

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Quarter ending 31 December 2011

Publication date – 28 February 2012



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 31 December 2011:

- Approximately 41 000 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests in NHS Scotland.
- 97.2 % of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test were waiting no longer than six weeks.

Table 1: Patients waiting for all key diagnostic tests, NHS Scotland

Month end	Total patients waiting	Waiting over 4 weeks (%)	Waiting over 6 weeks (%)
31 December 2011	40 819	7.2	2.8
30 November 2011	41 719	4.3	0.8
31 October 2011	39 787	4.0	0.9
31 December 2010	36 823	8.9	6.4

Background

Information on the following eight key diagnostic tests and investigations waiting times has been collected nationally since 2006:

Endoscopy

- Upper Endoscopy
- Lower Endoscopy (excluding Colonoscopy)
- Colonoscopy
- Cystoscopy

Radiology

- 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

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

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