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 30 September 2012).

Key Points
- At 30 September 2012, 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 96.9% at 30 June 2012.
- At 30 September 2012, 95.0% of inpatients and day cases were waiting 9 weeks or less. This statistic shows progress towards delivery of the Treatment Time Guarantee which came into affect on 1 October 2012. This compares to a figure of 94.1% at 30 June 2012.
- During quarter ending 30 September 2012, 94.1% of new outpatients seen (all sources of referral) and 91.9% for inpatients and day cases admitted had waited less than 12 and 9 weeks respectively.

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.
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 www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/