

Chronic Pain Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 30 September 2016

Publication Date – 13 December 2016

A Non-Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

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 September 2016. These data are considered developmental.

Main Points

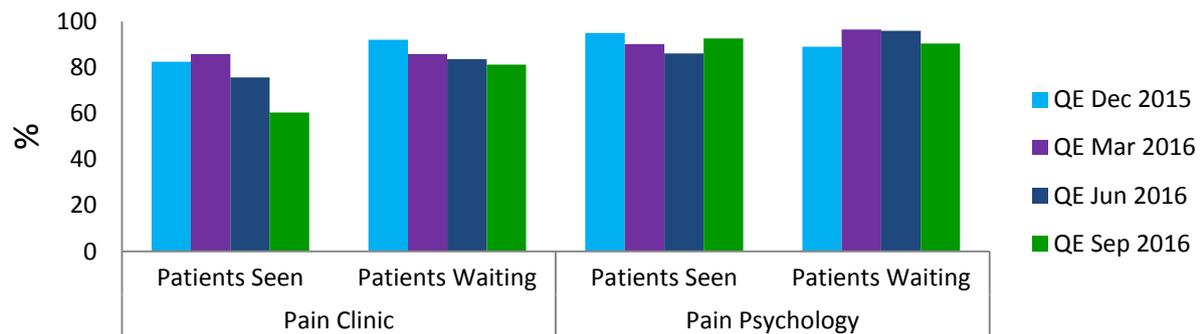
Pain Clinics

- There were 5,235 referrals to a pain clinic, a decrease from 5,680 referrals in the previous quarter.
- Three out of five (60.4%) of the 2,667 patients seen were treated within 18 weeks, compared with 75.7% in the previous quarter.
- Over eight out of ten (81.2%) of the 4,931 patients waiting at 30 September had been waiting less than 18 weeks.
- 14.8% of patients did not attend their appointment and did not notify the hospital.

Pain Psychology Clinics

- Ten NHS Boards provide this service. There were 492 referrals to a pain psychology clinic, an increase from 344 referrals in the previous quarter.
- Over nine out of ten (92.6%) of the 270 patients seen were treated within 18 weeks, compared with 86.0% in the previous quarter.
- Nine out of ten (90.3%) of the 390 patients waiting to be seen at a pain psychology clinic waited less than 18 weeks.
- 13.8% of patients did not attend their appointment and did not notify the hospital.

Percentage of patients attending chronic pain services seen / waiting within 18 weeks; quarters ending 31 December 2015 to 30 September 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.

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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, 14 March 2017.

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.](#)