Cancelled Planned Operations

Month Ending 31 July 2018

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication Date: 4 September 2018

About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides a monthly update on the number of patients in NHSScotland who have had their planned hospital operation cancelled and the reason for this cancellation.

Main points

- The total number of planned operations across NHSScotland during July 2018 was 26,165, an increase of 3.9% from 25,188 during July 2017.

- 2,410 operations (9.2% of planned operations) were cancelled in July 2018, ranging from 4.5% to 16.2% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 2,074 (8.2%) in July 2017.

- In July 2018, of all 26,165 planned operations: 978 (3.7%) of these were cancelled by the patient; 807 (3.1%) were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons; 540 (2.1%) were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons; 85 (0.3%) were cancelled due to other reasons.

- The peak in cancellations for non-clinical/capacity reasons in January 2018 (4.5%) was linked to increased emergency admissions causing additional demand for beds. The spikes in March 2018 for non-clinical/capacity reasons (4.1%) and other reasons (1.5%) were due to poor weather affecting patient and staff travel.
Background

These statistics are released monthly. Data include patients who have planned procedures cancelled the day before, or on the day of their planned operation.

Data for this publication are submitted from NHS Board theatre systems.

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Further Information

A workbook containing data for Scotland, NHS Boards and hospitals is available.

Further information can be found on the waiting times pages of the ISD website. A metadata document has been produced for this publication.

The next release of this publication will be October 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.