

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Quarter ending 31 March 2012

Publication date – 29 May 2012



About this Release

Diagnostic Waiting Times are an important component in the delivery of the 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment standard (a maximum whole journey waiting time of 18 weeks from general practitioner to treatment).

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 from March 2010 to March 2012.

Key Points

At 31 March 2012:

- Approximately 46 000 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests in NHS Scotland.
- 97.5% 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 March 2012 | 46 003 | 7.0 | 2.5 |
| 29 February 2012 | 43 316 | 5.7 | 2.5 |
| 31 January 2012 | 42 136 | 6.4 | 3.8 |
| 31 March 2011 | 39 683 | 4.2 | 2.4 |

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.

Contact

Jane Goodall

Senior Information Analyst

jane.goodall@nhs.net

0131 275 6183

General Enquires

nss.isddmmi@nhs.net

Further Information

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

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