

Statistics Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
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MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

04 September 2008

Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – June 2008

This statistics release gives details of the number of people waiting for either inpatient treatment, a first outpatient assessment or a selected diagnostic service at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2008, the most recent quarter for which figures are available.

Inpatients

Headline Totals¹ – Table 1

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2008 stood at 36,273.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of June 2008 with the end of March 2008 (36,994), the total number waiting has decreased by 721 (-1.9%). Comparing the end of June 2008 with the end of June 2007 (35,894), the total number waiting has increased by 379 (+1.1%).

Table 1 **Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – June 2008**

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2008	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	11,465	-560	-996
Day case Admissions	24,808	-161	+1375
Total Waiting	36,273	-721	+379

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹ Refer to technical notes – points 1-4 & 7-10.

Detailed notes and definitions are provided in the Technical Notes.



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.

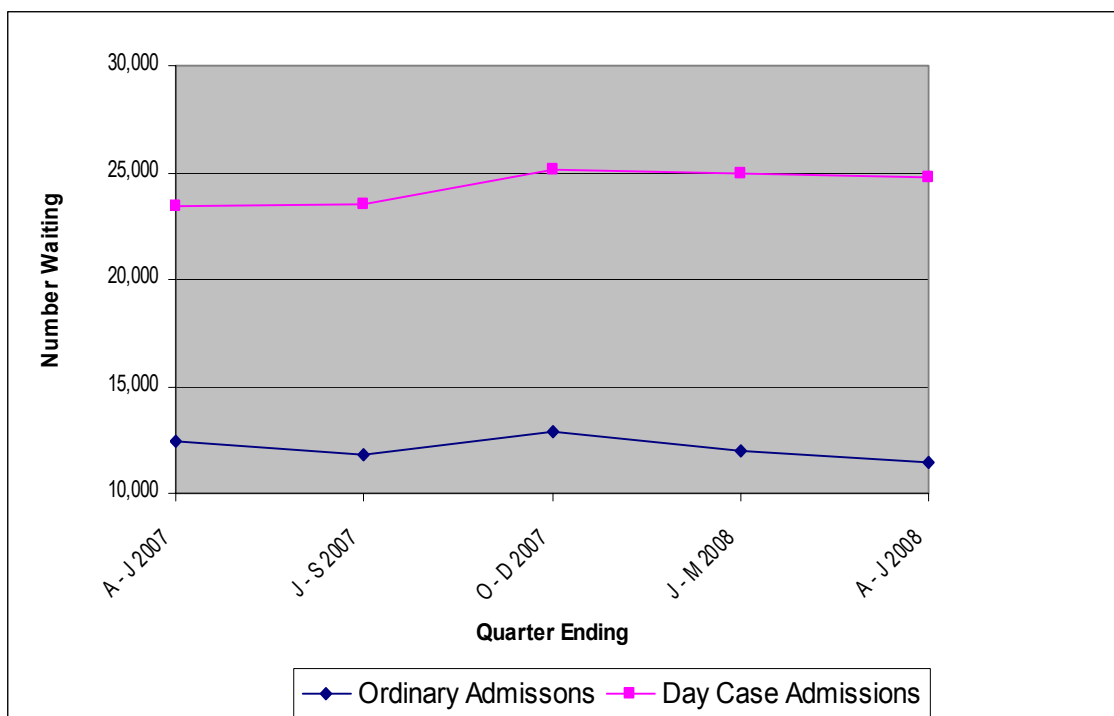
Of the 36,273 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of June 2008, 11,465 (31.6%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 24,808 (68.4%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 1).

Since the end of March 2008, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 560 (-4.7%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 161 (-0.6%). Compared with the end of June 2007, the number waiting for ordinary admission decreased by 996 (-8.0%) with the number waiting for day case admission increased by 1,375 (+5.9%).

Trends

The total number of patients waiting for both ordinary and day case admission has remained reasonably constant over the last five quarters.

Figure 1 Number of patients waiting for (i) Ordinary Admissions and (ii) Day case Admissions, Five Quarterly Trends June 2007 – June 2008



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Ordinary Admission and Day Cases Waiting More Than 13 Weeks² – Table 2

The 2008/09 Priority for Action target relating to waiting times for inpatient treatment, states that from April 2008 no patient should wait longer than 21 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment, reducing to 13 weeks by 31st March 2009.

At the end of June 2008, there were 4,713 patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient treatment, of which 55 were waiting more than 21 weeks, with two of these waiting over 26 weeks. Of the 4,713 patients waiting more than 13 weeks, 1,841 (39.1%) were awaiting ordinary admission and 2,872 (60.9%) were awaiting day case procedures.

