

Publication Summary



Audiology Waiting Times

Quarter ending 30 September 2011

Publication date – 29 November 2011

About this Release

In 2007, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing stated that "A whole journey waiting time target of 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to treatment" be delivered "by December 2011", with Audiology services to be measured as part of this 18 weeks Referral To Treatment target (18 Weeks RTT).

This release details a summary of patients' completed waits and ongoing waits for the following audiology stages of treatment:

- first contact appointment
- assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s)
- assessment to treatment (where treatment is other than fitting of a hearing aid)
- fitting of hearing aid(s) to review (this final stage is not subject to the 18 Weeks RTT target)
- referral to treatment at a one-stop clinic.

Key Points

- These data are developmental. ISD is actively working with the NHS Boards to improve the quality and completeness of these data.
- For those patients recorded as seen during quarter ending 30 September 2011:
 - 84.6% (of 18 068 patients) waited less than 12 weeks for a first contact appointment,
 - 93.4% (of 9 826 patients) waited less than 12 weeks from assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s) and
 - 96.5% (of 2 147 patients) waited less than 12 weeks from assessment to treatment (excluding fitting of hearing aids).

This compares to 73.9%, 89.6% and 97.0% who waited less than 12 weeks in quarter ending 30 June 2011, respectively for the three stages.

Background

Waiting times for Audiology services are currently subject to the 18 weeks Referral To Treatment target. However, in the absence of complete journey measurement for Audiology services, formal arrangements to collect 'stage of treatment' Audiology data nationally have been in place since December 2008. NHS Boards work to locally agreed 'stage of treatment' targets where the wait to first contact appointment and wait to treatment are split into targets which total 18 weeks (e.g. 9 weeks and 9 weeks or 11 weeks and 7 weeks).

As NHS Boards progress towards managing their patients along an 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment pathway, several NHS Boards have introduced 'one-stop' clinics, where patients can be assessed and treated in a single appointment. From January 2011, NHS Boards have the option to record Audiology 'one-stop' patients separately from the stages of treatment.

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Further Information

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

About ISD

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