Recalculation October 2011

After the first publication we became aware that the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times (DATWT) database was not calculating 'waits' for some clients as had originally been expected so a change to the system was implemented to correct this.

The change in the calculation only effected clients who were recorded as 'Did Not Attend' or 'Could not Attend' (DNA/CNA) at the treatment stage.

Previously if the client did not attend (DNA/CNA) their appointment for first treatment the ‘clock’ was set to zero and their waiting time was calculated from this time to when they attend their first appointment.

A number of discussions took place regarding this and it was agreed that this was unfair on clients who may have experienced a lengthy wait for assessment and, for whatever reason, were unable to attend their ‘start of treatment’ appointment, as the duration of wait already experienced by them was then lost.

With this in mind it was agreed that when a client does not attend (DNA/CNA) at treatment, the clock will pause at ‘Date Ready for Treatment 1’ and will start again at the client’s latest date of non-attendance. This ensures that the clients wait for assessment will not be discarded and that service providers are not penalised due to a client’s non-attendance at the treatment stage.

ISD undertook an analysis of the data as previously calculated by the system and compared this to how it will be calculated going forward and only a very small number (approximately 3%) of records were affected.

The revised method of calculation has been implemented for the July to September publication (including updating the April – June data accordingly) which is due to be published on December 20th 2011. ISD have also produced analyses based on the new methodology to support the work recently produced by NHS Boards on trajectories.

The system reports were updated on 12th of October to reflect the revised calculation and data recording guidance was also updated.