About this Release

This release includes a quarterly summary of inpatient, day case and outpatient activity and beds statistics for NHSScotland up to March 2011. Revised annual emergency admissions and bed days figures for patients aged 65 and over are provided up to March 2010, and monthly figures for same-day surgery are also presented. Annual data up to March 2010 for the new HEAT target for annual emergency admissions and bed days for patients aged 75 and over have also been included for the first time.

Key Points

• There were around 349,000 acute inpatient and day case discharges in the quarter ending March 2011. This is an increase of 0.2% when compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

• The total number of outpatient attendances in the quarter ending March 2011 was around 1,153,000. An increase of 0.9% when compared to the quarter ending March 2010.

• The average number of available staffed beds in acute specialties was 17,169 in the quarter ending March 2010 and is recorded as 16,683 in March 2011.

• There has been a decrease of 3.3% in the emergency bed days rate per 100,000 population for patients aged 65+ from 339,000 to 328,000 between 2008/09 and 2009/10.

• There has been a decrease of 3.1% in the emergency bed days rate per 1,000 population for patients aged 75+ from 5,528 to 5,356 between 2008/09 and 2009/10.

• In the month of December 2010, 78% of all elective BADS procedures were carried out as day cases or outpatients, showing an increase from 76% in the month of December 2009.
Background
Outpatient, inpatient and day case activity data and beds information are collected across NHSScotland and are based on nationally available information routinely drawn from hospital administrative systems across the country.

Quarterly figures up to and including March 2011 are likely to be less complete than annual data and, as a result, imputation may have been used to account for shortfalls in the quarterly data. The figures for quarter ending December 2010 are likely to be affected by the adverse weather conditions which were experienced during this time period. This should be taken into account when making data comparisons. NHS Borders outpatient and A&E activity are notably low due to incomplete data returns and adverse weather conditions since March 2010. NHS Grampian outpatient data is incomplete for the quarter ending March 2010.

Beds figures for NHS Grampian, for quarters ending December 2010 and March 2011, are affected by data submission issues as a result of the implementation of the new PMS TrakCare. Data has been estimated using the last complete data submission. ISD are working with the Board to resolve this and figures will be revised in future publications. Any revisions are expected to be relatively small.

More details on data completeness for specific NHS Boards are available within the Publication Report and highlighted within the relevant tables.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the Acute Hospital Activity pages of the ISD website.

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.
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