

Statistics Release



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An Roinn
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Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – December 2006

This statistics release gives details of the number of people waiting for inpatient or outpatient treatment at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of December 2006, the most recent quarter for which figures are available.

Inpatients

Headline Totals – Table 1

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of December 2006 stood at 40,252.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of September 2006 (40,741), the total number waiting has decreased by 489 (-1.2%).

Over the year, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of December 2005 (44,740), the total number waiting decreased by 4,488 (-10.0%).

Table 1: Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – December 2006¹

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending December 2006	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	14,373	-473	-2,772
Day case Admissions	25,879	-16	-1,716
Total Waiting	40,252	-489	-4,488

Source: CH1

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Detailed notes and definitions are provided in the Technical Notes.



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Numbers Waiting for Ordinary Admission and Day Case Treatment

People on the inpatient waiting list in Northern Ireland can be waiting for admission to hospital as day cases or as ordinary admissions.

Of the 40,252 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of December 2006, 14,373 (35.7%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 25,879 (64.3%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 1).

Since the end of September 2006, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 473 (-3.2%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 16 (-0.1%).

In comparison with December 2005, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 2,772 (-16.2%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 1,716 (-6.2%).

Waiting Times for Ordinary Admission and Day Case Treatment – Table 2

At the end of December 2006, the number of patients waiting 6 months and over was 2,552 or 6.3% of the total waiting.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of September 2006, the number of people waiting 6 months and over decreased by 1,233 (-32.6%).

Over the year, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of December 2005, the number of people waiting 6 months and over decreased by 7,851 (-75.5%).

Table 2 Patients Waiting 6 Months and Over² – December 2006

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending December 2006	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary admissions	1,300	-767	-4,163
Day case admissions	1,252	-466	-3,688
Total Waiting	2,552	-1,233	-7,851

Source: CH1

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 3 & 10.

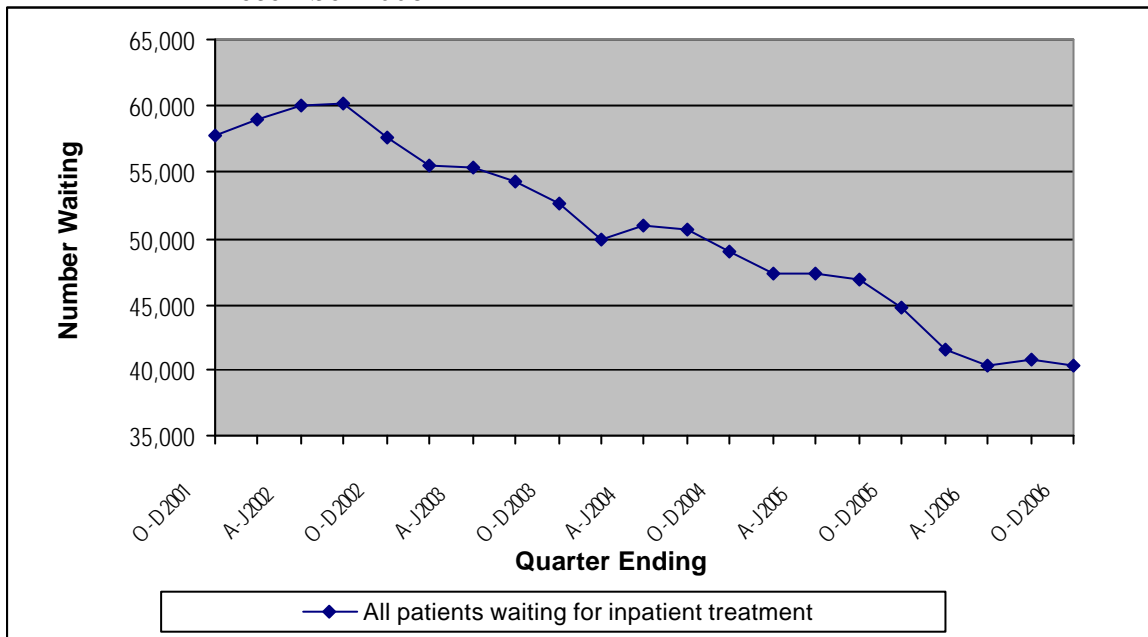
Peak Figures

The end of December 2006 total of 40,252 on the inpatient waiting list represents a decrease of 19,938 (-33.1%) on the peak waiting list figure of 60,190 (end September 2002).

Trends

The total number of people waiting for inpatient treatment was on a generally upward trend from June 2001, and rose to peak in September 2002. There has been an overall downward trend since this peak. Patients waiting 6 months and over have also been generally on a downward trend since September 2002 (Figure 2).

