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 December 2019 was 25,791, an increase of 5.1% from 24,539 during December 2018.

• 2,617 operations (10.1% of all planned operations) were cancelled in December 2019, ranging from 5.0% to 16.9% across individual NHS Boards. This compares to 2,237 (9.1%) in December 2018.

• In December 2019, of all planned operations:
  – 3.6% were cancelled by the patient;
  – 3.4% were cancelled by the hospital based on clinical reasons;
  – 2.8% were cancelled by the hospital due to capacity or non-clinical reasons;
  – 0.3% were cancelled due to other reasons.
Background

These statistics are released monthly. Data for this publication are submitted from NHS Board theatre systems.

The below definitions are used for the cancellation reason groupings:

- Cancellation based on clinical reason by hospital includes patient unwell, patient not prepared for procedure correctly by hospital and patient did not follow pre op instruction.
- Cancellation based on capacity or non-clinical reason by hospital includes no beds available, staff not available, equipment not available and theatre session overran.
- Cancellation by patient includes patient decides not to go ahead with procedure, patient unable to attend, patient did not attend and patient did not attend pre-op.
- Other includes fire alarm prevents operation from taking place, weather prevented patient / staff travelling and patient transport did not arrive in time to bring patient to hospital.

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Further Information

Data from this publication is available to download from our web page, along with a metadata document, and open data available from the NHSScotland Open Data platform.

For more information on Cancelled Planned Operations see the Cancelled Planned Operations section of our website. For related topics, please see the Waiting Times pages.

The next release of this publication will be March 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 Statistics. Further information about our statistics.