

Publication Summary



Allied Health Professionals – Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 31 December 2015

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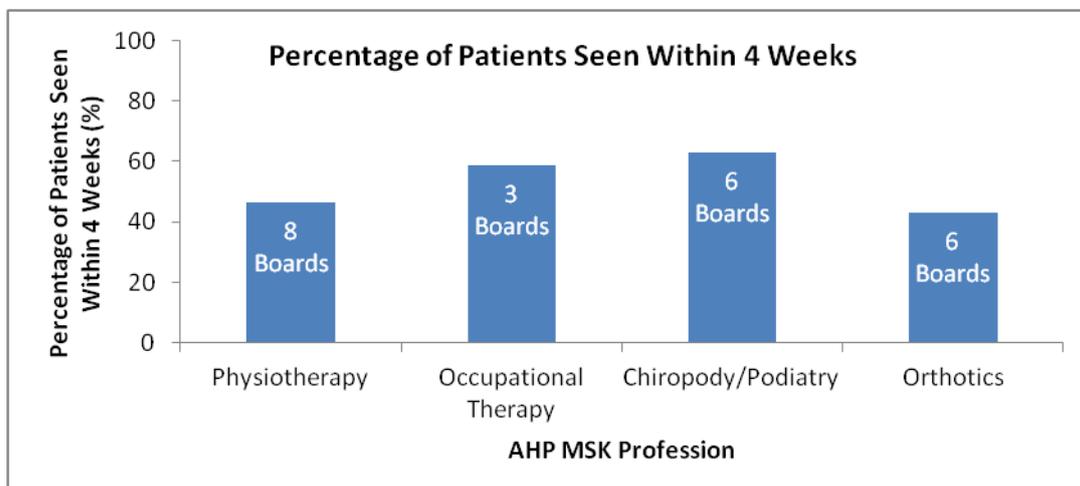
About this Release

This second publication by Information Services Division (ISD) presents information on how long patients wait for Musculoskeletal (MSK) services that are delivered by Allied Health Professionals (AHP). The Scottish Government have set a target that by 1 April 2016 at least 90% of patients will receive their initial outpatient appointment within 4 weeks of referral. This publication includes waiting times information for eight NHS Boards. These data are considered developmental and NHS Boards are developing information systems to collect this information on a routine and consistent basis.

Key Points

In the quarter ending December 2015 for AHP MSK services (Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody/Podiatry and Orthotics) in the eight NHS Boards:

- 52,058 patients had a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service (all professions) and just under half (49.2%) were seen within 4 weeks. This is the same as the quarter ending September 2015.
- Nine out of ten patients were seen within 17 weeks.



Background

The term musculoskeletal (MSK) problems includes a diversity of complaints and diseases localised in joints, bones, cartilage, ligaments, tendons, tendon sheaths, bursa and muscles. MSK problems also include outpatient pre or post orthopaedic surgery, peripheral nerve lesions (e.g. carpal tunnel, sciatica) or complication of fracture/dislocation/trauma.

The eight NHS Boards providing AHP MSK data are; NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Western Isles. Once all NHS Boards IT systems have been fully developed the data that will be reported will include data for the remaining 6 NHS Boards and the missing professions. A minimum dataset has been developed to support MSK redesign and transformation. Collection of an MSK information dataset identifies 4 week achievement and audit performance against the MSK Minimum Standards. It also facilitates the monitoring of MSK services and improvement requirements. Further information on the inclusions, recording rules and the dataset can be found in the [definitions paper](#).

The target that 90% of eligible patients will receive a first clinical out-patient appointment within 4 weeks by 1 April 2016 is measured by the percentage of patients who attended first clinical out-patient appointment for an AHP MSK service within 4 weeks of receipt of referral from a patient or health or social care professional. In line with the [NHSScotland Waiting Times Guidance](#) adjustments and clock resets are only made up to the target point of 4 weeks. The target should be met by each profession individually within each board.

The Scottish Government has determined that the AHP MSK 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 4 week target time.

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Further Information

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

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](#).