Information Services Division
Publication Summary

NHS
National
Services
Scotland

Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for August 2016
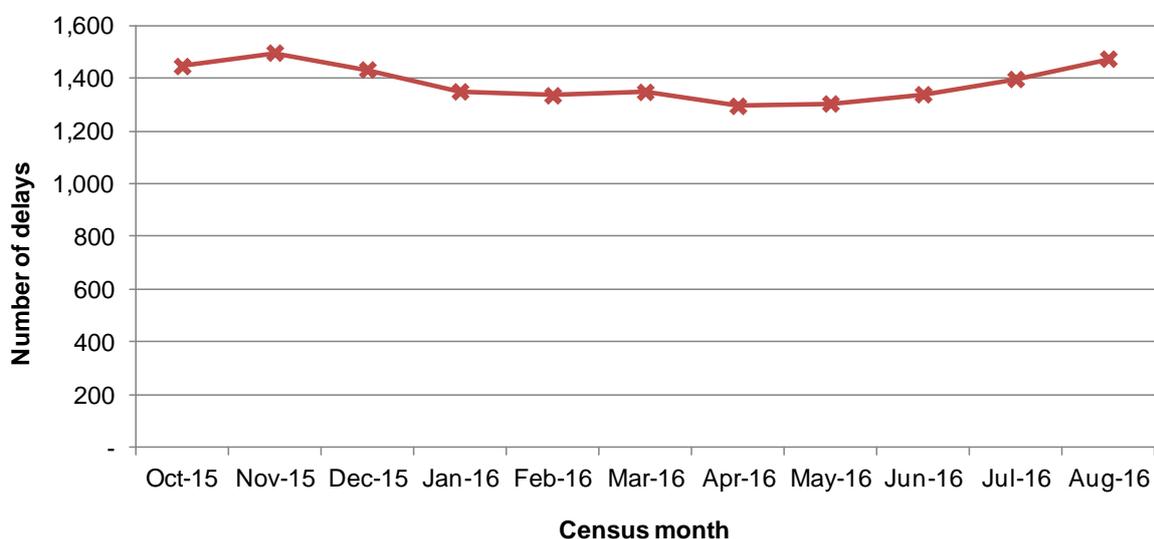
Publication Date – 11 October 2016

About this release

Information Services Division publish on a monthly basis the number of hospital bed days associated with delayed discharges for a full calendar month, and the number of people experiencing a delay in discharge from hospital at the monthly census (at the last Thursday of the month with effect from July 2016).

Main Points

- In August 2016, 45,551 days were spent in hospital by people delayed in their discharge.

- There were 1,472 people delayed at the August 2016 census.

Number of delayed discharges at each monthly census with revised definitions applied; October 2015 - August 2016

- 70% of people experiencing a delay were aged 75+.

- 320 (22%) of these delays were for people with specific complex care needs.

- Of the remaining 1,152 people delayed at the census:
  - 374 (32%) were awaiting place availability in a care home
  - 359 (31%) were awaiting completion of arrangements for social care support (e.g. carer) in order to live in their own home
  - 151 (13%) were awaiting completion of a post hospital social care assessment.

Background

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

New data definitions and national data requirements came into effect on 1 July 2016. These align census information and associated bed days and ensure more robust and consistent reporting across Scotland.

Important changes to note:

- Revised definitions (effective 1st July 2016) have been applied to previous census data from October 2015 to June 2016 in order to provide trend information.
- Bed day trend information is unavailable pre and post July 2016 as it is not possible to apply the revised definitions to historic data. However it is estimated that this would account for a reduction of around 4% of bed days across previous months.
- Information published in reports prior to July 2016 data cannot be used in direct comparison to currently published figures.

To support the reporting of the new 72 hour indicator, a key definitional change from July 2016 was the removal of the three day discharge rule for census delays which was introduced in 2006. The impact of this and other changes are explained in a technical document which also describes the reporting of figures, including trend information, which were agreed in consultation with our stakeholders. Responses to this consultation can be found on our website.

Contact

Lisa Reedie
Principal Information Analyst, 0131 275 6117

Deanna Campbell
Senior Information Analyst, 0141 282 2338

Email: nss.delayeddischarges@nhs.net

Further Information

The data from this publication is available to download, along with relevant background information, glossary and metadata documents. 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.

The next release of this publication will be 08 November 2016.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.