About this Release
This release details monthly and quarterly summary of waiting times and waiting lists in the acute sector of NHS Scotland (includes data to 31 December 2011).

Key Points
• At 31 December 2011, 97.1% of new outpatients (all sources of referral) had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This is the statistic used by NHS Boards, from 31 March 2010, to measure performance against the Scottish Government waiting times standard for new outpatients. This compares to a figure of 98.8% at 30 September 2011.
• At 31 December 2011, 93.3% of inpatients and day cases were waiting 9 weeks or less. This is the statistic used by NHS Boards, from 31 March 2011, to measure performance against the Scottish Government waiting times standard for inpatients and day cases. This compares to a figure of 97.9% at 30 September 2011.
• During quarter ending 31 December 2011, approximately 96.1% of new outpatients seen (all sources of referral) and 94.8% for inpatients and day cases admitted had waited less than the respective 12 and 9 week waiting times standard.

Background
This is the latest publication of waiting times statistics following the introduction of ‘New Ways of defining and measuring waiting times’ on 1 January 2008. This introduced a significant change in how NHS Scotland collects and defines waiting times, and also how waiting lists are clinically and administratively managed.

Waiting times are calculated taking account of any periods of unavailability and missed or cancelled appointments.
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