Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for March 2018

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

Every month, Information Services Division (ISD) publishes details of the number of hospital bed days associated with delayed discharges for a full calendar month. Information is also provided on the number of people experiencing a delay in discharge from hospital at the monthly census point. The data relate to people aged 18 and over.

Main Points

- In March 2018, 42,628 days were spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed. This is an increase of 3% compared with 41,493 days in March 2017.
- The average number of beds occupied per day in March 2018 was 1,375. In February, the daily average was 1,371.

- At the March 2018 census point, there were 1,370 people delayed. This is an increase of 2% compared with 1,339 people delayed at the census point in March 2017.
- Of those delayed at the March 2018 census point, 1,122 were delayed more than three days. The most common reason for delays over three days was health and social care reasons (836), followed by complex needs (263), then patient and family-related reasons (23).
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.

The average daily number of beds occupied is calculated by dividing the total monthly number of delayed discharge bed days by the number of days in the calendar month. ISD considers this daily average a better statistic for comparing month on month differences as the number of days in a month varies.

Revised 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. Reports published using data prior to July 2016 cannot be used in direct comparison to figures published in this report.

The census figure reflects the position as at the last Thursday of the month.

It should be noted that figures presented in this publication are not directly comparable with other UK countries, due to differences in definitions and data reporting.

Contact

Lisa Reedie
Principal Information Analyst
0131 275 6117
nss.delayeddischarges@nhs.net

Deanna Campbell
Senior Information Analyst
0141 282 2338

Further Information

The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a background information and glossary, and metadata document.

For more information on delayed discharges see the delayed discharge section of our website. For related topics, please see the health and social community care pages.

The next release of this publication will be 5 June 2018.

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.

ISD and 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. Further information about our statistics.