

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Quarter ending 30 September 2012

Publication date – 27 November 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 September 2010 to September 2012.

Key Points

At 30 September 2012:

- Approximately 45 000 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests in NHS Scotland.
- 96.8% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test were waiting no longer than six weeks.

Patients waiting for all key diagnostic tests, NHS Scotland

Month end	Total patients waiting	Waiting over 4 weeks (%)	Waiting over 6 weeks (%)
30 September 2012	44 966	7.6	3.2
31 August 2012	44 049	7.4	2.9
31 July 2012	43 589	8.0	2.9
30 September 2011	39 157	3.8	1.1

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 nine week maximum waiting time for these eight key diagnostic tests and investigations from 31 December 2007. This wait was reduced to six weeks from 31 March 2009.

Contact

Jude Chalmers

Information Analyst

judith.chalmers@nhs.net

0131 275 6135

General Enquires

nss.isddmmi@nhs.net

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.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/