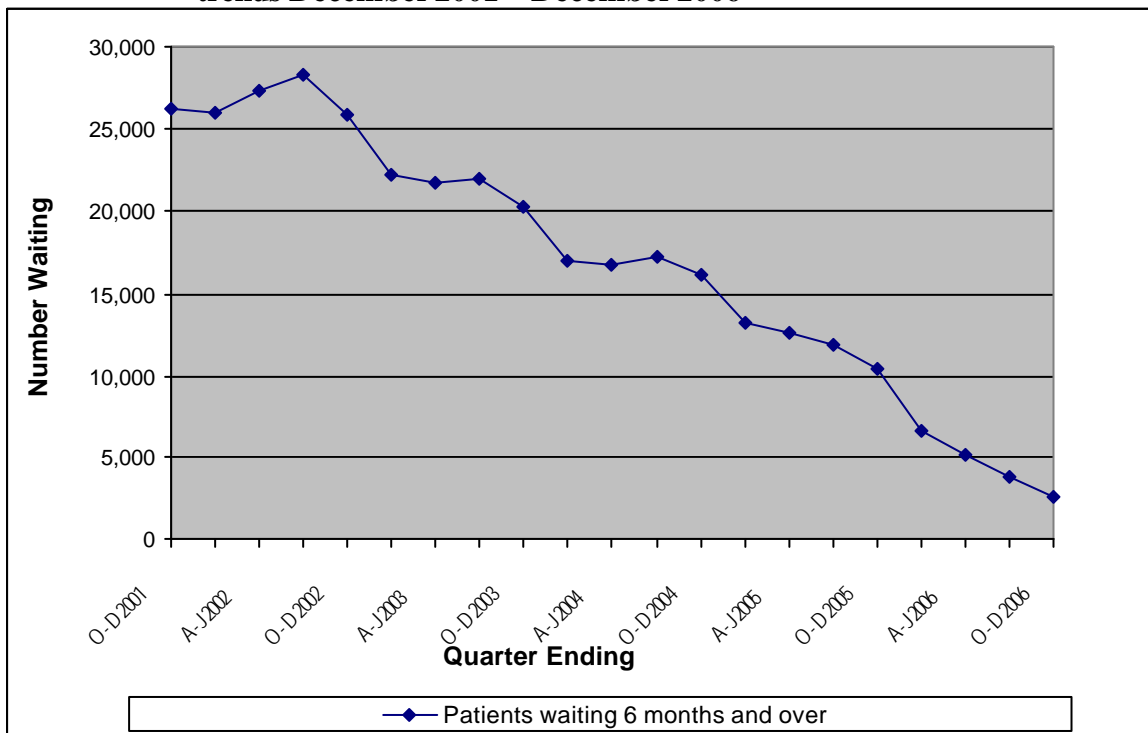
Figure 1 Total Quarterly Waiting Lists – Five yearly trends December 2001 – December 2006¹



Source: CH1

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Figure 2 Quarterly Waiting Lists Patients waiting 6 months and over²- Five yearly trends December 2001 – December 2006



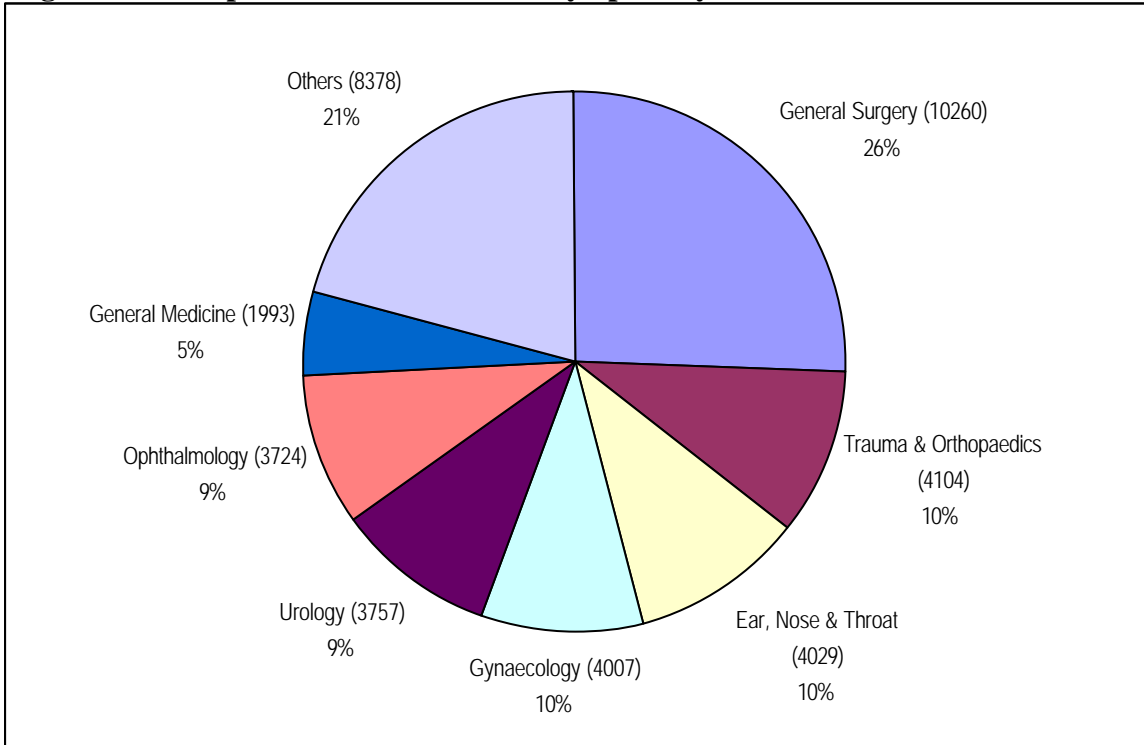
Source: CH1

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 3 & 10.

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

The overwhelming majority of those waiting (79.2%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Gynaecology (Gynae); Urology; Ophthalmology and General Medicine (Figure 3a). Figures for patients waiting 6 months and over are shown in Figure 3b.

