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

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

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.
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