

Publication Summary



18 Weeks Referral to Treatment

Quarter ending 31 March 2015

Publication date – 26 May 2015

About this Release

This release details the monthly summary of 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT) statistics to 31 March 2015. Due to reporting problems following the implementation of their new patient management system, NHS Highland only have supplied data for patients who were admitted to hospital. All references to NHS Scotland exclude NHS Highland figures. Due to a recent implementation of patient management systems, NHS Shetland have provided estimated figures for March 2015.

Key Points

- In March 2015, across NHS Scotland (excluding NHS Highland), 88.5% of patients whose 18 Weeks RTT journey could be fully measured, were reported as being seen within 18 weeks. This is a slight decrease when compared to December 2014 (89.2%). NHS Scotland (excluding NHS Highland) figures for January and February 2015 were both 88.1%.
- In March 2015, eight of the fourteen NHS Boards who submitted valid data were above the 90.0% standard; six NHS Boards were below it, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (78.4%), NHS Grampian (83.7%), NHS Fife (86.3%), NHS Tayside (86.9%), NHS Lothian (88.0%) and NHS Forth Valley (89.8%).
- In March 2015, a total 111,772 of patient journeys eligible under the 18 weeks RTT standard were identified. The waiting time could be fully measured for 103,839 of these patients (92.9%). It was not possible to calculate the waiting time fully for 7,933 patients due to the complexity of linking individual patient journeys.

Background

Better Health Better Care (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](#) .

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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/