IVF Waiting Times Publication
Quarter ending 31 December 2017
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An Official Statistics publication for Scotland
This is an Official Statistics Publication

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Find out more about official statistics at:
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Information Services Division

Introduction

This publication contains information about how long eligible patients waited from secondary care referral to screening appointment for in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment by the NHS in Scotland. This is a quarterly publication.

What is IVF?

IVF is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology used to treat infertility. This report also includes intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) for male infertility. Where this publication refers to IVF, it includes IVF and ICSI.

One full cycle of IVF includes ovulation induction, egg retrieval, fertilisation, transfer of fresh embryos, followed by freezing of suitable embryos and subsequent replacement of these provided the couple still fulfil the access criteria.

IVF access target

The Scottish Government requires NHSScotland to measure the time people wait for treatment; this includes people waiting for IVF. The Scottish Government has set a target for NHSScotland, that eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months by 31 March 2015. In practice, this is the percentage of patients who were screened at an IVF Centre within 12 months of a referral from secondary to tertiary care. The Scottish Government has determined that the IVF waiting times target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients, as for some patients it may not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within the target’s time.

In terms of reporting information to monitor progress towards this target, the National Infertility Group recommended that the screening appointment should be the point signalling the start of treatment. This was in part due to the fact that data cannot be reported to ISD beyond this point in an IVF journey without breaching the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act. However, there was also agreement that it was at this point patients feel that their IVF treatment journey has begun.

The waiting time used for this target is an adjusted waiting time. The adjusted wait is how long a person waited after taking into account any periods they were unavailable (e.g. on holiday) and any appointments that they missed or rearranged. If a person has no periods of unavailability and attends on the first date that they accept, no adjustments are made. Any adjustments are based on the NHSScotland Waiting Times Guidance.

How are IVF services arranged in Scotland?

Each of the 14 NHS Boards in Scotland commission cycles of IVF from one of the four specialist tertiary referral centres in NHSScotland. These four IVF Centres are in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Generally, NHS Borders and NHS Lothian refer into the Edinburgh IVF Centre; NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Lanarkshire, and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde refer into the Glasgow IVF Centre; NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Western Isles, and NHS Tayside refer into the Dundee IVF Centre; NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Highland, and NHS Grampian refer into the Aberdeen IVF Centre.
Who is eligible for IVF treatment?

In May 2013, the National Infertility Group published a report with recommendations on new IVF access criteria. Ministers agreed the group’s recommendations, with some modifications, and the changes came into place from 1 July 2013. These access criteria are detailed on the Glossary web page.

From 1 July 2013, new patients should not be referred to the four IVF Centres if they do not meet these access criteria.

On 13 June 2016 changes to the eligibility criteria were announced by the Scottish Government confirming that it would accept key recommendations from the National Infertility Group report. The first part of the new criteria, where “one partner has no biological child”, was implemented on 1 September 2016, while the criteria was updated to move to a maximum of 3 IVF cycles for new patients only, who were referred from 1 April 2017.

Data collection

The data are collected by the IVF Centre Boards (NHS Lothian, NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, and NHS Tayside) for all patients who have been referred into their IVF Centre; these four Boards then submit the data to ISD. The statistics are presented in two ways: first, by the four IVF Centres, and second, by the 14 referring/commissioning Boards. The Scottish Government has agreed that the four IVF Centres are responsible for the target in partnership with the 14 referring Boards.

It was agreed to collect data aggregated at NHS Board level until a centralised reporting system is developed. The four IVF Centres submit aggregate level data to ISD in an agreed Excel template. The initial template was set up to collect information on patients who waited during the month and information on patients waiting at the end of each month. Each of the four IVF Centres submits information for the number of patients and the number with a wait within 365 days and over 365 days. This information is split by each Board who has referred patients into the IVF Centre.

The aggregate template was revised to collect information on referrals from January 2016 onwards. It is expected that the data collection will evolve further over time.
Main Points

The Scottish Government have set a target that at least 90% of eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months. This was due for delivery by 31 March 2015. During the quarter ending December 2017:

- 362 eligible patients were screened at an IVF centre in Scotland. This compares to 410 in the quarter ending September 2017.

