

Publication Summary



Diagnostic Waiting Times

Monthly data to 31 December 2013

Publication date – 25 February 2014



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 December 2011 to December 2013.

Key Points

As at 31 December 2013:

- 47,248 patients in NHS Scotland were waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations. This is approximately 15% higher than 31 December 2012.
- 96.2% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test had been waiting less than six weeks. This has decreased from 97.4% at 30 September 2013. The drop in performance is mainly been due to the increase in patients waiting over six weeks for a Lower Endoscopy (up 7.0%), Colonoscopy (up 5.1%) and CT Scan (up 2.1%).
- Although performance has dropped when comparing to the previous quarter end, performance against the six week standard has seen an improvement of 2.1% from 31 December 2012.
- 86.8% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test had been waiting less than four weeks. This has decreased from 92.4% at 30 September 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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