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

<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 March 2012</td>
<td>46 003</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 February 2012</td>
<td>43 316</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 January 2012</td>
<td>42 136</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March 2011</td>
<td>39 683</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.4</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

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