- 100% of eligible patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days.

- Four fifths of patients were screened within 182 days.

- The 90% target continues to be met since it was first measured in March 2015.

Percentage of eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days, during the last three quarters, across Scotland.
Results and Commentary

Referrals

Number of eligible referrals to IVF Centres
The tables below show the eligible referrals to IVF Centres. This information is only available from January 2016 onwards.

For each of the four IVF Centres, referrals are received into tertiary care (the IVF Centre) from secondary care. For the Glasgow IVF Centre, they also receive secondary referrals. These secondary referrals are seen within an infertility service staffed by the Assisted Conception Service (ACS) medical team. These patients are assessed and, if accepted for IVF, are placed directly onto the IVF waiting list without a formal secondary to tertiary referral.

Tables 1 and 2 present information on referrals by IVF Centre and by referring Board.

Table 1: Number of eligible referrals for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by IVF Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Centre</th>
<th>Total Number of Eligible Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow²</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland¹</strong></td>
<td><strong>295</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
2. NHS Tayside and NHS Lothian are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients.
Table 2: Number of eligible referrals for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by referring Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring Board</th>
<th>Total Number of Eligible Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland</strong></td>
<td><strong>295</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- ‘-’ denotes zero
- 1. The [data quality paper](#) includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
Patients Seen

How long people waited to be screened for IVF treatment

The tables and charts below show waiting times for patients who were screened for IVF treatment during the period October-December 2017 (patients seen). This is used to measure performance towards the target.

During the quarter October-December 2017:

- 362 eligible patients were screened at an IVF Centre in Scotland.
- 100% of eligible patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days.

Table 3: Waiting times for eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during the last four quarters, across Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Seen</th>
<th>Number of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-December 2017</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-September 2017</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June 2017</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-March 2017</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- '-' denotes zero

Figure 1: Percentage of eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days, during the last eight quarters, across Scotland

Notes:
1. The vertical scale on the left hand side of the graph does not start at zero.
Table 4 and Figure 2 present information by IVF Centre on the number of patients seen for screening during the quarter and the percentage seen within 365 days.

**Table 4: Waiting times for eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by IVF Centre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Centre</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Seen</th>
<th>Number of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow²</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland¹</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
2. NHS Tayside and NHS Lothian are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients.

**Figure 2: Percentage of eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017 within 365 days, by IVF Centre**

Chart key – Dark blue represents Scotland, medium blue represents an IVF Centre

Notes:
1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.

Table 5 and Figure 3 present information by referring NHS Board on the number of patients seen for screening during the quarter and the percentage seen within 365 days.
Table 5: Waiting times for eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by referring Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring Board</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Seen</th>
<th>Number of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scotland¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland¹</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- "·" denotes zero

1. The [data quality paper](#) includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.

Figure 3: Percentage of eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017 within 365 days, by referring Board

Chart key – Dark blue represents Scotland; medium blue represents a Referring Board.

Notes: The [data quality paper](#) includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
Distribution of how long people waited to be screened for IVF treatment

The tables and charts below show the distribution of waiting times for patients who were screened for IVF treatment during the period October-December 2017 (patients seen).

Table 6 presents information by IVF Centre on the distribution of patients seen for screening during the quarter.

The Dundee and Edinburgh IVF Centres are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients. The Glasgow IVF Centre was originally commissioned by the referring Boards for cycles of IVF for these patients. The wait reported here includes the period the patient waited at another unit as well as the time at the Dundee and Edinburgh units.

Table 6: Distribution of waiting times for eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by IVF Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Centre</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Seen</th>
<th>Number of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0-91 Days: 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- '-' denotes zero
- 1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
- 2. NHS Tayside and NHS Lothian are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients.

Table 7 presents information by referring NHS Board on the distribution of patients seen for screening during the quarter.
Table 7: Distribution of waiting times for eligible patients who were screened for IVF treatment during quarter October-December 2017, by referring Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring Board</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Seen</th>
<th>Number of Patients Seen, Who Waited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-91 Days</td>
<td>92-182 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney, Shetland, and</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Isles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland</strong></td>
<td><strong>362</strong></td>
<td><strong>119</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- `-` denotes zero

1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
Patients Waiting

People waiting at the end of the quarter
The tables and charts below show waiting times information for patients who are waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at the end of the quarter (patients waiting).

