

# Publication Summary



## 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment

Quarter ending 30 September 2014

Publication date – 25 November 2014

### About this Release

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

### Key Points

- In September 2014, across NHS Scotland, 90.1% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be fully measured, were reported as being within 18 weeks. The figures for July and August 2014 are 90.8% and 90.2% respectively. This is a slight decrease from 91.1% in June 2014.
- In September 2014, eleven of the fifteen NHS Boards met the 90.0% standard; four NHS Boards did not, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian and NHS Lothian, who achieved 86.0%, 89.2%, 87.6% and 86.1% respectively.
- In September 2014, a total of 118,473 of patient journeys eligible under the 18 weeks RTT standard were identified. The waiting time could be fully measured for 109,174 of these patients (92.2%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 9,299 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. ISD consider these estimates robust and analysis has shown that if removed they do not change the NHS Scotland figure of 90.1% in key point 1.

### 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).

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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.

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#### 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](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)