

Publication Summary



Acute Hospital Activity And NHS Beds Information



Year ending 31 March 2013

Quarter ending June 2013

Publication date – 24 September 2013

About this Release

This publication summarises information on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. The release includes annual information on outpatient, inpatient and daycase activity; medical diagnosis; operations; emergency admissions and childhood admissions and quarterly information on hospital activity and bed statistics.

Key Points

- In 2012/13, there were 4,653,422 outpatients seen at consultant clinics. Of those, 1,488,566 were new patients. The remainder were return (review) patients.
- Improving efficiency by reducing unnecessary return outpatient appointments and Did Not Attend (DNAs) is a priority for NHS Boards. In 2012/13 10% of outpatients did not attend, a reduction of 0.2% on the previous year.
- The return to new ratio for outpatient attendances has reduced steadily over the last ten years. In 2012/13 there were 2.1 return appointments for each new outpatient appointment.
- Reducing the amount of time patients spend in hospital has been a key priority for NHS Boards as shorter lengths stay are recognised as having better outcomes for patients. The average length of stay for all inpatient admissions in 2012/13 was 4.7 days, showing a steady year-on-year decrease from 5.3 days in 2008/09.
- A total of 1,095,002 main procedures (excluding imaging, injections, infusions, x-ray) were recorded on inpatient, day case and outpatient records in NHS Scotland in 2012/13. This is an increase of 11.6% from 981,259 in 2008/09.
- In recent years, clinical practice has been evolving to put more emphasis on surgical procedures occurring in outpatient or daycase settings (this is referred to as day surgery or same

day surgery). Of all planned (i.e. elective) main procedures, 81% were performed as day surgery - an increase of 6% since 2008/09.

- There were 34,559 elective inpatient and daycase and 10,731 emergency inpatient procedures carried out on children aged 14 and under. Extraction of tooth and excision of tonsils were the most common reasons for elective admissions. The most common reason for emergency admission in this age group was fracture / dislocation of bone.
- The report shows that emergency admission rates are strongly related to patient age. With the exception of the very young (age 0-4) admission rates rise with increasing age group with patients aged 75+ having nearly 7 times more emergency admissions than 15-29 year olds.
- Neoplasms (including cancer) continue to be the most common main diagnosis for patients discharged from hospital, accounting for 14% of all main diagnoses.
- The number of beds in Scottish hospitals, as elsewhere in the UK is gradually reducing. In 2012/13 there were 16,230 staffed beds in acute specialities in Scotland, a reduction of 8 % since 2003/04. The occupancy rate for these beds has increased to 84% from 81% over the last ten years.

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. Where possible, any missing or incomplete data has been estimated using the last complete data submission for the relevant NHS Boards. Details of the affected data can be found within the [Full Publication Report](#) and are highlighted within the relevant tables. Data for the latest time periods should therefore be treated as provisional.

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Further Information

More information on these findings can be found in the [full Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information Publication Report](#). The [Acute Hospital Activity](#) web pages also provide further reading on this topic.

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