Allied Health Professionals – Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHS Scotland
Quarter ending 31 December 2018

A Management Information publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division gives a quarterly update on how long patients wait for Musculoskeletal (MSK) services that are delivered by Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody/Podiatry and Orthotics. These data are considered developmental and progress continues to be made with all NHS Boards who are developing their IT systems in order to provide data for all indicators.

Main Points

- 44.7% of the 82,942 patients who had a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service were seen within 4 weeks for quarter ending 31 December 2018. (National Target: the maximum wait for AHP MSK Services from referral to first clinical out-patient appointment is 4 weeks for 90% of patients)

Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks for quarter ending December 2018

Note: AHP MSK Orthotics service is not provided by NHS Western Isles. AHP MSK Occupational Therapy service is not provided by NHS Borders, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Lothian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney and NHS Shetland

- There were 106,255 referrals to AHP MSK services in this quarter.
- At 31 December 2018, 34.2% of the 64,771 patients waiting for a first clinical appointment with an AHP MSK service had been waiting 4 weeks or less.
Background

MSK problems include a diversity of complaints and diseases localised in joints, bones, cartilage, ligaments, tendons, tendon sheaths, bursa and muscles. MSK problems also include outpatient pre or post orthopaedic surgery, peripheral nerve lesions (e.g. carpal tunnel, sciatica) or complication of fracture/dislocation/trauma.

The Scottish Government has determined that at least 90% of AHP MSK patients should wait no longer than 4 weeks from receipt of referral from a patient or health or social care professional. See NHSScotland Waiting Times Guidance for more information. The guidance target should be met by each profession individually within each NHS Board.

11 Boards provided information for this quarter through the national system. NHS Fife provided both national system information and local figures. NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Tayside provided local figures only to inform this release. Further information regarding NHS boards submitting data is available.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a metadata document.

For more information on AHP MSK see the waiting times section of our website. For related topics, please see the waiting times information page.

ISD have developed a video, with further explanations of how waiting times are calculated.

The next release of this publication will be 18 June 2019.

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.