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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month end</th>
<th>Total patients waiting</th>
<th>Waiting over 4 weeks Number (%)</th>
<th>Waiting over 6 weeks Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2011</td>
<td>39 446</td>
<td>1 604 (4.1%)</td>
<td>636 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July 2011</td>
<td>37 451</td>
<td>2 457 (6.6%)</td>
<td>1 060 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2011</td>
<td>38 232</td>
<td>2 217 (5.8%)</td>
<td>950 (2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September 2011</td>
<td>39 157</td>
<td>1 503 (3.8%)</td>
<td>426 (1.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.

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**Further Information**

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