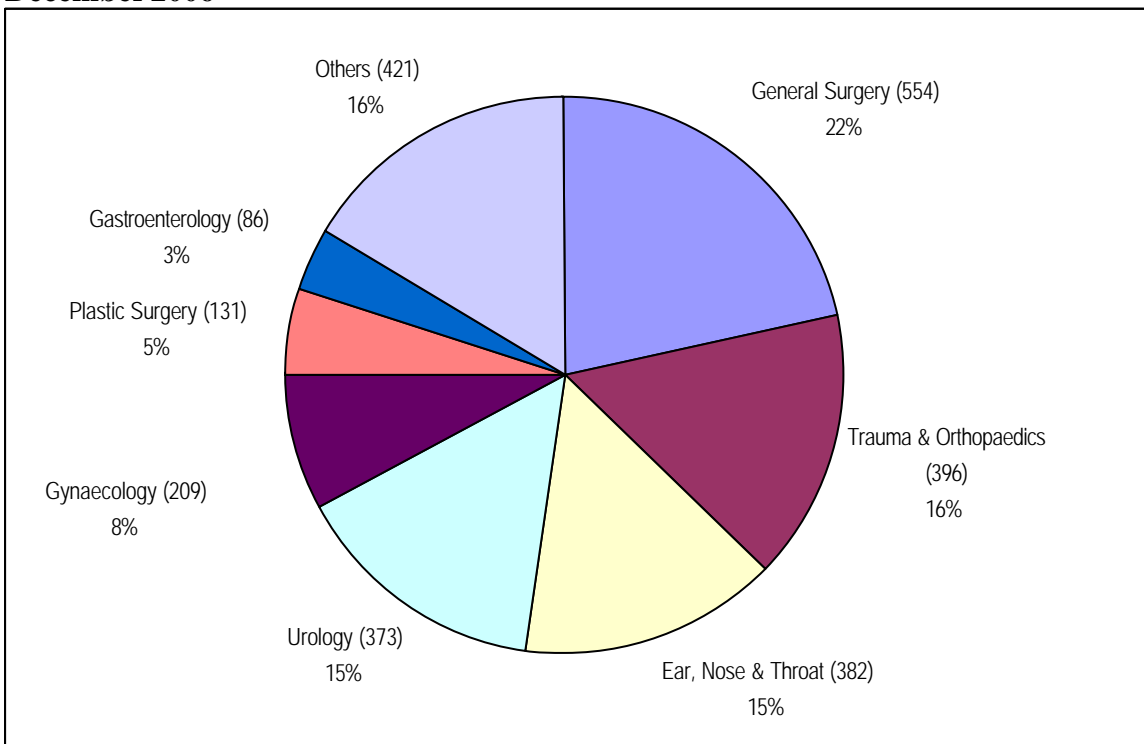
Figure 3a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of December 2006¹



Source: CH1

¹Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Figure 3b Inpatients – Patients waiting 6 months and over² by Specialty at the end of December 2006



Source: CH1

²Refer to Technical Notes – points 3 & 10.

Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 3a and 3b. Overall 93.7% of those waiting for admission were waiting less than 6 months. More than 99% of patients were waiting for treatment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 3a Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting and Specialty – December 2006¹

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting										Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +		
General Surgery	7,434	2,272	554	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,260
Trauma & Orthopaedics	2,363	1,345	396	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,104
Ear, Nose & Throat	2,458	1,189	382	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,029
Gynaecology	2,907	891	209	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,007
Urology	2,453	931	373	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,757
Ophthalmology	2,790	849	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,724
General Medicine	1,560	385	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,993
Gastroenterology	1,358	405	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,849
Cardiology	1,072	387	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,514
Plastic Surgery	557	308	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	996
Rheumatology	457	237	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	743
Pain Management	435	228	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	711
Dermatology	325	173	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	539
Paediatric Surgery	320	140	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	493
Oral Surgery	310	85	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	411
Cardiac Surgery	210	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	312
Neurology	98	41	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166
General Practice (Other)	119	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128
Thoracic Surgery	66	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
Nephrology	52	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Other	319	42	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	376
All Specialties	27,663	10,037	2,552	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,252

Source: CHI

¹Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Table 3b Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting and Specialty – December 2006¹

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting								
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +
General Surgery	72.5%	22.1%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	57.6%	32.8%	9.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ear, Nose & Throat	61.0%	29.5%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gynaecology	72.5%	22.2%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Urology	65.3%	24.8%	9.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ophthalmology	74.9%	22.8%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
General Medicine	78.3%	19.3%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gastroenterology	73.4%	21.9%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiology	70.8%	25.6%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plastic Surgery	55.9%	30.9%	13.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rheumatology	61.5%	31.9%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pain Management	61.2%	32.1%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dermatology	60.3%	32.1%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Surgery	64.9%	28.4%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Oral Surgery	75.4%	20.7%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiac Surgery	67.3%	32.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurology	59.0%	24.7%	16.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
General Practice (Other)	93.0%	5.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Thoracic Surgery	93.0%	5.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nephrology	75.4%	23.2%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	84.8%	11.2%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Specialties	68.7%	24.9%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: CH1

¹Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Inpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for inpatients by Trust are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Provider Trust and by Months Waiting – December 2006¹

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting									Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Altnagelvin Group	2,718	1,195	424	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,337
Armagh and Dungannon	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Belfast City Hospital	3,402	1,277	429	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,108
Causeway	1,281	234	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,526
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	3,871	1,632	386	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,889
Down Lisburn	1,151	298	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,467
Foyle Community	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Green Park Healthcare	2,091	1,241	295	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,627
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	1,594	514	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,278
Newry & Mourne	671	170	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	862
Royal Group of Hospitals	4,013	1,339	401	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,753
South and East Belfast	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Sperrin Lakeland	1,165	316	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,506
Ulster Community & Hospitals	2,775	914	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,838
United Hospitals Group	2,879	905	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,005
Total	27,663	10,037	2,552	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,252

Source: CH1

¹Refer to Technical Notes – point 10.

Inpatient Completed Waits – December 2006

Waiting times for completed inpatient waits are shown in Table 5. A total of 39,856 inpatients were admitted to hospital (excluding those who had previously refused an offer of admission) during the December 2006 quarter. When patients who had medically deferred or did not attend are included, the number of completed inpatient waits rises to 44,994.

