

# Publication Summary



## Chronic Pain Waiting Times

Quarter ending 31 December 2015

Publication date – 08 March 2016

A Non-Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

### About this Release

This first publication by Information Services Division contains information about how long people waited for a first appointment at a Pain Clinic Service or Pain Psychology Clinic provided by NHSScotland, by NHS Board for the quarter ending 31 December 2015. These data are considered developmental.

### Key Points

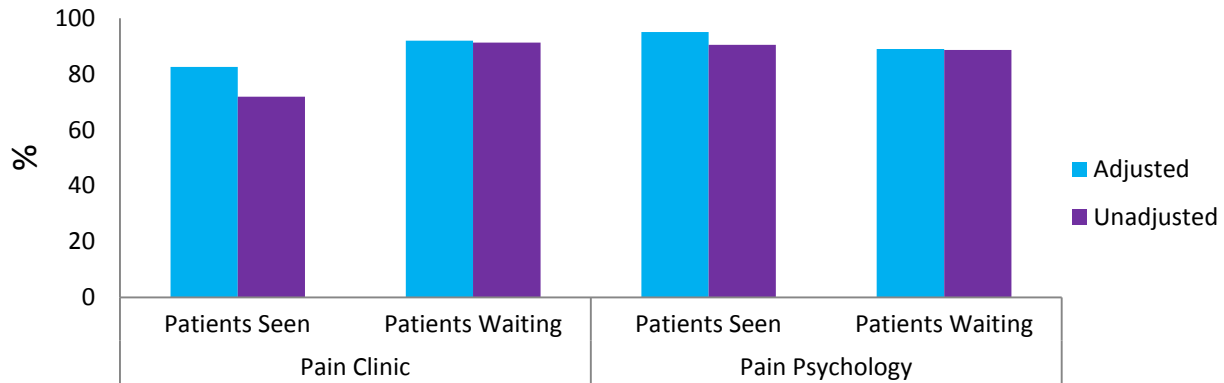
#### Pain Clinic Service

- There were 4,791 referrals to Pain Clinic / Service during the quarter ending December 2015.
- 82.5% of the 3,317 patients seen in the quarter ending December 2015 were treated within 18 weeks.
- 3,816 patients were waiting to be seen at a Pain Clinic / Service; of which, 92.0% had been waiting less than 18 weeks.
- 13.2% of patients did not attend their appointment and failed to notify the hospital.

#### Pain Psychology Clinic

- Of the 8 NHS Boards that provide this service and can provide the information, there were 341 referrals to a Pain Psychology Clinic during the quarter ending 31 December 2015.
- 95.0% of the 282 patients seen in the quarter ending December 2015 were treated within 18 weeks.
- 254 patients were waiting to be seen at a Pain Psychology Clinic; of which, 89.0% had been waiting less than 18 weeks.
- 13.6% of patients did not attend their appointment and failed to notify the hospital.

**Chart 1 – NHS Scotland Performance Percentage of Chronic Pain Patients Seen and Waiting within 18 weeks (October 2015 to December 2015)**



Note: The unadjusted wait is the full waiting time experienced by the patient, from the date the referral is received to the date the patient is seen. The adjusted wait excludes any periods of unavailability, where the waiting time clock is paused, and takes into account any clock resets where reasonable and clinically appropriate to do so.

## Background

Chronic Pain Services are measured as part of the 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Standard. The Pain Clinic Service is a centralised service (usually consultant led outpatient appointments) into which an individual is referred for chronic pain assessment/management. The Pain Psychology Service is a service provided by Psychological Therapy specialists. This information is considered developmental as the 14 NHS Boards are working with ISD and the Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of the information collected.

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## Further Information

A workbook containing data for Scotland and NHS Boards is available [here](#).

Further information can be found on the [waiting times](#) pages of the ISD website. A [metadata document](#) has been produced for this publication.

The next release of this data will be on Tuesday, 14 June 2016.

### ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. Further information [about our statistics](#).