Cancelled Planned Operations

Month Ending 31 January 2019

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 the day before, or on the day of their planned operation and the reason for this cancellation.

Main points

• The total number of planned operations across NHSScotland during January 2019 was 29,253, an increase of 4.9% from 27,890 during January 2018.
• 2,790 operations (9.5% of all planned operations) were cancelled in January 2019, ranging from 5.2% to 13.8% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 3,423 (12.3%) in January 2018.
• In January 2019, of all 29,253 planned operations: 1,012 (3.5%) were cancelled by the patient; 991 (3.4%) were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons; 638 (2.2%) were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons; 149 (0.5%) 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.
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 April 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.