Table 5 Completed Inpatient Waits³

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months									Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits	
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	Excluding patients who have medically deferred or did not attend on a previously arranged admission date	Including patients who have medically deferred or did not attend on a previously arranged admission date
J - M 2004	74.4%	11.6%	4.8%	3.5%	1.9%	1.3%	0.6%	0.5%	1.3%	40,924	44,157
A - J 2004	74.6%	11.4%	5.9%	3.1%	1.9%	1.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.9%	38,507	41,273
J - S 2004	73.1%	13.1%	5.4%	3.7%	1.9%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	37,166	40,153
O - D 2004	73.4%	12.3%	5.5%	3.7%	2.3%	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	41,330	44,232
J - D 2004	73.9%	12.1%	5.4%	3.5%	2.0%	1.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	157,927	169,815
J - M 2005	72.9%	12.9%	4.8%	3.9%	1.9%	1.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	39,248	42,567
A - J 2005	74.1%	12.5%	6.2%	3.1%	2.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	41,183	44,448
J - S 2005	72.0%	12.9%	5.4%	3.8%	2.4%	1.8%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	37,094	40,422
O - D 2005	72.7%	11.6%	6.1%	5.0%	2.9%	1.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	40,360	44,606
J - D 2005	72.9%	12.5%	5.6%	3.9%	2.3%	1.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	157,885	172,043
J - M 2006	70.2%	13.7%	6.9%	5.8%	2.3%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	41,111	45,827
A - J 2006	71.0%	14.8%	8.2%	4.8%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	39,308	43,553
J - S 2006	69.6%	16.4%	8.7%	4.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	36,752	41,004
O - D 2006	70.8%	17.7%	9.5%	1.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	39,856	44,994
J - D 2006	70.4%	15.6%	8.3%	4.1%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	157,027	175,378

Source: CH2 Part 1

³Refer to Technical Notes – point 12

Outpatients

Headline Totals - Table 6

The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment (including cancellations and deferrals) at the end of December 2006 stood at 154,555.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of September 2006 (177,508), the total number has decreased by 22,953 (-12.9%).

Over the year, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of December 2005 (180,063), the total number waiting decreased by 25,508 (-14.2%).

Excluding cancellations and deferrals, the quarterly and annual decreases were 13.8% and 12.9% respectively.

Table 6: Quarterly Outpatient Waiting Lists - December 2006

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending December 2006	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Excluding Cancellations and Deferrals	144,172	-23,007	-21,364
Cancellations and Deferrals	10,383	+ 54	-4,144
Total Waiting	154,555	-22,953	-25,508

Source: CH3

Waiting Times for Initial Outpatient Appointment - Table 7

At the end of December 2006, the number of patients waiting 6 months and over was 43,883 or 28.4% of the total waiting.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of September 2006, the number of people waiting 6 months and over decreased by 13,985 (-24.2%).

Over the year, comparing the end of December 2006 with the end of December 2005, the number of people waiting 6 months and over decreased by 31,176 (-41.5%).

Table 7 Patients Waiting 6 Months and Over⁴ - December 2006

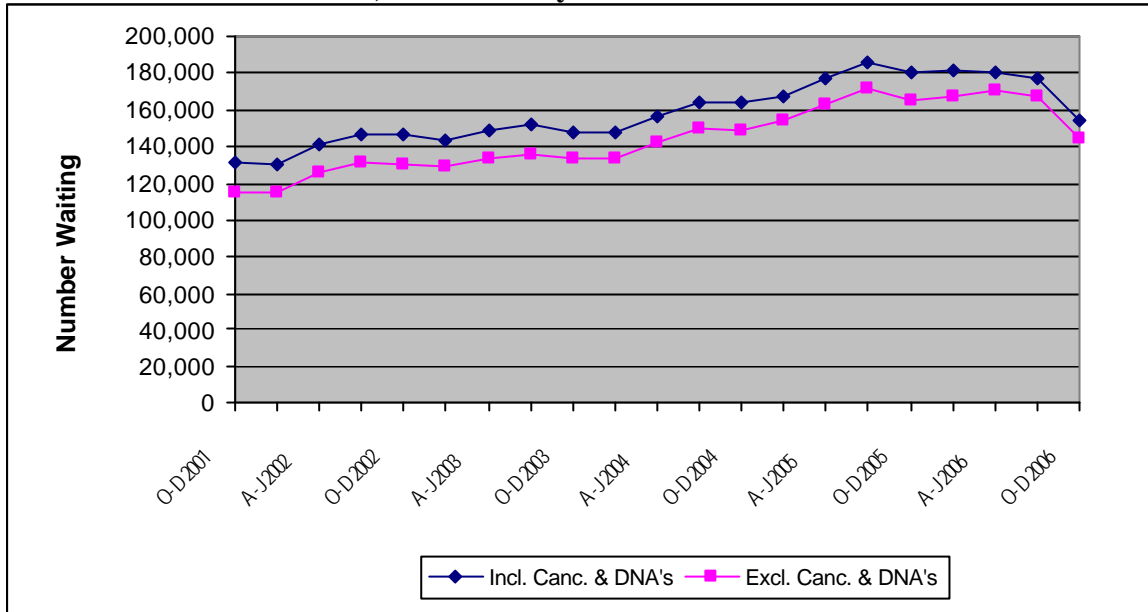
Waiting for:	Quarter Ending December 2006	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Excluding Cancellations and Deferrals	42,646	-13,840	-23,051
Cancellations and Deferrals	1,237	-145	-8,125
Total Waiting	43,883	-13,985	-31,176

Source: CH3

⁴ Refer to Technical Notes – Point 3.

