Hospital Waiting Times
Diagnostic, New Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Case and Referral to Treatment
Quarter ending 31 March 2017
Publication date – 30 May 2017

About this release
Information Services Division reports on waiting times for patients referred to acute hospitals. This summary brings together the key points from three waiting times standards. The publication reports can be found here:

Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment
Diagnostic Tests and Investigations
18 weeks Referral to Treatment

Main Points
- 82.1% of patients were seen within the 12 week Treatment Time Guarantee (inpatients and day cases) for quarter ending 31 March 2017. This has decreased from 86.8% during quarter ending 31 December 2016 and 92.7% during quarter ending 31 March 2016.

NHS Board Performance (%) against Treatment Time Guarantee
Quarter Ending 31 March 2017
• 80.7% of patients waiting for a new outpatient appointment at 31 March 2017 had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This compares to 75.7% at 31 December 2016 and 88.9% at 31 March 2016.

• 86.7% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test at 31 March 2017 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares to 86.1% at 31 December 2017 and 94.6% at 31 March 2016.

• 83.2% of patients were seen within the 18 week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 31 March 2017. This compares with 83.8% seen during month ending 31 December 2016 and 86.6% during month ending 31 March 2016.

Background
The 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment standard is the overarching measure in relation to the stage of treatment standards for Diagnostic Tests, New Outpatient Appointments, Day Case and Inpatient Treatment. Documents relating to waiting times, including the Treatment Time Guarantee are:

• The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011.
• The Regulations and Directions under the Act - CEL 17 (2012).
• The Regulations (Amended) under the Act - Amendment Regulations (2014)
• Updated version of the NHS Scotland Waiting Time Guidance – CEL 33 (2012).

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Further Information
Further information can be found on the Waiting Times pages of the ISD website. The next release of this publication will be 29 August 2017. The ISD website provides Excel data tables detailing the waiting times statistics relating to the four standards covered in this summary.

NHS Performs
A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

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.