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). This release details a summary of waiting times for total patients waiting, and those waiting over four and six weeks, for the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations from 31 December 2012 to 31 December 2014.

Key Points

On 31 March 2009, the Scottish Government introduced the waiting time standard that patients waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations would be waiting no longer than six weeks.

As at 31 December 2014:

- 51,954 patients in NHS Scotland were waiting for one of the eight key diagnostic tests and investigations. This is 10% higher than list size at 31 December 2013.
- 90.3% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test had been waiting less than six weeks. When comparing to the position at 30 September 2014 and 31 December 2013, this has decreased from 91.0% and 96.2% respectively.
- The majority of the 5,018 patients waiting over six weeks in NHS Scotland were waiting to be seen in NHS Grampian (28.3%), NHS Fife (21.6%), NHS Ayrshire & Arran (17.6%) and NHS Lothian (13.1%).
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

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. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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.

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