

Publication Summary



IVF Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 31 December 2015

Publication date – 23 February 2016

About this Release

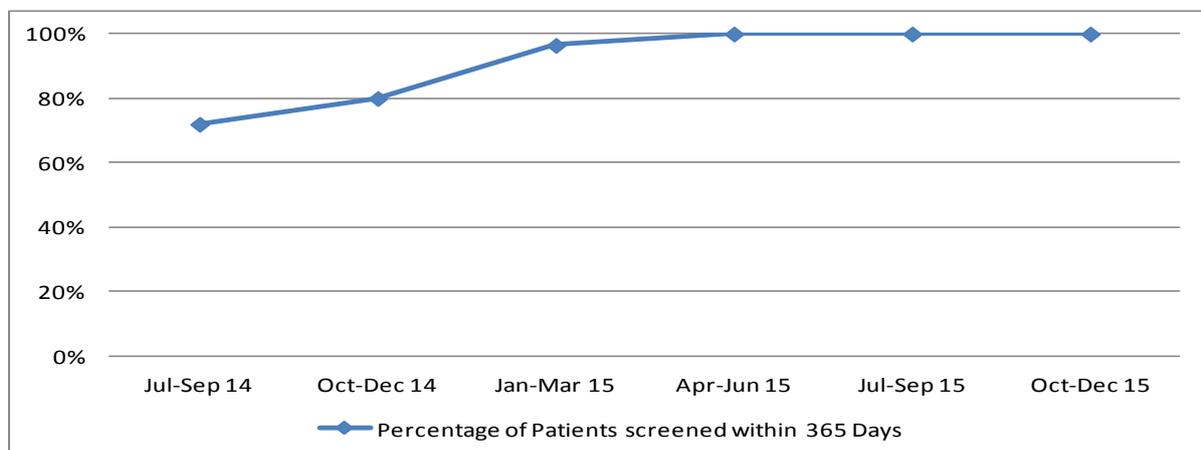
This publication by Information Services Division (ISD) contains the quarterly update about how long eligible patients waited from secondary care referral to screening appointment for in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment by the NHS in Scotland. IVF is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology 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.

Key Points

During the quarter ending December 2015:

- 397 eligible patients were screened at an IVF centre in Scotland. This compares to 332 in the quarter ending September 2015.
- 100% of eligible patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days (12 months).

Percentage of eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days, during the last six quarters, across Scotland



Background

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. 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 National Infertility Group](#) recommended that the screening appointment should be the point signalling the start of treatment. This was in part due to the fact that data cannot be reported to ISD beyond this point in an IVF journey without breaching the [Human Fertilisation and Embryology \(HFE\) Act](#). However, there was also agreement that it was at this point patients feel that their IVF treatment journey has begun.

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 [IVF Waiting Times in NHSScotland](#) report.

ISD and Official Statistics

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