Hospital Waiting Times
Diagnostic, New Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Case and Referral to Treatment
Quarter Ending 30 September 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 27 November 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 Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Highland, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside to inform some figures in the Inpatient, Day Case and New Outpatient Stage of Treatment publication. For 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT), NHS Ayrshire & Arran has provided estimated figures. See main reports for more details.

Main Points
- 72.9% of patients were seen within the 12 week Treatment Time Guarantee (Inpatients and Day Cases) in quarter ending 30 September 2018. This compares with 74.3% during quarter ending 30 June 2018 and 79.7% during quarter ending 30 September 2017. All patients should be treated within 12 weeks of decision to treat.
• 70.5% of patients waiting for a New Outpatient appointment on 30 September 2018 had been waiting 12 weeks or less. This compares with 75.1% at 30 June 2018 and 70.0% at 30 September 2017. National standard: 90% of new outpatients seen within 12 weeks.

• 81.2% of patients were seen within the 18 Week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 30 September 2018. National standard: 90% of patients being treated within 18 weeks of referral.

• 78.1% of patients waiting for a key diagnostic test at 30 September 2018 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares with 78.6% at 30 June 2018 and 81.6% at 30 September 2017. National standard: 100% of patients waiting six weeks or less for a key diagnostic test.

Background

The 18 Weeks RTT standard applies to the entire patient journey from the initial referral to the start of treatment. 18 Weeks RTT performance is dependent on the stage of treatment standards for Diagnostic tests, New Outpatient appointments, Day Case treatment 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.

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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 an animation, with further explanations of how waiting times are calculated.

The next release of this publication will be February 2019.

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.