Cancelled Planned Operations

Month Ending 31 October 2018

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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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 October 2018 was 30,535, an increase of 6.4% from 28,706 during October 2017.

- 2,600 operations (8.5% of all planned operations) were cancelled in October 2018, ranging from 5.1% to 11.4% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 2,435 (8.5%) in October 2017.

- In October 2018, of all 30,535 planned operations: 986 (3.2%) were cancelled by the patient; 957 (3.1%) were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons; 522 (1.7%) were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons; 135 (0.4%) 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 demands 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 December 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.