Hospital Waiting Times

Diagnostic, New Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Case and Referral to Treatment

Quarter Ending 31 March 2018

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 29 May 2018

About this release

This release by 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*  

(Note: Official Statistics, not National Statistics.)

Local figures have been provided by NHS Tayside and NHS Ayrshire and Arran to inform the Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment publication. For 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT) NHS Ayrshire and Arran has provided local figures. For these reasons limited comparisons with previous quarters have been provided. See main reports for more details.

Main Points

- 75.9% of patients were seen within the 12 week Treatment Time Guarantee (inpatients and day cases) for quarter ending 31 March 2018. This is a decrease from 80.4% in the quarter ending 31 December 2017.

**NHS Board Performance (%) Against Treatment Time Guarantee**  
Quarter Ending 31 March 2018

![NHS Board Performance Chart](chart.png)
• 75.1% of patients waiting for a new outpatient appointment at 31 March 2018 had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This is an increase from 70.8% in the quarter ending 31 December 2017.

• 81.2% of patients were seen within the 18 Week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 31 March 2018.

• 80.6% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test at 31 March 2018 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares with 79.3% at 31 December 2017 and 86.7% at 31 March 2017.

Background

The 18 Weeks RTT standard applies to the entire patient journey from the initial referral to the start of treatment. The 18 Weeks RTT performance is dependent on 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).

Please see the News and Updates section of our website for more details.

Contact

Kathryn Burt  Amanda Stewart
Principal Information Analyst  Senior Information Analyst
0131 275 6676  0131 314 1032

Email: nss.isdwaitingtimes@nhs.net

Further Information

Further information can be found on the Waiting Times pages of the ISD website. The ISD website provides Excel data tables detailing the waiting times statistics relating to the four standards covered in this summary.

ISD have developed a video, with further explanations of how waiting times are calculated.

The next release of this publication will be in August 2018.

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.