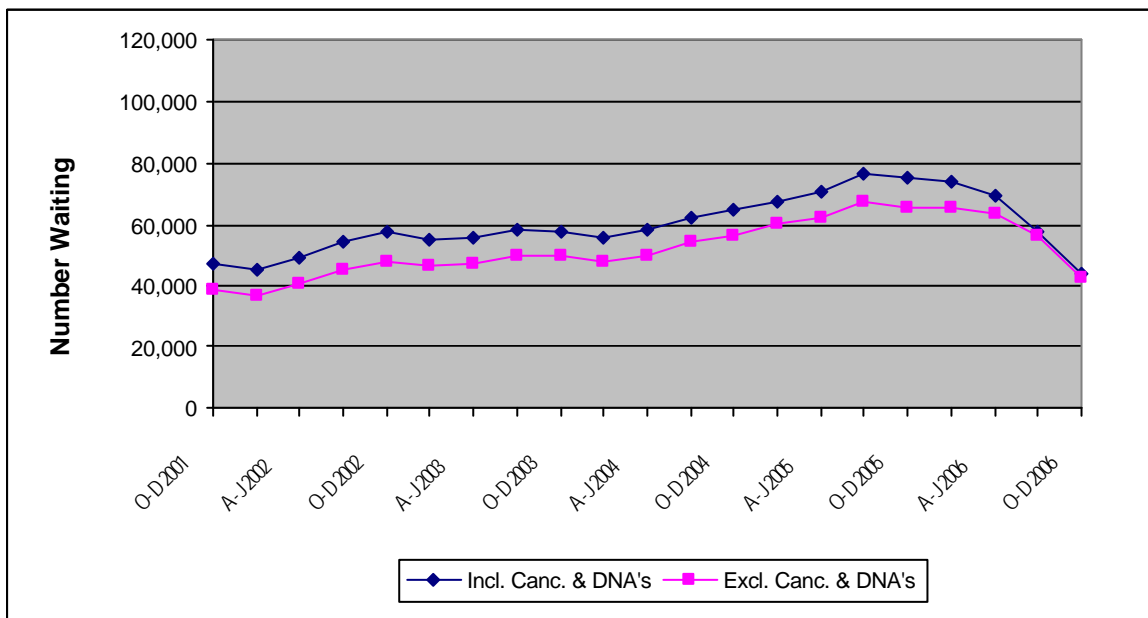
Figure 4 shows five yearly trends in the number of outpatients waiting for a first appointment. Figure 5 shows the same trends information for patients waiting 6 months and over for a first outpatient appointment.

Figure 4 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment (including and excluding cancellations and deferrals) – Five Yearly Trends December 2001 – December 2006



Source: CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

Figure 5 Patients waiting 6 months and over - Five Yearly Trends December 2001 – December 2006⁴