This is a useful measure for managers of these services, as it can help them take early action to ensure that patient waits do not exceed the target. However, this measure does not show how long people actually wait before they were screened.

As at 31 December 2017
- 573 eligible patients were waiting to be screened at an IVF Centre in Scotland.
- All 573 patients had been waiting 365 days or less.

Table 8: Waiting times for eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at the end of the last four quarters across Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter End Date</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Waiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2017</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September 2017</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2017</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March 2017</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
‘-’ denotes zero
Figure 4: Percentage of eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at the end of the last eight quarters across Scotland

![Graph showing percentage of eligible patients waiting to be screened for IVF treatment]

Notes:
The vertical scale on the left hand side of the graph does not start at zero.

Table 9 and Figure 5 present information by IVF Centre on the number of patients waiting to be screened as at 31 December 2017, and the percentage that had been waiting within 365 days.

Table 9: Waiting times for eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by IVF Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Centre</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Waiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow²</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland¹</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- ‘-‘ denotes zero
- 1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
- 2. NHS Tayside and NHS Lothian are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients.
Figure 5: Percentage of eligible patients who have been waiting within 365 days to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by IVF Centre

Chart key – Dark blue represents Scotland, medium blue represents an IVF Centre

Notes:
1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.

Table 10 and Figure 6 present information by referring Board on the number of patients waiting to be screened as at 31 December 2017, and the percentage that had been waiting within 365 days.
## Table 10: Waiting times for eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by referring Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring Board</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients Waiting</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within 365 Days</td>
<td>Over 365 Days</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland¹</strong></td>
<td><strong>573</strong></td>
<td><strong>573</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- ‘-’ denotes zero
- 1. The [data quality paper](#) includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
Figure 6: Percentage of eligible patients who had been waiting within 365 days to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by referring Board

Chart key – Dark blue represents Scotland, medium blue represents a referring Board.

Notes:
1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.

Distribution of people waiting at the end of the quarter

The tables and figures below show waiting times information for the distribution of patients who are waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at the end of the quarter (patients waiting).

Table 11 presents information by IVF Centre on the distribution of patients waiting to be screened as at 31 December 2017.

The Dundee and Edinburgh IVF Centres are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients. These IVF Centres were not directly commissioned for these patients. The wait reported here includes the period the patient waited at another unit as well as the time at the Dundee and Edinburgh units.
Table 11: Distribution of waiting times for eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by IVF Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Centre</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>0-91 Days</th>
<th>92-182 Days</th>
<th>183-273 Days</th>
<th>274-365 Days</th>
<th>365+ Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow²</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland¹</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- ‘-’ denotes zero
- 1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
- 2. NHS Tayside and NHS Lothian are supporting the reduction of waiting times for West of Scotland patients.

Table 12 presents information by referring Board on the number of patients waiting to be screened as at 31 December 2017.
Table 12: Distribution of waiting times for eligible patients who were waiting to be screened for IVF treatment as at 31 December 2017, by referring Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring Board</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>Number of Patients Waiting</th>
<th>0-91 Days</th>
<th>92-182 Days</th>
<th>183-273 Days</th>
<th>274-365 Days</th>
<th>365+ Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>129</td>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>178</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland</strong></td>
<td><strong>573</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>297</strong></td>
<td><strong>288</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- ‘-’ denotes zero
- 1. The data quality paper includes information on data quality or completeness issues at Board level.
**GLOSSARY**

**Adjusted wait**

The start date to calculate the waiting time is the date of referral from secondary to tertiary care and the end date is the date of screening.

The adjusted wait is how long a person waited after taking into account any periods they were unavailable and any appointments that they missed or rearranged. If a person has no periods of unavailability and attends on the first date that they accept, no adjustments are made.

**IVF**

In vitro fertilization (IVF) is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology used to treat infertility.

