

# Publication Summary



## 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment

Quarter ending 31 March 2014

Publication date – 27 May 2014

### About this Release

This statistics release details the monthly summary of 18 Weeks Referral To Treatment (RTT) statistics (includes data to 31 March 2014).

### Key Points

- In March 2014, across NHS Scotland 89.6% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be fully measured, were reported as being within 18 weeks. The figures for January and February 2014 are 89.8% and 89.5% respectively. This is a decrease from 90.8% in December 2013.
- This is the first time NHS Scotland has been below the 90.0% standard for 18 weeks RTT since its introduction in December 2011.
- In March 2014, four NHS Boards did not meet the 18 weeks RTT standard of 90.0%, namely NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Lothian and NHS Western Isles, who achieved 80.8%, 89.0%, 85.2% and 82.0% respectively.
- In March 2014, a total of 112,556 of patient journeys eligible under the 18 weeks RTT standard were identified. The waiting time could be fully measured for 103,774 of these patients (92.2%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 8,782 patients due to the complexity of linking individual patient journeys.
- NHS Highland moved to a new patient management system on 3 March 2014 which has led to some technical difficulties submitting 18 weeks RTT data. As an interim measure, NHS Highland submitted estimated figures for March 2014. These figures will be revised in the next publication.

### 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.

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

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