Hospital Waiting Times
Diagnostic, New Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Case and Referral to Treatment
Quarter Ending 31 March 2019
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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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.)

Main Points
Treatment Time Guarantee (TTG) - All patients should be treated within 12 weeks of decision to treat.

- 68.4% of Inpatients and Day cases were treated within the 12 week TTG in quarter ending 31 March 2019. This compares with 72.9% during quarter ending 31 December 2018 and 75.6% during quarter ending 31 March 2018.

- Seven out of ten (70.1%) of patients who were still waiting for their Inpatient/Day case appointment had, to that date, waited less than 12 weeks. This compares with 67.5% as at 31 December 2019 and 71.8% at 31 March 2018.

NHS Board Performance (%) Against Treatment Time Guarantee; Quarter Ending 31 March 2019

New outpatients National Standard - 95% of new outpatients waiting 12 weeks or less.

- 75.0% of New Outpatients were waiting (ongoing waits) within the 12 weeks standard on 31 March 2019. This compares with 70.0% during quarter ending 31 December 2018 and 74.9% during quarter ending 31 March 2018.
Three out of four (74.7%) New Outpatients were seen within 12 weeks during the quarter ending 31 March 2019. This compares with 75.6% during quarter ending 31 December 2018 and 73.5% during quarter ending 31 March 2018.

18 Weeks Referral to Treatment National Standard- 90% of patients being treated within 18 weeks of referral.

- 77.3% of patients were seen (completed waits) within the 18 Week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 31 March 2019. This compares with 79.5% at 31 December 2018 and 81.2% at 31 March 2018.

Diagnostics National Standard – 100% of patients waiting six weeks or less for a key diagnostic test

- 84.0% of patients waiting (ongoing waits) for a key diagnostic test at 31 March 2019 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares with 78.1% at 31 December 2018 and 80.6% at 31 March 2018.

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, Inpatient and Day Case 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)

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 August 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.