

# Publication Summary



## **Audiology Waiting Times**

**Quarter ending 31 March 2012**

**Publication date – 29 May 2012**

### **About this Release**

The Scottish Government has set a standard for the NHS in Scotland to achieve an 18 weeks maximum wait from referral to treatment, with Audiology services to be measured as part of this.

This quarterly release details a summary of patients' completed waits and ongoing waits for the following audiology stages of treatment:

- first contact appointment
- assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s)
- assessment to treatment (where treatment is other than fitting of a hearing aid)
- fitting of hearing aid(s) to review (this stage is not subject to the 18 Weeks standard)

This publication also reports waits for patients who received treatment at a one-stop clinic.

### **Key Points**

- During the quarter ending March 2012, approximately 24 000 patients were seen for a first assessment with an Audiology specialist.
- Nationally, waiting times for Audiology assessment and treatment have improved in the last year. However, there has been a slight increase in Audiology waiting times during the quarter ending March 2012.
- Half of patients seen by an Audiology specialist between January and March 2012 had their first appointment within six weeks of being referred and 90% within 12 weeks.
- Half of patients were fitted with a hearing aid within six weeks of their assessment appointment and 96% within 12 weeks.
- For those sites which report on 'one-stop clinics', 89% of patients attended and were treated within 18 weeks (less than 126 days) of their referral to that service.

## Background

Waiting times for Audiology services are currently subject to the 18 weeks Referral To Treatment standard. However, in the absence of complete journey measurement for Audiology services, formal arrangements to collect 'stage of treatment' Audiology data nationally have been in place since December 2008. NHS Boards work to locally agreed 'stage of treatment' targets which total 18 weeks (e.g. maximum 11 week wait from referral to assessment and a maximum 7 week wait from assessment to fitting of hearing aid).

As NHS Boards progress towards managing their patients along an 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment pathway, several NHS Boards have introduced one-stop clinics, where patients can be assessed and treated in a single appointment. An increasing number of NHS Boards are identifying those patients who received a one-stop service.

## Contact

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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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