Cancelled Planned Operations

Month Ending 31 December 2018

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. It reports on cancellations on the day before, or the day of, the planned procedure.

Main points

• The total number of planned operations across NHSScotland during December 2018 was 24,522, similar to 24,624 during December 2017.

• 2,237 operations (9.1% of all planned operations) were cancelled in December 2018, ranging from 4.0% to 12.0% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 2,664 (10.8%) in December 2017.

• In December 2018, of all 24,522 planned operations: 801 (3.3%) were cancelled by the patient; 774 (3.2%) were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons; 600 (2.4%) were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons; 62 (0.3%) were cancelled due to other reasons.

• The peak in cancellations for non-clinical/capacity reasons in November 2018 (3.4%) relates to the unplanned, temporary closure of the Cowlairs decontamination unit in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. 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. 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.
Background
These statistics are released monthly. 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 March 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.

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