

# Publication Summary



## **Audiology Waiting Times**

**Quarter ending 31 December 2012**

**Publication date – 26 February 2013**

### **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:

- audiology assessment (first contact)
- 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)
- one-stop clinic (assessment and treatment at the same appointment)

### **Key Points**

- During the quarter ending December 2012, approximately 26 000 patients were seen by an audiology specialist following either referral to audiology assessment (first contact) or a one-stop clinic.
- Approximately half of patients seen by an audiology specialist between October and December 2012 had their assessment (first contact) appointment within 5 weeks of being referred and 86.2% within 12 weeks.
- Approximately half of patients were fitted with a hearing aid within 5 weeks of their assessment appointment and 92.6% within 12 weeks.
- For those sites which report on one-stop clinics, 81.2% of patients attended and were treated within 18 weeks (within 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

### Jude Chalmers

Information Analyst

[judith.chalmers@nhs.net](mailto:judith.chalmers@nhs.net)

0131 275 6135

### Amy McKeon

Principal Information Analyst

[amy.mckeon@nhs.net](mailto:amy.mckeon@nhs.net)

0131 275 6559

### General Enquires

[nss.isdAudiology@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdAudiology@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/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)