**Definition of Infertility (from 1 July 2013)**

- Infertility with an appropriate cause, of any duration – all couples
- Unexplained infertility of 2 years – heterosexual couples
- Unexplained infertility following six to eight cycles of donor insemination – same sex couples

**IVF/ICSI access criteria (for all couples from 1 July 2013)**

_Couples must only be referred from primary care or secondary care once they meet ALL of the following criteria:_

- Eligible patients may be offered up to two cycles of IVF/ICSI where there is a reasonable expectation of a live birth.
- Couples must have no child under the age of 16 living with them in their home.
- Both partners must be non-smoking for at least 3 months before referral for treatment and continue to be non-smoking during treatment.
- Both partners must abstain from illegal and abusive substances.
- Both partners must be Methadone free for at least one year prior to referral for treatment.
- Neither partner should drink alcohol prior to or during the period of treatment.
- BMI of female partner must be above 18.5 and below 30.
- Neither partner to have undergone voluntary sterilisation, even if sterilisation reversal has been self-funded.
- NHS funding will not be provided to couples where either partner has already received the number of NHS funded IVF treatment cycles supported by NHSScotland regardless of where in the UK they received treatment.
- No individual (male or female) can access more than the number of NHS funded IVF treatment cycles supported by NHSScotland under any circumstances, even if they are in a new relationship.
- Fresh cycles of treatment must be initiated by the date of the female partner’s 40th birthday, and all subsequent frozen transfers must be complete before the woman’s 41st birthday.
- Couples must have been co-habiting at the same address in a stable relationship for a minimum of 2 years.
- NHS funding may be given to those patients who have previously paid for IVF treatment, if in the treating clinician’s view, the individual clinical circumstances warrant further treatment.
• Patients should not be placed at the end of the waiting list following an unsuccessful treatment cycle.

For couples where the woman is aged from the day after her 40th birthday to age 42, one full cycle will be offered if:
• They have never previously had IVF treatment
• There is no evidence of poor ovarian reserve and if, in the treating clinician’s view it is in the patients’ interest
• There has been a discussion of the additional implications of IVF and pregnancy at this age.

IVF/ICSI access criteria
(Amendment 1 September 2016)

Couples with children in the home, but where one partner does not have a biological child, will become eligible for IVF access.

IVF/ICSI access criteria
(Amendment 1 April 2017)

Maximum of 3 IVF cycles for new patients only, who were referred from the 1st of April 2017.

IVF Centres/ Tertiary

These four IVF Centres are in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Each of the 14 NHS Boards in Scotland commission cycles of IVF/ICSI from one of the four specialist tertiary referral centres in NHSScotland.

Secondary Care

Secondary care is where patients are referred to, generally by a GP/Primary Care either a facility or a specialist for access to more specialised knowledge, skills or equipment.

LDP Standard

Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standards are priorities that are set and agreed between the Scottish Government and NHS Boards. The current standard for IVF treatment is: 90% of Eligible patients are to commence IVF treatment within 12 months of referral.
## List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File name</th>
<th>File and size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IVF Data Tables</td>
<td>Excel 1,119 Kb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact
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Further Information
Further Information can be found on the ISD website.
For more information on IVF see the IVF section of our website. For related topics, please see the Waiting Times pages.
The next release of this publication will be May 2018.

Rate this publication
Please provide feedback on this publication to help us improve our services.
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Background information

Policy context

Why are waiting times important?

Improving access to IVF by reducing waiting times for patients will potentially improve the chance of a successful outcome from the treatment, and will increase equity so that all those eligible for NHS IVF will have a waiting time of 12 months or less.

Waiting times for patients requiring IVF have already reduced substantially across NHS Boards. The Scottish Government provided funding of £12 million over 3 financial years, starting in 2012/13.

IVF policy and targets

The National Infertility Group was set up in April 2010 by Scottish Government Ministers with an aim to reduce inequity in access to IVF.

In May 2013, the National Infertility Group published a report with recommendations on new IVF access criteria. Ministers agreed the group’s recommendations, with some modifications, and the changes came into place from 1 July 2013.

