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 December 2010 to December 2012.

Key Points
At 31 December 2012:

- Approximately 41 000 patients were waiting for one of eight key diagnostic tests in NHS Scotland.

- 94.1% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test were waiting no longer than six weeks.

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 December 2012</td>
<td>41 340</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November 2012</td>
<td>44 336</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October 2012</td>
<td>44 263</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2011</td>
<td>41 084</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>3.3</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 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.

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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.

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