Cancelled Planned Operations

Month Ending 30 November 2019

Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication Date: 7 January 2020

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 November 2019 was
29,766, an increase of 0.7% from 29,555 during November 2018.
• 2,706 operations (9.1% of all planned operations) were cancelled in November 2019, ranging
from 4.8% to 13.5% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 2,909 (9.8%) in
November 2018.
• In November 2019, of all planned operations:
  – 3.0% were cancelled by the patient;
  – 3.3% were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons;
  – 2.4% were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons;
  – 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.
Background
These statistics are released monthly. Data for this publication are submitted from NHS Board theatre systems.

Contact

Amye Thomson  |  Liam Ingram  |  Greig Stanners  
Senior Information Analyst  |  Information Analyst  |  Principal Information Analyst  
0141 207 1894  |  0131 275 7275  |  0141 282 2333  

General Enquiries
nss.isdwaitingtimes@nhs.net

Further Information
A workbook containing data for Scotland, NHS Boards and hospitals is available. This is also available as open data.

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 February 2020.

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.