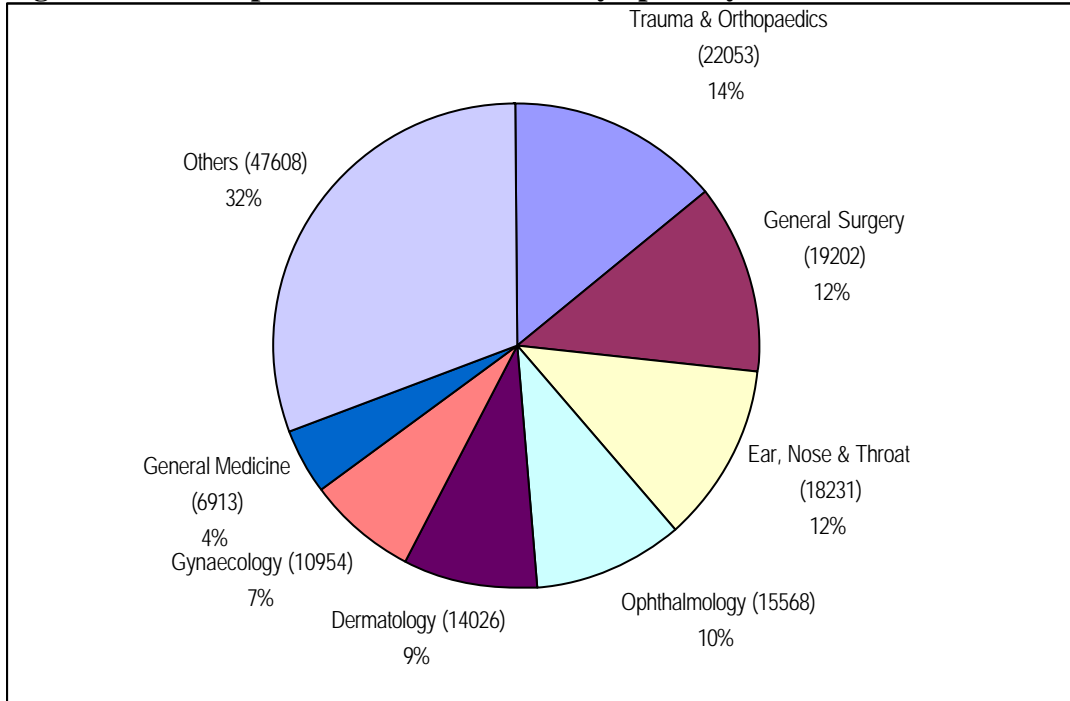
Source: CH3 Parts 1 & 2

⁴ Refer to Technical Notes - Point 3

Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

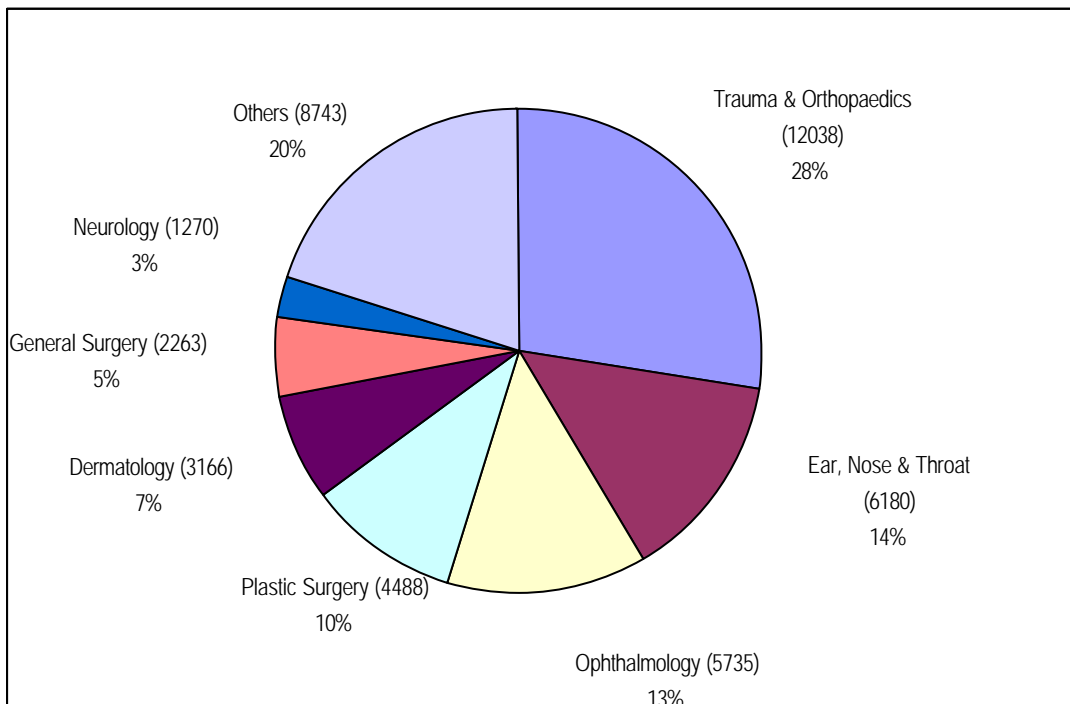
The majority of those waiting (69.2%) were within seven specialties: Trauma & Orthopaedics; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Ophthalmology; Dermatology, Gynaecology (Gynae) and General Medicine (Figure 6a). Figures for patients waiting 6 months and over are shown in Figure 6b. Figures represent the total number waiting for their first outpatient appointment during the December 2006 quarter including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment.

Figure 6a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of December 2006



Source: CH3.

Figure 6b Outpatients – Patients waiting 6 months and over⁴ by Specialty at the end of December 2006



Source: CH3.

⁴ Refer to Technical Notes – Point 3.

Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 8a and 8b. The proportion of those waiting less than 6 months ranged from 100.0% in the Genito-Urinary Medicine specialty to 23.3% in Plastic Surgery. Overall three fifths (71.6%) of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 6 months.

Table 8a Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty – December 2006

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting									Total Number of Patients Awaiting Appointment
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Trauma & Orthopaedics	6,658	3,357	2,742	1,614	1,146	997	929	701	3,909	22,053
General Surgery	12,538	4,401	1,656	503	85	6	10	1	2	19,202
Ear, Nose & Throat	7,964	4,087	2,034	1,002	695	639	545	411	854	18,231
Ophthalmology	6,560	3,273	2,275	1,223	820	535	353	174	355	15,568
Dermatology	6,992	3,868	1,561	733	295	294	193	44	46	14,026
Gynaecology	7,603	2,551	497	115	79	37	32	21	19	10,954
General Medicine	4,596	1,113	551	257	101	53	58	45	139	6,913
Plastic Surgery	800	562	584	374	292	286	257	172	2,523	5,850
Cardiology	2,787	785	521	206	94	21	29	11	10	4,464
Paediatrics	2,837	966	326	112	36	13	6	5	9	4,310
Neurology	1,632	827	446	320	192	117	94	49	52	3,729
Oral Surgery	1,728	601	349	161	97	86	70	47	52	3,191
Urology	1,998	708	167	33	9	6	2	1	2	2,926
Rheumatology	1,464	762	318	80	21	20	10	5	6	2,686
Restorative Dentistry	987	514	570	189	61	40	26	18	10	2,415
Mental Illness	1,650	390	125	6	2	1	1	0	0	2,175
Pain Management	738	418	169	84	94	66	52	38	279	1,938
Genito-Urinary Medicine	1,332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,332
Orthodontics	470	325	236	185	30	0	1	0	0	1,247
Geriatric Medicine	905	232	16	13	4	0	1	0	8	1,179
Other	6,759	1,934	941	307	136	47	29	5	8	10,166
All Specialties	78,998	31,674	16,084	7,517	4,289	3,264	2,698	1,748	8,283	154,555

Source: CH3

Table 8b Percentage of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty – December 2006

