

Publication Summary



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 30 June 2015

Publication date – 25 August 2015

About this Release

This publication by Information Services Division (ISD), contains information about how long children and young people waited for mental health services provided by the NHS in Scotland. The information is presented at a Scotland and NHS Board level.

The Scottish Government set a target for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum wait of 26 weeks from a patient's referral to treatment for specialist CAMH services from March 2013, reducing to 18 weeks from December 2014. The target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients.

Key Points

- During the quarter ending June 2015, over 4,400 children and young people started treatment at CAMH services in Scotland, an increase of 175 (4.1%) compared to quarter end March 2015. Of these, 85.2% were seen within 26 weeks and 76.6% were seen within 18 weeks. Half started their treatment within nine weeks.
- During the quarter ending June 2015, 10 Boards met the 26 week HEAT target and four did not (NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside). The 18 week HEAT target was met by six Boards and not by eight (NHS Borders, NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian, NHS Shetland and NHS Tayside).
- Across Scotland, 12.7% of patients referred to CAMH services did not attend their first appointment. These patients may still be on the waiting list. NHS Boards may reset the patients waiting times clock to zero or send back to referring clinician, where it is reasonable and clinically appropriate.

Background

The Scottish Government has set a target for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum 26 week waiting time from a patient's referral to treatment for specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services from March 2013, reducing to 18 weeks from December 2014.

Following the conclusion work on a tolerance level for CAMH services waiting times and engagement with stakeholders, the Scottish Government determined that the CAMH services target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients.

The main function of CAMH services is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people who are experiencing the most serious mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capability of the wider network of children's services.

Delivery of good quality CAMH services depends on timely access to healthcare. Early action is more likely to result in full recovery and, in the case of children and young people, minimises the impact on other aspects of their development, such as their education, so improving their wider social development outcomes.

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Further Information

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

You may also be interested in our other [Mental Health](#) and [Waiting Times](#) publications.

About ISD

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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.

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