Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for August 2018

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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Revised 25 October 2018 – NHS Ayrshire & Arran identified that a change in their computer system introduced an error in reporting some records for August 2018. ISD have revised census and bed day figures for August 2018, and as a result of the corrections, the census figure has reduced by 17, and the bed days figure has reduced by 241. The affected figures have been highlighted in both census and bed days tables.

About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides a monthly update on 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 August 2018, 43,672 days were spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed. This is an increase of 5% compared with 41,632 days in August 2017.

- In August 2018, the average number of beds occupied per day due to delayed discharges was 1,409. In July, the daily average was 1,404.

- At the August 2018 census point, there were 1,458 people delayed. This is an increase of 6% compared with 1,370 delayed at the census point in August 2017.
Of those delayed at the August 2018 census point, 1,185 were delayed more than three days. The most common reason for delays over three days was health and social care reasons (75%, 886), followed by complex needs (22%, 263), then patient and family-related reasons (3%, 36).

**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 occurs when a hospital patient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the date they are ready for discharge.

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 are 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 6 November 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.