

# Publication Summary



## Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland

Quarter ending September 2015

Publication date - 22 December 2015



### About this Release

The Information Services Division has updated a range of statistics on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. These include information on trends in outpatient, inpatient and day case activity, and bed statistics.

### Key Points

#### Outpatients

- There were over 365,000 new outpatient attendances in July - September 2015, an increase of 1.5% from last quarter.
- Around 1 in 10 new outpatient appointments were not attended by patients in July - September 2015, which represents a slight increase from the previous quarter but is similar to the quarter ending September 2014.
- Return outpatient attendances have seen a reduction of around 1% since last quarter.

#### Inpatient and day case patients

- There was an increase of approximately 2% in the number of patients treated in hospital as either an inpatient or as a day case patient between quarters ending September 2014 and September 2015. Comparing with quarter ending September 2010 data show an increase of about 12%.

#### Bed statistics

- There was a reduction of around 2% in the average number of available staffed beds in acute specialties since last quarter for Scotland (excluding Grampian and Highland NHS Boards). The transfer of acute services to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital may have had an impact on the reduction observed above for Scotland (excluding Grampian and Highland NHS Boards).
- Comparing with quarter ending September 2010 data in acute specialties show a reduction of around 4% for Scotland excluding Grampian and Highland NHS Boards.

A long term trend in these figures is not available for Scotland due to problems of submission from several Boards' patient admission systems.

## Background

Outpatient attendances are categorised as new or follow-up (return) attendances. Less complex operations may also be undertaken in an outpatient setting. Inpatients refers to people who are admitted and either remain in hospital overnight or are expected to remain overnight but are discharged earlier. This summary presents data by both admission to and discharges from hospital.

Day cases refer to episodes where a person makes a planned admission to an available staffed bed in a hospital for clinical care, and requires the use of a bed (or trolley in lieu of a bed). For the purposes of national data a day case episode refers to a patient who is admitted as a day case and is discharged on the same day as planned.

Available staffed beds is the number of bed days available to over a period of time.

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## Further Information

More information is available on the [Acute Hospital Activity](#) web pages.

Further information can also be found in the accompanying [Acute Activity Quarterly Report](#) published today.

## 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](#).