**IVF Waiting Times in NHSScotland**

**Quarter ending 31 December 2019**

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**About this release**

This release by Information Services Division contains the quarterly update on how long eligible patients waited from referral to screening appointment for in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment by the NHS in Scotland.

The standard is for 90% of eligible patients to be screened at an IVF Centre within 365 days of receipt of referral from a secondary care/acute consultant.

**Main Points**

During the quarter ending December 2019:

- The four IVF centres in Scotland screened 437 eligible patients, compared with 370 in the previous quarter.
- In all four centres, 100% of patients were screened for IVF treatment within 365 days, of which 80.8% were screened within 182 days.
- The 90% standard continues to be met since it was first measured in March 2015.
- Increasing numbers of patients are screened within the 0 – 91 Days category at the Dundee and Glasgow Centres, which is reflected in the figures across Scotland this quarter.

**Number of eligible patients screened for IVF treatment across Scotland, quarter ending June 2016 to December 2019**
Background

IVF is an effective method of assisted reproductive technology used to treat infertility. This includes intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) for male infertility. Where this publication refers to IVF, it includes IVF and ICSI.

One full cycle of IVF includes ovulation induction, egg retrieval, fertilisation, transfer of fresh embryos, followed by freezing of suitable embryos and subsequent replacement of these provided the couple still fulfill the access criteria.

Each of the 14 territorial NHS Boards in Scotland commissions cycles of IVF from one of the four specialist tertiary referral Centres providing NHS treatment (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow).

The Scottish Government requires NHSScotland to measure the length of time people wait for treatment. The target that 90% of eligible patients (which includes treatment for male infertility) will begin IVF treatment within 12 months. This is measured by the percentage of patients who were screened at an IVF Centre within 12 months of receipt of referral from a secondary care/acute consultant. The Scottish Government set this target from 31 March 2015 and it is now a Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standard.

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 which includes background information, a glossary and metadata. The data from this publication are available to download from our web page.

For more information on IVF see the IVF section of our website. For related topics, please see the Waiting Times pages, where there is a video explaining how Hospital Waiting Times are calculated.

The next release of this publication will be 26th May 2020

ISD and Official Statistics

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