Allied Health Professionals –
Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHS Scotland
Quarter ending 31 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 31 December 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 quarters ending 30 September 2017 and 31 December 2017.

Main Points
Of the 13 NHS Boards which submitted data:

- Over half (53.6%) of the 71,071 patients who had a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service were seen within 4 weeks for quarter ending December 2017.
- There were 91,689 referrals to AHP MSK services in this quarter.
- Over a third (35.1%) of the 52,280 patients waiting for a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service had been waiting 4 weeks or less at 31 December 2017.

Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks

![Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks chart](chart.png)

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
Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a metadata document.

For more information on AHP MSK see the waiting times section of our website. For related topics, please see the waiting times information page.

The next release of this publication will be 19 June 2018.

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