

# Publication Summary



## 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment

Quarter ending 31 December 2013

Publication date – 25 February 2014

### About this Release

This statistics release details the monthly summary of 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment (RTT) statistics (includes data to 31 December 2013).

### Key Points

- In December 2013, across NHS Scotland 90.8% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be fully measured were reported as being within 18 weeks, the figures for October and November are 90.6% and 90.0% respectively. This has decreased slightly from 90.9% in September 2013.
- Three NHS Boards did not meet the 18 weeks RTT standard of 90.0%, namely NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian and NHS Lothian, in December 2013, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian and NHS Lothian achieved 81.0%, 89.7% and 87.2% respectively.
- In December 2013, a total of 102,953 of patient journeys eligible under the 18 weeks RTT standard were identified. The waiting time could be fully measured for 95,287 of these patients (92.6%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 7,666 patients.
- NHS Boards are in the process of fully implementing upgrades to their systems to improve the data collection.

### 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](#)

### 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/)