Hospital Waiting Times
Diagnostic, New Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Case and Referral to Treatment
Quarter Ending 31 December 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 25 February 2020

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) brings together statistics relating to three waiting times standards. The statistics emanate from the following National or Official Statistics releases relating to the waits patients experience certain types of treatment:

Stage of Treatment – waiting to be seen as an Inpatient, Day Case or New Outpatient
Diagnostic Tests and Investigations
18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (Note: these are Official Statistics, not National Statistics.)

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

- 71.9% of Inpatients and Day cases were treated within the 12 week TTG in quarter ending 31 December 2019. This compares with 71.3% during quarter ending 30 September 2019 and 73.0% during quarter ending 31 December 2018.

- Almost seven out of ten (67.0%) patients who were still waiting for their Inpatient/Day case appointment had, to that date, waited less than 12 weeks. This compares with 67.9% as at both 30 September 2019 and 31 December 2018.

Performance (%) Against each of the Treatment Time Guarantee, New Outpatients, RTT and Diagnostics Standards

*Please note the vertical scale on the left hand side of the graph does not start at zero.
New outpatients National Standard - 95% of new outpatients waiting 12 weeks or less from referral to being seen.

- 73.2% of New Outpatients were waiting (ongoing waits) within the 12 week standard on 31 December 2019. This compares with 72.7% during quarter ending 30 September 2019 and 69.9% during quarter ending 31 December 2018.

- Just over three out of four (76.7%) New Outpatients were seen within 12 weeks during the quarter ending 31 December 2019. This compares with 76.6% during quarter ending 30 September 2019 and 75.6% during quarter ending 31 December 2018.

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

- 78.9% of patients were seen (completed waits) within the 18 Week Referral to Treatment standard during month ending 31 December 2019. This compares with 76.9% for patients seen during September 2019 and 79.5% for those seen in December 2018.

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

- 79.5% of patients waiting (ongoing waits) for a key diagnostic test at 31 December 2019 had been waiting less than six weeks. This compares with 82.3% at 30 September 2019 and 78.1% at 31 December 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).

Contact

Greig Stanners
Principal Information Analyst
0141 282 2333

Amye Thomson
Senior Information Analyst
0141 207 1894

Email: nss.isdwaitingtimes@nhs.net

Further Information

For more information see the Waiting Times section of our website.

ISD have developed an animation, with further explanations of how waiting times are calculated.

The next release of this publication will be May 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.