In the 2013/14 NHSScotland Local Delivery Plan a HEAT target for IVF Waiting Times was introduced. The target is that eligible patients will commence IVF treatment within 12 months by 31 March 2015. The Scottish Government has determined that the IVF Waiting Times target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients, as for some patients it may not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within the target’s time. The HEAT target has now been replaced with an LDP Standard for IVF, with more information available on the Scottish Government Scotland Performs website.
# Appendix 2 – Publication Metadata

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metadata Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Publication title</td>
<td>IVF Waiting Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Quarterly summary of waiting times and waiting lists for IVF in Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Health and Social Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Access and Waiting Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Web Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data source(s)</td>
<td>Aggregate counts accredited and derived from individual NHS Scotland Boards are submitted monthly to ISD using a defined Excel template.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date that data are acquired</td>
<td>Deadline for data submission is the 20th of each month, though files can be resubmitted up to 3 weeks before publication where the quality assurance process identifies differences with local figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release date</td>
<td>27 February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeframe of data and timeliness</td>
<td>Data from July 2014 to December 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity of data</td>
<td>Information has been collected nationally since April 2014. There are completeness issues with the April to June 2014 data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions statement</td>
<td>Previously published waiting times will be revised at each publication to reflect the latest available data submitted to ISD by the NHS Boards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions relevant to this publication</td>
<td>If NHS Boards discover that data submitted for publication is incorrect, or that data are missing, further re-submissions can be made up until the publication submission deadline date. Any revised figures will then be reflected within the current publication. Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future publications as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data submissions. There were no revisions to data in this publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts and definitions</td>
<td>Definitions not contained in this report are available in the report produced by the National Infertility Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance and key uses of the statistics</td>
<td>Waiting times are important to patients and are a measure of how the NHS is responding to demands for services. Measuring and regular reporting of waiting times highlights where there are delays in the system and enables monitoring of the effectiveness of NHS performance throughout the country. The NHS in Scotland has been set a number of targets for maximum waiting times. Other uses of the data include information requests for a variety of customers, e.g. research charities, public companies. Freedom of Information requests, information support to Boards, health intelligence work, parliamentary questions and HEAT targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>ISD only receives aggregate data from each NHS IVF Centre Board. Although aggregated data cannot be systematically validated by ISD,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>100% of submitted data are used for analysis and publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparability</td>
<td>There will be differences in the measures used, patient access criteria and collection methods of IVF waiting times statistics across UK countries, as well as differences in service structures between the administrations. England, Wales, Northern Ireland do not currently publish any information on waiting times for IVF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to <a href="#">published guidelines</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Coherence and clarity | Key statistics for the latest quarter are linked to on the main Waiting Times page [www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/). Statistics are presented within Excel spreadsheets. IVF Centre / NHS referring Board and national figures are presented. Further features to aid clarity:  
  1. Tables are printer friendly.  
  2. Key data presented graphically. |
| Value type and unit of measurement | Number and percentage of patients seen, number and percentage of patients waiting; by IVF Centre / NHS referring Board. |
| Disclosure | The [ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol](#) is followed. |
| Official Statistics designation | Official Statistics |
| UK Statistics Authority Assessment | Not assessed |
| Last published | 28th November 2017 |
| Next published | 29th May 2018 |
| Date of first publication | 25th November 2014 |
| Help email | NSS.IVF@nhs.net |
| Date form completed | 02/02/2018 |
Appendix 3 – Early access details

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD is obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department

NHS Board Chief Executives

NHS Board Communication leads
Appendix 4 – Data Quality

As part of the quality assurance process for this publication, ISD has asked Boards to provide information on any data quality and completeness issues that may affect interpretation of the statistics.

Data quality issues by NHS Board
This section details specific data quality / completeness issues for each NHS Board.

Aberdeen IVF Centre
No data quality issues were highlighted.

Dundee IVF Centre
No data quality issues were highlighted.

Edinburgh IVF Centre
No data quality issues were highlighted.

Glasgow IVF Centre
No data quality issues were highlighted.
Appendix 5 – ISD and Official Statistics

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

**Purpose:** To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

**Mission:** Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

**Vision:** To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD’s statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (i.e. assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (i.e. legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (i.e. still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).