Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland
Quarter ending 31 December 2017
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 27 March 2018

About this release
This release from Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update on 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. Data presented for December 2017 are provisional and subject to change in future publications as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data from NHS Boards. All known issues with the quality of data presented are summarised in the Data Quality Section.

Main Points

Outpatients
There were just over 1 million (1,054,053) outpatient attendances between 1 October to 31 December 2017. This is a decrease of 5.1% compared to the same three months in 2016. Of these, 34% (356,899 attendances) were new cases. The remaining 66% (697,154 attendances) were patients returning for follow up appointments. 9.2% of new outpatient appointments were not attended.

Inpatients and Daycases
There were just over 260,000 (261,278) hospital admissions between 1 October to 31 December 2017. This is a decrease of 2.4% compared to the same three months in 2016.

Beds
There were on average just over 13,000 (13,349) available staffed beds for all acute specialties in the quarter ending 31 December 2017. This is a decrease of 1.6% compared to the same quarter in 2016. An available staffed bed is one that is available for inpatient or daycase care.

Background
Full definitions of outpatients, hospital admissions and available staffed beds are available in the About these data section. Further details are also available on the ISD Data Dictionary.
The Secondary Care team, now part of Quality Indicators, is responsible for this data release. Please contact us on: nss.isdQualityIndicators@nhs.net.

Further Information

This publication is the first ISD publication to be developed as part of the Transforming Publishing Programme (TPP). For the December 2017 release, the new version of the publication was provided alongside the original format. A consultation survey was undertaken to seek views on this new platform release which closed on the 28 February 2018. An overview of the responses and other feedback received is accessible within the consultation report.

From March 2018 onwards, this new version has replaced the previous format and is the sole release of the Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds data.

Disclosure control methods have been applied to the data in order to protect patient confidentiality, therefore some figures on total counts may not be additive.

The next release of Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information in Scotland will be in June 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.