About this Release

This release by Information Services Division details the latest summary of patients’ waiting times associated with their referrals to acute hospitals. This summary brings together the key points from three publications relevant to Scottish Government Waiting Time Standards:

- Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment
- Diagnostic Tests and Investigations
- 18 weeks Referral to Treatment

The 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment standard overarches the stage of treatment standards for New Outpatient appointments, Diagnostic tests, Day case and Inpatient treatment.

Key Points

- 87.5% of patients waiting for a New Outpatient appointment at 31 December 2015 had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This compares to 86.1% at 30 September 2015 and 91.2% at 31 December 2014.

- 93.2% of patients waiting for a key Diagnostic test at 31 December 2015 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares to 90.3% at both 30 September 2015 and 31 December 2014.

- 95.2% of patients were seen within the 12 week Treatment Time Guarantee (TTG) for quarter ending 31 December 2015. This compares to 94.6% during quarter ending 30 September 2015 and 97.1% during quarter ending 31 December 2014.

- 87.1% of patients were seen within the 18 week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 31 December 2015. This compares to 87.2% seen during month ending 30 September 2015 and 88.6% during month ending 31 December 2014.
Background
The recommended documents relating to waiting times and the incorporation of TTG are:

- The [Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011](#).
- The Regulations and Directions under the Act - [CEL 17 (2012)](#).
- Treatment Time Guarantee Guidance – [CEL 32 (2012)](#).
- Updated version of the NHS Scotland Waiting Time Guidance – [CEL 33 (2012)](#).

Further Information
Further information can be found on the [Waiting Times](#) pages of the ISD website.

NHS Performs
A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

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