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting								
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24+
Trauma & Orthopaedics	30.2%	15.2%	12.4%	7.3%	5.2%	4.5%	4.2%	3.2%	17.7%
General Surgery	65.3%	22.9%	8.6%	2.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Ear, Nose & Throat	43.7%	22.4%	11.2%	5.5%	3.8%	3.5%	3.0%	2.3%	4.7%
Ophthalmology	42.1%	21.0%	14.6%	7.9%	5.3%	3.4%	2.3%	1.1%	2.3%
Dermatology	49.9%	27.6%	11.1%	5.2%	2.1%	2.1%	1.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Gynaecology	69.4%	23.3%	4.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
General Medicine	66.5%	16.1%	8.0%	3.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	2.0%
Plastic Surgery	13.7%	9.6%	10.0%	6.4%	5.0%	4.9%	4.4%	2.9%	43.1%
Cardiology	62.4%	17.6%	11.7%	4.6%	2.1%	0.5%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%
Paediatrics	65.8%	22.4%	7.6%	2.6%	0.8%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Neurology	43.8%	22.2%	12.0%	8.6%	5.1%	3.1%	2.5%	1.3%	1.4%
Oral Surgery	54.2%	18.8%	10.9%	5.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.2%	1.5%	1.6%
Urology	68.3%	24.2%	5.7%	1.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Rheumatology	54.5%	28.4%	11.8%	3.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Restorative Dentistry	40.9%	21.3%	23.6%	7.8%	2.5%	1.7%	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%
Mental Illness	75.9%	17.9%	5.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pain Management	38.1%	21.6%	8.7%	4.3%	4.9%	3.4%	2.7%	2.0%	14.4%
Genito-Urinary Medicine	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Orthodontics	37.7%	26.1%	18.9%	14.8%	2.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Geriatric Medicine	76.8%	19.7%	1.4%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.7%
Other	66.5%	19.0%	9.3%	3.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
All Specialties	51.1%	20.5%	10.4%	4.9%	2.8%	2.1%	1.7%	1.1%	5.4%

Source: CH3.

Outpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for outpatients by Trust are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Outpatient Appointment by Provider Trust and Months Waiting – December 2006

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting									Total Number
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Altnagelvin Group	9,738	3,114	1,503	461	100	17	4	3	3	14,943
Armagh & Dungannon	1,008	400	145	36	23	16	29	17	41	1,715
Belfast City Hospital	7,554	2,231	503	99	21	4	1	3	1	10,417
Causeway	2,707	551	200	42	14	6	7	5	0	3,532
Craigavon & Banbridge	312	121	43	10	8	3	6	5	9	517
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	7,145	3,629	1,306	731	506	362	219	80	69	14,047
Down Lisburn	3,326	998	315	122	105	79	49	9	1	5,004
Foyle Community	250	35	10	5	3	0	2	3	2	310
Green Park Healthcare	4,496	2,546	1,906	1,059	790	708	618	471	2,280	14,874
Homefirst Community	488	39	24	5	0	0	0	0	0	556
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	3,223	1,432	921	211	52	9	0	0	3	5,851
North and West Belfast	84	70	47	8	0	0	0	0	0	209
Newry & Mourne	3,004	1,215	402	36	22	17	4	0	0	4,700
Royal Group of Hospitals	15,389	6,839	4,309	2,067	1,217	866	770	475	2,062	33,994
South and East Belfast	282	135	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	427
Sperrin Lakeland	2,713	1,188	200	16	1	0	0	0	0	4,118
Ulster Community & Hospitals	8,891	4,237	2,585	1,364	655	553	463	259	2,724	21,731
United Hospitals Group	8,388	2,894	1,655	1,245	772	624	526	418	1,088	17,610
Total	78,998	31,674	16,084	7,517	4,289	3,264	2,698	1,748	8,283	154,555

Source: CH3

Outpatient Waiting Time by Programme of Care

Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment by programme of care are shown in Table 10. The vast majority (96.4%) of patients were awaiting their first outpatient appointment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 10 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Programme of Care – December 2006

Programme of Care	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting									Total Number
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Acute Services	74,695	30,793	15,777	7,433	4,264	3,263	2,694	1,745	8,275	148,939
Maternity & Child Health	827	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	837
Elderly Care	1,340	355	69	31	4	0	1	0	8	1,808
Mental Health	2,082	510	222	50	19	1	3	3	0	2,890
Learning Disability	54	7	15	3	2	0	0	0	0	81
All POCs	78,998	31,674	16,084	7,517	4,289	3,264	2,698	1,748	8,283	154,555

Source: CH3

Outpatient Completed Waits

Waiting times for completed outpatient waits are shown in Table 11. During the December 2006 quarter a total of 104,266 outpatients attended their first appointment without having cancelled or missed a previous appointment. When patients who didn't attend or who cancelled a previous appointment are included, the completed outpatient waits total is 113,927.

Table 11 Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment⁵

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months									Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits	
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	Excluding patients who had cancelled or did not attend a previous appointment	Including patients who had cancelled or did not attend a previous appointment
J - M 2004	69.8%	17.1%	5.2%	2.9%	1.7%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	1.1%	91,496	99,195
A - J 2004	71.8%	15.9%	5.5%	2.7%	1.7%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	88,213	95,422
J - S 2004	70.6%	17.9%	5.4%	2.5%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	84,455	92,527
O - D 2004	68.9%	17.3%	7.0%	2.6%	1.4%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	91,915	99,955
J - D 2004	70.3%	17.1%	5.8%	2.7%	1.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.8%	356,079	387,099
J - M 2005	68.4%	16.4%	7.0%	3.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	86,944	94,865
A - J 2005	70.1%	15.6%	6.9%	2.9%	1.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	91,489	99,698
J - S 2005	70.8%	16.0%	5.7%	2.9%	1.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	82,721	92,047
O - D 2005	67.7%	15.9%	7.5%	3.1%	1.9%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	1.3%	91,969	101,037
J - D 2005	69.2%	16.0%	6.8%	3.1%	1.8%	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	353,123	387,647
J - M 2006	68.0%	15.6%	7.6%	3.7%	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	0.6%	1.1%	91,695	101,249
A - J 2006	68.3%	15.0%	7.2%	4.0%	1.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	1.3%	90,531	99,418
J - S 2006	63.9%	16.0%	7.3%	4.9%	2.7%	1.7%	1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	90,716	100,769
O - D 2006	61.0%	17.8%	9.7%	4.5%	2.6%	1.4%	0.9%	0.6%	1.5%	104,266	113,927
J - D 2006	65.2%	16.2%	8.0%	4.3%	2.1%	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	1.3%	377,208	415,363

Source: CH4 Part 1

⁵Refer to Technical Notes – points 17 & 18.

