Allied Health Professionals – Musculoskeletal Waiting Times in NHSScotland

Quarter ending 30 June 2019

A Management Information publication for Scotland

Publication date: 17 September 2019

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. The figures for referrals and patients seen include Musculoskeletal Advice and Triage Service (MATS) operated by NHS 24 for patients referred to self management. These are at ‘All AHP MSK Specialties’ level only.

Main Points

- 49.0% of the 84,556 patients who had a first clinical outpatient appointment with an AHP MSK service were seen within 4 weeks of referral for quarter ending 30 June 2019, compared with the national target of 90%. Note that AHP MSK Occupational Therapy data is available for 7 NHS Boards only.

Percentage of patients seen within 4 Weeks for quarter ending June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHP MSK Profession</th>
<th>Seen within 4 Weeks (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All AHP MSK Specialties</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropody/Podiatry</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthotics</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
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Target = 90%
• There were 117,995 referrals to AHP MSK services in this quarter.
• At 30 June 2019, 39.3% of the 75,131 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.

AHP MSK Occupational Therapy is provided within the overall Occupational Therapy Service in seven of the 14 NHS Boards and it is not possible to separately identify only the MSK cases.

To inform this release 11 Boards provided information through the national system, while three boards (NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley and NHS Tayside) provided both national system information and local figures. 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 17 December 2019.