

# Chronic Pain Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 30 June 2016

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A Non-Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

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## About this release

Information Services Division publishes information quarterly on the length of time people waited for a first appointment at chronic pain and pain psychology clinics provided by NHSScotland. The information is shown by NHS Board for quarter ending 30 June 2016. These data are considered developmental.

## Main Points

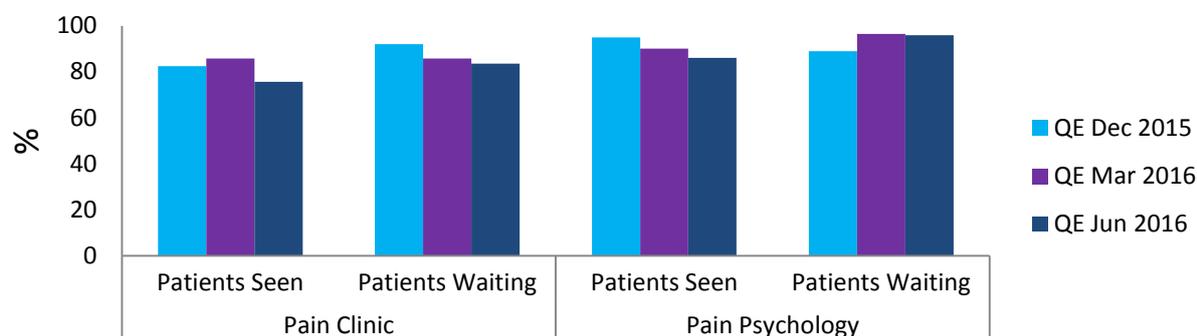
### Pain Clinics

- There were 5,680 referrals to pain clinic during the quarter ending 30 June 2016, an increase from 5,041 referrals in the previous quarter.
- 75.7% of the 2,734 patients seen were treated within 18 weeks, compared with 85.8% in the previous quarter.
- As at 30 June 2016, 4,879 patients were waiting to be seen at a pain clinic; of which, 83.5% waited less than 18 weeks.
- Around 1 in 6 patients did not attend their appointment and did not notify the hospital.

### Pain Psychology Clinics

- In the 9 NHS Boards that provide this service, there were 344 referrals to a pain psychology clinic during the quarter ending 30 June 2016, an increase from 327 referrals in the previous quarter.
- 86.0% of the 279 patients seen were treated within 18 weeks, compared with 90.1% in the previous quarter.
- As at 30 June 2016, 292 patients were waiting to be seen at a pain psychology clinic; of which 95.9% waited less than 18 weeks.
- Around 1 in 10 patients did not attend their appointment and did not notify the hospital.

**Chart 1 – Percentage of those attending chronic pain services who were seen within 18 weeks; percentage of those waiting who had been waiting less than 18 weeks; quarters ending 31 December 2015 to 30 June 2016**



## Background

Waiting times for chronic pain services are monitored as part of the 18 weeks referral to treatment standard. Pain services are part of a centralised service (usually with consultant led outpatient appointments) to which an individual is referred to a clinic for chronic pain assessment and 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.

## Contact

**Martin McCoy**  
Principal Information Analyst  
0131 275 7625

**Mridula Nair**  
Information Analyst  
0131 300 1124

Email: [NSS.isdWaitingTimes@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.isdWaitingTimes@nhs.net)

## 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 December 2016.

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## ISD and Official Statistics

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