Allied Health Professionals – Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHS Scotland
Quarter ending 30 September 2017
Publication Date – 19 December 2017

About this release
This publication by Information Services Division presents information on how long patients wait for Musculoskeletal (MSK) services that are delivered by Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody/Podiatry and Orthotics. This publication includes waiting times information for NHS Boards that provide MSK services and submitted data for the quarter ending 30 September 2017. These data are considered developmental and progress continues to be made with all NHS Boards who are developing their IT systems in order to provide data for all indicators.
Locally sourced figures have been provided by NHS Ayrshire and Arran to inform the AHP MSK Waiting Times publication. NHS Tayside was not able to provide any data for quarter ending 30 September 2017. NHS Fife Physiotherapy figures for quarter end September 2017 are incomplete. See the main publication report for more details.

Main Points
Of the 13 NHS Boards which submitted data:

- Over half (54.6%) of the 71,433 patients who had a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service were seen within 4 weeks for quarter ending September 2017
- There were 96,904 referrals to AHP MSK services in this quarter.
- Over a third (38.1%) of the 57,223 patients waiting for a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service had been waiting 4 weeks or less at 30 September 2017.

Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AHP MSK Profession</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Seen Within 4 Weeks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>data from 13 Boards</td>
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<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>data from 13 Boards</td>
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<td>Chiropody/Podiatry</td>
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<td>Orthotics</td>
<td>data from 11 Boards</td>
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<td>All AHP MSK Specialties</td>
<td>data from 9 Boards</td>
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Target = 90%
Background

MSK problems include 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 Scottish Government has determined that at least 90% of AHP MSK patients should wait no longer than 4 weeks from receipt of referral from a patient or health or social care professional. See NHSScotland Waiting Times Guidance for more information. The guidance target should be met by each profession individually within each NHS Board.

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Further Information

The next release of this publication will be March 2018

Further information can be found on the AHP MSK Waiting Times pages of the ISD website. You may also be interested in our other waiting times information.

ISD and Official Stats

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.