

# Publication Summary



## 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment

Quarter ending 30 September 2013

Publication date – 26 November 2013

### About this Release

This statistics release details the monthly summary of 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment (RTT) statistics (includes data to 30 September 2013).

### Key Points

- In September 2013, 90.9% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be measured were reported as being within 18 weeks, the figures for July and August are 91.6% and 91.1% respectively. This has decreased from 91.6% in June 2013.
- In September 2013, a total of 110,642 patient journeys eligible under the 18 Weeks RTT Standard were identified. The waiting time could be measured for 102,087 of these patients (92.3%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 8,555 patients.
- NHS Boards are in the process of fully implementing upgrades to their systems to improve the data collection.
- The Scottish Government has determined the 18 Weeks RTT Standard has to be delivered for at least 90% of patients in NHS Scotland.

### Background

Better Health Better Care was published in December 2007 set out a commitment: "the 18 week Referral to Treatment (RTT) standard will address the whole patient care pathway, from receipt of a GP referral, up to the point at which each patient is actually admitted to hospital for treatment".

The 18 Weeks RTT standard builds on previous waiting time targets, which set maximum waiting times for stages of treatment, for first outpatient consultation, diagnostic tests and for inpatient and day case treatment. 18 Weeks RTT focuses on the entire patient journey from the initial referral to the start of treatment, including for the first time treatment undertaken in an outpatient setting, and promotes a holistic approach to providing clinically effective, safe and efficient care in a timely manner.

The responsibility for delivering the 18 Weeks RTT Standard lies with the NHS Board who receives the initial referral, as this NHS Board will be responsible for agreeing with the patient and relevant clinicians the most appropriate pathway of care. In some cases patients may be initially referred to one NHS Board and then have an onward referral to another NHS Board for treatment.

NHS Boards continue to work closely with the Scottish Government and ISD to update IT and other systems in order to continue to improve the linking of all stages of a patient's journey to support the measuring and reporting against the 18 Weeks RTT Standard.

The Scottish Government has determined that the 18 Weeks RTT Standard should be delivered for at least 90.0% of patients. This standard allows, for example, the relatively small proportion of cases where it is not clinically appropriate for the patient to be seen and treated within 18 weeks and also to take account of any exceptional increase in demand for secondary care services.

These statistics are Official Statistics (i.e., still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority).

### Contact

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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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