

# Publication Summary



## 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment

Quarter ending 30 June 2014

Publication date – 26 August 2014

### About this Release

This statistics release details the monthly summary of 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT) statistics (includes data to 30 June 2014).

### Key Points

- In June 2014, across NHS Scotland, 91.1% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be fully measured, were reported as being within 18 weeks. The figures for April and May 2014 are 89.8% and 90.7% respectively. This is an increase from 89.6% in March 2014.
- In June 2014, twelve of the fifteen NHS Boards met the 90.0% target; three NHS Boards did not, namely NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian and NHS Lothian, who achieved 87.1%, 89.2% and 85.9% respectively.
- In June 2014, a total of 116,118 of patient journeys eligible under the 18 weeks RTT standard were identified. The waiting time could be fully measured for 107,407 of these patients (92.5%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 8,711 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 have submitted estimated figures since March 2014.

### 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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### Official Statistics

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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/)