



Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland

Quarter ending March 2017

Publication Date – 27 June 2017

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 beds statistics.

Main Points

Outpatient activity

- There were 1,064,629 total outpatient attendances in the quarter ending March 2017, a slight decrease on the quarter ending March 2016 (1,098,183), with a 9% increase in the last five years.
- Of the total outpatient attendances, there were 374,182 new attendances and 690,447 follow-up attendances.
- Less than one in ten patients did not attend their first outpatient appointment, which is a slight reduction compared to the same quarter in 2016.

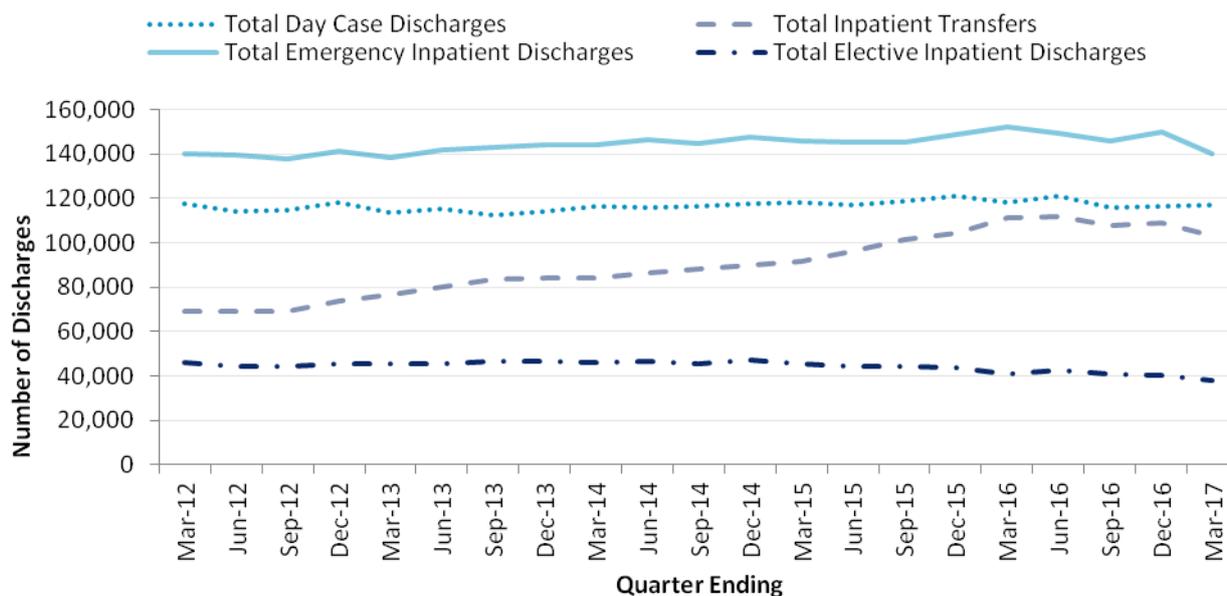
Beds statistics

- There were on average 15,635 available staffed beds for all acute specialties in March 2017. This is a decrease of 1.3% since the quarter ending March 2016.

Inpatient and day case activity

- In total there were 398,746 acute inpatient, day case episodes of care and transfers recorded in the quarter ending March 2017. This is a decrease of 5.7% from 422,948 in quarter ending March 2016.
- Driven by changes in recording practices and service redesign to the emergency care services in some NHS Boards, the number of transfers have shown a steady rise since March 2012, and have now decreased by 7.4 % to 103,221 episodes compared to the quarter ending March 2016 .

Chart 1: Inpatient episodes of care (discharges) by admission type, for acute specialties, in NHSScotland, for quarters ending March 2012 to March 2017^P



Background

Outpatient attendances are categorised as new or follow-up (return). 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.

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 for inpatient or day case care over a period of time.

A transfer is where a patient will already have been admitted to hospital and is either transferred between specialties or hospital, and will be part of the same continuous inpatient stay.

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

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ISD and Official Statistics

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