

Chronic Pain Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 31 March 2016

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A Non-Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

About this release

Information Services Division publishes quarterly how long people waited for a first appointment at a Pain Clinic / Service or Pain Psychology Clinic provided by NHSScotland. The information is shown by NHS Board for quarter ending 31 March 2016. These data are considered developmental.

Main Points

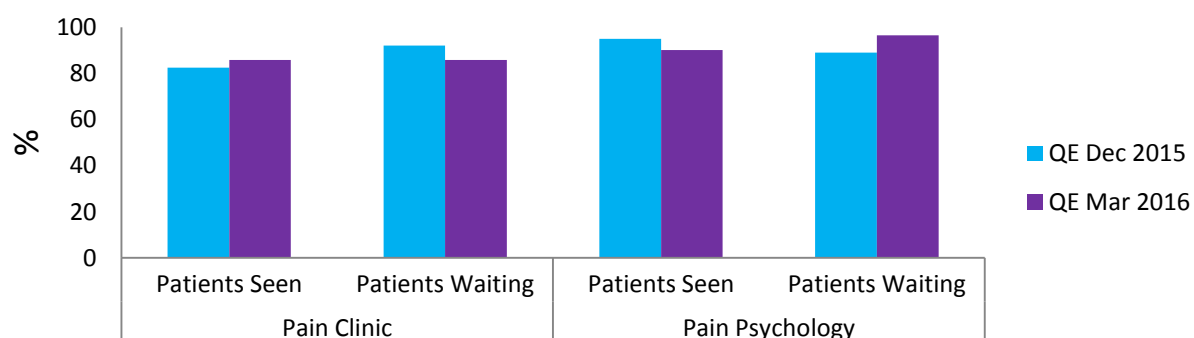
Pain Clinic / Service

- There were 5,041 referrals to Pain Clinic / Service during the quarter ending 31 March 2016. This compares with 4,791 referrals for the previous quarter.
- 85.8% of the 2,924 patients seen in the quarter ending 31 March 2016 were treated within 18 weeks. This compares with 82.5% of the 3,317 patients seen in the previous quarter.
- As at March 2016, 4,376 patients were waiting to be seen at a Pain Clinic / Service; of which, 85.8% had been waiting less than 18 weeks.
- 14.3% 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 327 referrals to a Pain Psychology Clinic during the quarter ending 31 March 2016. This compares with 341 referrals for the previous quarter.
- 90.1% of the 253 patients seen in the quarter ending 31 March 2016 were treated within 18 weeks. This compares with 95.0% of the 282 patients seen in the previous quarter.
- As at March 2016, 282 patients were waiting to be seen at a Pain Psychology Clinic; of which, 96.5% had been waiting less than 18 weeks.
- 8.0% of patients did not attend their appointment and failed to notify the hospital.

Chart 1 – NHSScotland Performance Percentage of Chronic Pain Patients Seen and Waiting within 18 weeks for Quarter Ending 31 December 2015 and 31 March 2016



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 for Pain Management led 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

The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#). A [metadata](#) document has been produced for this publication.

For more information see the [Waiting Times](#) section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be Tuesday, 13 September 2016.

ISD and 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. [Further information about our statistics.](#)