

# Publication Summary



## Diagnostic Waiting Times

Quarter ending 30 September 2011

Publication date – 29 November 2011



### About this Release

In 2007, the Cabinet Secretary of 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". Diagnostic Waiting Times are an important component in the delivery of this 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment target (18 Weeks RTT).

This release details a summary of waiting times for total patients waiting, and those waiting over nine, six and four weeks, for the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations collected nationally since 2006.

### Key Points

At 30 September 2011, 39 157 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests and investigations. Of these patients:

- 98.9% were recorded as having been waiting no longer than six weeks.
- 96.2% were recorded as having been waiting no longer than four weeks.

This compares to 98.4% and 95.9% who were waiting no longer than six weeks and four weeks respectively at the end of the preceding quarter; 30 June 2011.

**Table 1: Summary - patients waiting for a key diagnostic test at month end, Scotland**

Month end	Total patients waiting	Waiting over 4 weeks Number (%)	Waiting over 6 weeks Number (%)
30 June 2011	39 446	1 604 (4.1%)	636 (1.6%)
31 July 2011	37 451	2 457 (6.6%)	1 060 (2.8%)
31 August 2011	38 232	2 217 (5.8%)	950 (2.5%)
30 September 2011	39 157	1503 (3.8%)	426 (1.1%)

## Background

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

## Contact

### Amy Joy

Programme Support

[amy.joy@nhs.net](mailto:amy.joy@nhs.net)

0131 275 7169

### Jane Goodall

Senior Information Analyst

[jane.goodall@nhs.net](mailto:jane.goodall@nhs.net)

0131 275 6183

### General Enquires

[nss.isddmmi@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isddmmi@nhs.net)

## Further Information

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

### About ISD

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