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 31 December 2012).

This is the first publication showing NHS Board compliance with the Treatment Time Guarantee legislation. Treatment Time Guarantee data are based on aggregate returns supplied by NHS Boards and therefore is an interim publication until developments in local systems can supply patient level detail. ISD strongly recommend that users read the supporting information and accompanying footnotes for each chart and table.

Key Points

Treatment Time Guarantee (inpatient & day case admissions from 01 October 2012):
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2012, 58,070 inpatients and day cases were seen within the Treatment Time Guarantee of 12 weeks; 7 patients waited over 12 weeks.
- The first date at which a patient could breach the 12 weeks (84 days) guarantee was on 24 December 2012.
- As at 31 December 2012, 47,234 inpatients and day cases were waiting to be treated, of which 78 had been waiting beyond the 12 week guarantee.
- As at 31 December 2012, 83.4% of patients were available for treatment.

Inpatient and Day Case admissions (pre 01 October 2012):
- The cohort of inpatient and day case admissions added to the waiting list prior to 01 October 2012 is decreasing rapidly as patients are treated.
- At 31 December 2012, 5,967 patients added to list prior to 01 October 2012 were waiting for an inpatient or day case treatment. Whilst, at 30 September 2012, 53,217 patients were waiting.
New Outpatients:
• At 31 December 2012, 97.3% of new outpatients (all sources of referral) had an ongoing wait of 12 weeks or less. This is the statistic used by NHS Boards from 31 March 2010 to measure performance against Scottish Government waiting times standards for new outpatients. This compares to a figure of 97.2% at 30 September 2012.
• During quarter ending 31 December 2012, 94.9% of new outpatients seen (all sources of referral) had waited less than 12 weeks.

Background

There have been a number of changes in waiting times and waiting list recording over the last 20 years. Information is available in the Waiting Times & Waiting List History document.

The recommended documents relating to waiting times and the incorporation of TTG are:
• The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011
• The Regulations and Directions under the Act - CEL 17 (2012)
• Treatment Time Guarantee Guidance – CEL 32 (2012)
• Updated version of the NHSScotland Waiting Time Guidance – CEL 33 (2012)

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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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