

# Publication Summary



## Waiting Times

Comprises:

**18 Weeks Referral To Treatment**

**Audiology Waiting Times**

**Diagnostic Waiting Times**

**Emergency Department Waiting Times**

**Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment ('New Ways')**



**Quarter ending 30 June 2011**

**Publication date – 30 August 2011**

## About this Release

This release details monthly and/or quarterly summary of waiting times and waiting lists in the acute sector, performance against the 4 hour waiting time standard at Emergency Departments, patients waiting for the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations, audiology stage of treatment waiting times and waiting lists and 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment statistics (includes data to 30 June 2011).

## Key Points

- In June 2011, 89.7% of patients on an 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment (18 Weeks RTT) pathway were reported as being seen within 18 weeks. The figures for April and May 2011 were 85.4% and 88.1%, respectively.
- To be able to report the 18 Weeks RTT waiting time it is necessary for NHS Boards to link the patient's 'clock start' to the 'clock stop'. Hospital information systems are being upgraded to provide high levels of linkage. Performance against the 18 Weeks RTT target should be interpreted in consideration of the level of pathway linkage. In June, 2011 pathway linkage was 74.7%.
- Audiology data are classed as developmental, Official Statistics, and the publication tables have been significantly revised for this publication to provide a clearer presentation of Audiology waiting times information.
- For Audiology patients recorded as seen during quarter ending 30 June 2011, 73.9% waited less than 12 weeks for a first contact appointment, 89.6% waited less than 12

weeks from assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s) and 97.0% waited less than 12 weeks from assessment to treatment (excluding fitting of hearing aids).

- At 30 June 2011, 39,446 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests and investigations. Of these patients, 98.4% were recorded as having been waiting no longer than 6 weeks and 95.9% were recorded as having been waiting no longer than 4 weeks.
- During the quarter ending 30 June 2011, the proportion of patients attending Emergency Departments across Scotland that were seen within 4 hours was; 95.9 % in April, 96.0 % in May and 96.0 % in June.
- At 30 June 2011, 99.4% of new outpatients (all sources of referral) had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This is the statistic used by NHS Boards, from 31 March 2010, to measure performance against Scottish Government waiting times standards for new outpatients.
- At 30 June 2011, 99.1% of inpatients and day cases were waiting less than the 9-week national standard. This is the statistic used by NHS Boards, from 31 March 2011, to measure performance against Scottish Government waiting times standards for inpatients and day cases.

## Background

### 18 Weeks RTT

This is the second publication of 18 Weeks RTT statistics. These data are still at an early stage of development. NHS Boards are working with ISD and Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of these data. This target is due to be delivered from 31 December 2011.

The Scottish Government has determined that this target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients. This target allows for example, the relatively small proportion of cases where it is not clinically appropriate for the patient to be seen and treated within 18 weeks and also to take account of any exceptional increase in demand for secondary care services.

These developmental statistics are Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority).

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### Audiology Waiting Times

The following publication tables have been significantly revised to provide a clearer presentation of Audiology waiting times information.

NHS Boards are working with Scottish Government and ISD to update systems in order to improve information capture to support the measuring and reporting of the whole patient journey from referral to treatment.

While systems are implemented, a pragmatic interim solution is to measure and report the best available information about the different 'stages' of the journey: for a first contact appointment, from assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s), from assessment to treatment (where treatment is other than fitting of a hearing aid), from fitting of hearing aid(s) to review (this final stage is not subject to the 18 Weeks RTT target). These 'stages' of the journey are an indicator of progress towards the 18 Weeks RTT target.

These developmental statistics are Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority).

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### **Diagnostic Waiting Times**

Information on the following eight key diagnostic tests and investigations waiting times has been collected nationally since 2006: Upper Endoscopy, Lower Endoscopy (excluding Colonoscopy), Colonoscopy, Cystoscopy, CT Scan, MRI Scan, Barium Studies, Ultrasound.

The Scottish Government introduced a 9 week maximum waiting time for these 8 key diagnostic tests and investigations from 31 December 2007. This wait was reduced to 6 weeks from 31 March 2009.

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### **Emergency Department Waiting Times**

The national standard for Emergency Department (ED) waiting times states that at least 98 % of patients should be seen and then admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours. This standard applies to all areas of emergency care such as assessment units, minor injury units, community hospitals, health centres, anywhere where emergency care type activity takes place. The 4-hour waiting time standard came into place in 2007 and continues to be the measure by which the Scottish Government (SG) monitors NHS boards' performance within EDs.

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### **Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment ('New Ways')**

This is the latest publication of waiting times statistics following the introduction of 'New Ways of defining and measuring waiting times' on 1 January 2008. This introduced a significant change in how NHS Scotland collects and defines waiting times, and also how waiting lists are clinically and administratively managed.

Waiting times are calculated taking account of any periods of unavailability and missed or cancelled appointments.

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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## Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### 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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)