Technical Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Information Returns CH1, CH2, CH3 and CH4. These returns collect information from Hospital Trusts on a quarterly basis.
2. Trust based information (CH1, CH2, CH3 and CH4) returns include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals. This Trust based information falls within the scope of National Statistics.
3. Patients waiting 6 months and over include all patients in the following time bands: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17, 18-20, 21-23 and 24+ months.
4. Waiting time relates to the number of completed months a patient has been waiting (or in the case for completed waits, how long a patient had waited) for either their first outpatient appointment or for inpatient admission. For example, a patient waiting 11 months and 30 days would be included in the 9-11 month category and a patient waiting 12 months and 01 day would be included in the 12-14 month category.
5. Inpatient waiting list data comprises the number of patients waiting for ordinary admission to hospital and the number of patients waiting for day case treatment.
6. Ordinary admissions include both (a) patients admitted electively with the expectation that they will remain in hospital for at least one night, and (b) non-elective admissions (e.g. emergency admissions). A patient who is admitted with either of the above intentions, but who leaves hospital for any reason without staying overnight, is still counted as an ordinary admission. Day cases are not included.
7. Day Cases are patients admitted electively during the course of a day with the intention of receiving care who do not require the use of a hospital bed overnight and who return home as scheduled. If this original intention is not fulfilled and the patient stays overnight, such a patient is counted as an ordinary admission.
8. The waiting list inpatient figures presented include people waiting to be admitted as inpatients either as day cases or ordinary admissions. They do not include:
 - Patients admitted as emergency cases;
 - Outpatients;
 - Patients undergoing a planned programme of treatment e.g. a series of admissions for chemotherapy;
 - Maternity (specialties 510 and 520);
 - Patients already in hospitals but included on other waiting lists;
 - Patients who are temporarily suspended from waiting lists.
9. Waiting time begins from the date the clinician decided to admit the patient. Patients subsequently offered a date but unable to attend have their waiting times calculated from the most recent date offered. These are known as self-deferred cases and are included in the total number waiting. Waiting times for inpatient / daycase treatment does not include periods of suspension for medical or social reasons.
10. The Department has recently discovered that a number of community dentistry services have not, to date, been reported on the CH1 Return (inpatient waits). As a result, returns relating to community Dentistry from Foyle Community, Armagh and Dungannon and Causeway HSS Trusts Homefirst HSS

Trust have been unable to provide figures for the number of patients waiting for inpatient treatment but have stated that they will submit waiting lists for applicable community Dentistry patients from the quarter ending 31 December 2007.

11. The number of people waiting for inpatient admission at 30 September 2006 has been revised from 40,707 to 40,741. This is due to an amendment received from Causeway and United Hospitals Group HSS Trusts.
12. Waiting times for completed inpatient waits relate to the entire time period between the initial decision to admit and the date of treatment. Figures for completed waits do not include all activity commissioned by the HPSS in Northern Ireland that has been carried out by the Independent Sector. The percentage of completed inpatient waits by time waiting in months relates solely to the number of completed inpatient waits excluding patients who had medically deferred or who did not attend a previously arranged date of admission.
13. Outpatients are defined as patients still waiting for their first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of his firm or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral.
14. Outpatient waiting list figures presented do not include maternity specialties 510 and 520.
15. The number of people awaiting an initial outpatient appointment at 30 September 2006 has been revised from 177,685 to 177,508. This is due to an amendment received from Foyle Community HSS Trust.
16. Following a recent revision in policy, cleared by the Health Minister, patients who either cancel or fail to attend an outpatient appointment have their waiting time reset to either the date on which the appointment was cancelled or the date on which they did not attend the appointment. Outpatient waiting list figures (Departmental Information Return CH3) for September and December have been updated to reflect this policy change.
17. Waiting times for completed outpatient waits relate to the entire time period between the initial referral and the date the patient attended their first outpatient appointment. Figures for completed waits do not include all activity commissioned by the HPSS in Northern Ireland that has been carried out by the Independent Sector. The percentage of completed outpatient waits by time waiting in months relates solely to the number of completed outpatient waits excluding patients who had cancelled or failed to attend a previous first outpatient appointment.
18. Due to reasons beyond the control of the Trust, United Hospitals HSS Trust has been unable to produce CH4 data for all quarters between March 2001 and December 2006. This Trust has provided estimated totals for these quarters and estimates for each time band have been calculated. These new estimates for the missing data for the United Group of Hospitals have been included in the data shown in Table 11. When CH4 data becomes available these estimates will be recast.
19. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety policy is to publish revised figures with subsequent statistical releases unless it is decided that the magnitude of the change merits earlier notification.
20. Figures relating to the quarter ending 31st March 2007 will be released on Thursday, 7th June 2007.

21. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on
020 7533 5888.

minicom: 01633 812399

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Fax: 01633 652747

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LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet – Go to www.statistics.gov.uk.

Additional Information

Further information on waiting lists in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager
Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

E-mail: rib@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats-hospital_community_statistics#waiting