

Further Information

Data from this publication are available to view on [interactive dashboards](#) along with the full [publication report](#), glossary and background information.

For more information on delayed discharges see the [delayed discharges section of our website](#). For related topics, please see the [Health and Social Community Care](#) pages.

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ISD and Official Stats

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