About this Release

This publication contains information about how long eligible patients waited from secondary care referral to screening appointment for IVF treatment by the NHS in Scotland. This is the first time this information is being published and it is considered developmental. The 4 NHS Scotland IVF centres are working with ISD and the Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of the information collected. The centres have developed new data collection processes to enable reporting of IVF waiting times. This information will be published quarterly.

The Scottish Government have set a target that at least 90% of eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months. This is due for delivery by 31 March 2015.

Key Points

- During the quarter ending September 2014, 494 eligible patients were screened at an IVF Centre in Scotland.

- The initial estimates from data at this early stage of development indicate that around 71% of eligible patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days.

Background

In vitro fertilization (IVF) is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology used to treat infertility. This also report includes intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) for male factor infertility. Where this publication refers to IVF, it includes IVF and ICSI.

Improving access to IVF by reducing waiting times for patients will potentially improve the chance of a successful outcome from the treatment, and will increase equity so that all those eligible for NHS IVF will have a waiting time of 12 months or less.

The Scottish Government requires the NHS in Scotland to measure the length of time people wait for treatment, and this includes couples waiting for IVF. The target that 90% of
eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months by 31 March 2015, is measured by the percentage of patients who were screened at an IVF Centre within 12 months of receipt of referral from a secondary care/acute consultant.

The Scottish Government has determined that the IVF waiting times target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients, as for some patients it may not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within the target's time.

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)