Table 2 Patients Waiting More Than 13 Weeks² – June 2008

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2008	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary Admissions	1,841	-1,158	-1,861
Day Case Admissions	2,872	-1,610	-1,864
Total Waiting	4,713	-2,768	-3,725

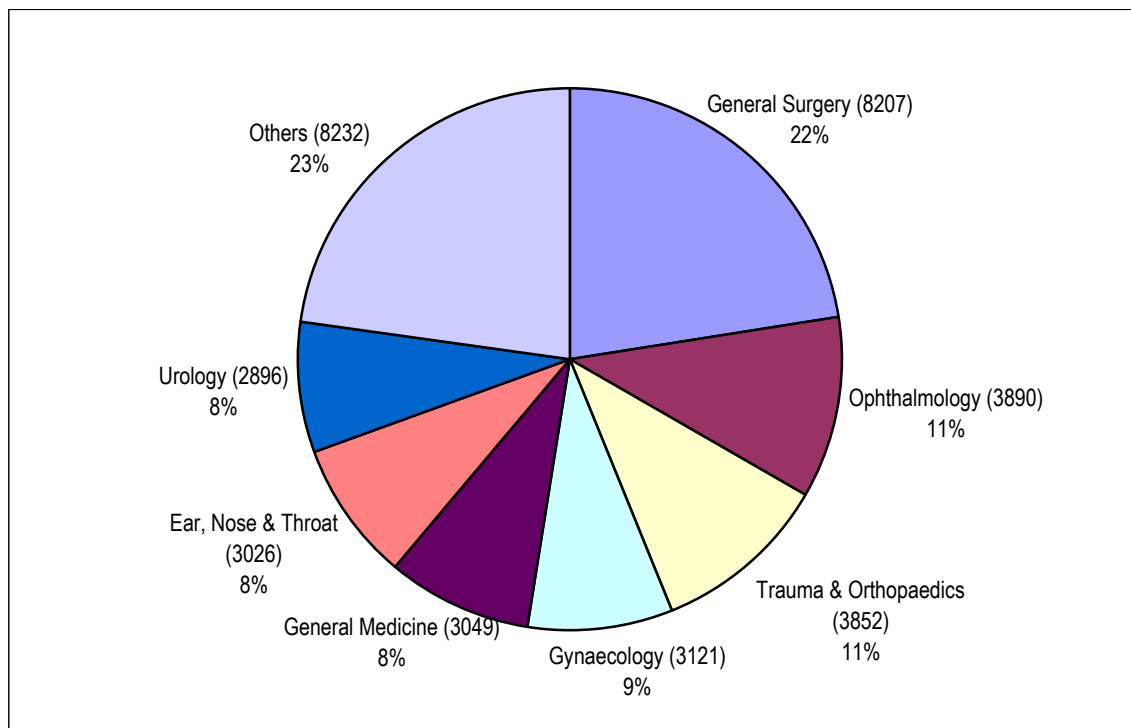
Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

The overwhelming majority of those waiting (77.0%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Ophthalmology; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Gynaecology (Gynae); General Medicine; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) and Urology (Figure 2a).

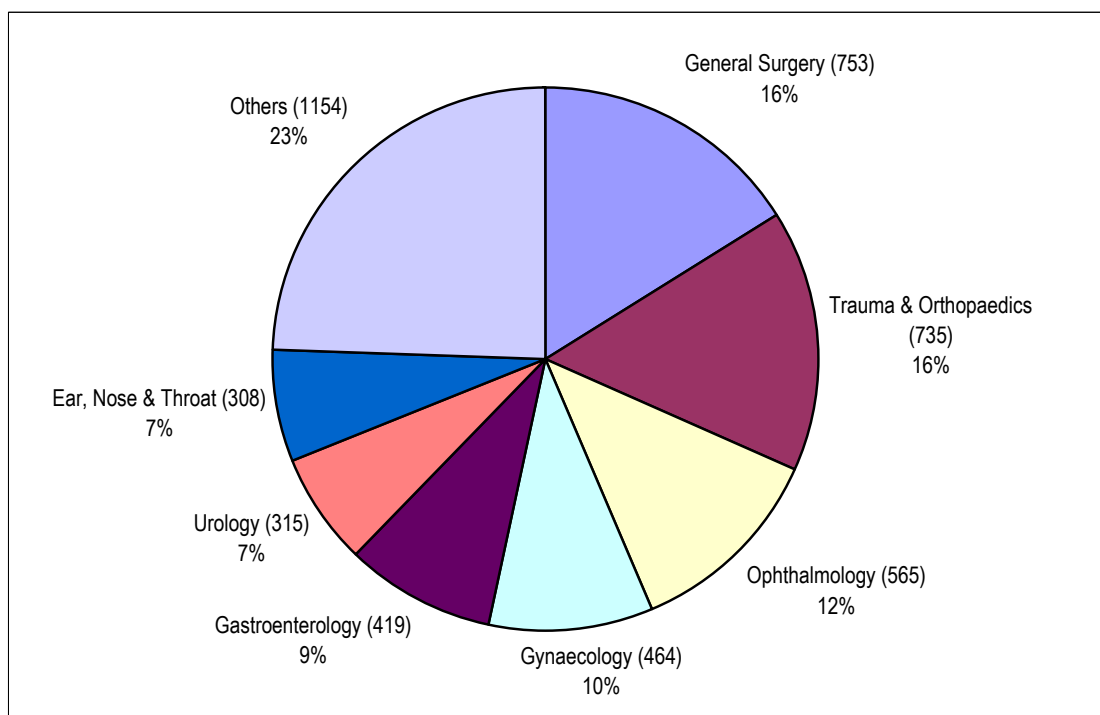
Figure 2a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of June 2008²



