

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Monthly data to 30 September 2013

Publication date – 26 November 2013



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).

The Scottish Government introduced a six week maximum waiting time for eight key diagnostic tests and investigations from 31 March 2009. This supersedes a target of nine weeks which was initially introduced on 31 December 2007.

This release details a summary of waiting times for total patients waiting, and those waiting over four, six and nine weeks, for the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations from September 2011 to September 2013.

Key Points

- At 30 September 2013, 47,269 patients in NHS Scotland were waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations.
- 97.4% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test had been waiting less than six weeks. This has increased from 97.0% at 30 June 2013.
- While combined performance for the eight key diagnostic tests has improved, the proportion of patients waiting over six weeks for a Cystoscopy or MRI Scan has increased by 4.9% and 3.9% respectively since 30 June 2013.
- 92.4% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test had been waiting less than four weeks which is an increase from 91.7% at 30 June 2013. This is the local target that NHS Boards are working to.

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

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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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