

Publication Summary



IVF Waiting Times in Scotland

Quarter ending 31 March 2015

Publication date – 26 May 2015

About this Release

This publication contains information about how long eligible patients waited from secondary care referral to screening appointment for in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment by the NHS in Scotland. IVF is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology used to treat infertility. This report also includes intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) for male factor infertility. Where this publication refers to IVF, it includes IVF and ICSI.

This information is considered developmental as the four NHSScotland 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 March 2015:

- 397 eligible patients were screened at an IVF centre in Scotland.
- Of these, around 96% of eligible patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days (12 months). This is an increase from 80% in the quarter ending December 2014.

Background

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 people 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](#)

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.

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/