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

Figure 2b Inpatients – Patients waiting more than 13 weeks by Specialty at the end of June 2008²



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 3a and 3b. Overall 87.0% of those waiting for admission were waiting 13 weeks or less. More than 98% of patients were waiting for treatment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 3a Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – June 2008²

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26	
General Surgery	4,621	2,833	752	1	0	8,207
Ophthalmology	1,697	1,628	565	0	0	3,890
Trauma & Orthopaedics	1,631	1,486	698	37	0	3,852
Gynaecology	1,553	1,104	463	1	0	3,121
General Medicine	1,872	936	241	0	0	3,049
Ear, Nose & Throat	1,486	1,232	308	0	0	3,026
Urology	1,594	987	307	7	1	2,896
Gastroenterology	1,206	981	419	0	0	2,606
Cardiology	555	302	133	3	1	994
Pain Management	384	268	175	0	0	827
Plastic Surgery	246	274	141	1	0	662
Oral Surgery	285	217	75	0	0	577
Rheumatology	144	190	156	0	0	490
Paediatric Surgery	161	117	46	3	0	327
Dermatology	224	66	24	0	0	314
Cardiac Surgery	88	133	90	0	0	311
General Practice (Other)	240	28	2	0	0	270
Neurosurgery	85	73	14	0	0	172
Neurology	87	43	15	0	0	145
Nephrology	41	28	8	0	0	77
Other	317	117	26	0	0	460
All Specialties	18,517	13,043	4,658	53	2	36,273

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

Table 3b Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – June 2008 ²

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting				
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26
General Surgery	56.3%	34.5%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Ophthalmology	43.6%	41.9%	14.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	42.3%	38.6%	18.1%	1.0%	0.0%
Gynaecology	49.8%	35.4%	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%
General Medicine	61.4%	30.7%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Ear, Nose & Throat	49.1%	40.7%	10.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Urology	55.0%	34.1%	10.6%	0.2%	0.0%
Gastroenterology	46.3%	37.6%	16.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiology	55.8%	30.4%	13.4%	0.3%	0.1%
Pain Management	46.4%	32.4%	21.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Plastic Surgery	37.2%	41.4%	21.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Oral Surgery	49.4%	37.6%	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rheumatology	29.4%	38.8%	31.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Surgery	49.2%	35.8%	14.1%	0.9%	0.0%
Dermatology	71.3%	21.0%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiac Surgery	28.3%	42.8%	28.9%	0.0%	0.0%
General Practice (Other)	88.9%	10.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurosurgery	49.4%	42.4%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurology	60.0%	29.7%	10.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Nephrology	53.2%	36.4%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	68.9%	25.4%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%
All Specialties	51.0%	36.0%	12.8%	0.1%	0.0%

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

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 Weeks Waiting – June 2008²

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26	
Belfast	7,002	5,429	2,164	53	1	14,649
Northern	2,927	1,841	633	0	0	5,401
South Eastern	2,631	1,449	277	0	0	4,357
Southern	2,649	2,443	1,068	0	0	6,160
Western	3,308	1,881	516	0	1	5,706
Total	18,517	13,043	4,658	53	2	36,273

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

² Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-11.

Completed Inpatient Waits – June 2008

Waiting times for completed inpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland are shown in Table 5. A total of 48,612 inpatients were admitted to Health Service hospitals during the June 2008 quarter.

Table 5 Completed Inpatient Waits³

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits	
	Excluding patients who self deferred or did not attend on a previously arranged admission date	Including patients who self deferred or did not attend on a previously arranged admission date
J - M 2005	39,359	42,567
A - J 2005	41,285	44,448
J - S 2005	37,191	40,422
O - D 2005	40,456	44,606
J - D 2005	158,291	172,043
J - M 2006	41,240	45,827
A - J 2006	39,425	43,553
J - S 2006	36,858	41,004
O - D 2006	39,973	44,994
J - D 2006	157,496	175,378
J - M 2007	41,197	46,645
A - J 2007	40,856	46,140
J - S 2007	38,530	43,853
O - D 2007	40,538	46,230
J - D 2007	161,121	182,868
J - M 2008	39,091	45,217
A - J 2008	42,372	48,612

Source: Departmental Return CH2

³ Refer to Technical Notes – points 12-13.

Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity – June 2008

During the June 2008 quarter, a number of patients received inpatient treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. Estimates of the number of patients admitted for inpatient treatment within the Independent Sector have been provided by the commissioning Trust.

It is estimated that approximately 1,965 Health Service patients were treated within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending June 2008. When this number is combined with that for inpatients admitted to Health Service hospitals during the quarter, it is estimated that approximately 50,577 inpatients were admitted to hospital in Northern Ireland for treatment commissioned by the Health Service.

Table 6a Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity⁴

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	20,498	508	21,006
Northern	6,716	181	6,897
South Eastern	7,077	119	7,196
Southern	6,936	152	7,088
Western	7,385	1,005	8,390
Total Treated	48,612	1,965	50,577

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

⁴ Refer to Technical Notes – points 12-14.

Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity, Quarter Ending 30 June 2007 – Quarter Ending 30 June 2008

Table 6b has been included to reflect the total completed inpatient waits for Health Service patients for the past five quarters.

Table 6b Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity⁴, Quarter Ending 30 June 2007 – Quarter Ending 30 June 2008

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	30 June 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2007	31 March 2008	30 June 2008
Belfast	21,371	19,899	21,097	21,069	21,006
Northern	6,076	6,602	6,313	5,817	6,897
South Eastern	7,001	6,999	7,128	7,000	7,196
Southern	6,784	6,320	6,653	6,716	7,088
Western	7,322	7,004	7,426	7,270	8,390
Total	48,554	46,824	48,617	47,872	50,577

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

⁴ Refer to Technical Notes – points 12-14.

Outpatients

Headline Totals - Table 7

The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment (including cancellations and deferrals) at the end of June 2008 stood at 78,791.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of June 2008 with the end of March 2008 (72,957), the total number has increased by 5,834 (+8.0%).

Over the year, comparing the end of June 2008 with the end of June 2007 (94,558), the total number waiting decreased by 15,767 (-16.7%).

Excluding cancellations and deferrals, the quarterly increase and annual decrease were 7.4% and 17.2% respectively.

Table 7 Quarterly Outpatient Waiting Lists - June 2008⁵

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2008	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Excluding Cancellations and Deferrals	72,445	5,005	-15,061
Cancellations and Deferrals	6,346	829	-706
Total Waiting	78,791	+ 5834	-15,767

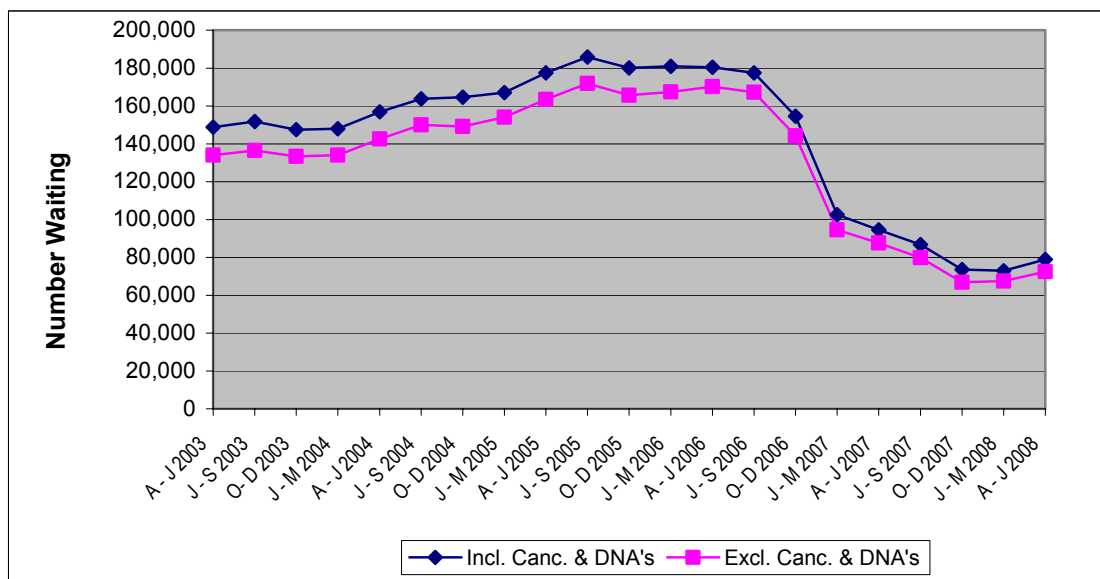
Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

⁵ Refer to Technical Notes 15 - 20.

Trends

The total number of people waiting for a first outpatient appointment peaked in September 2005. There has been a downward trend since this peak and the outpatient waiting lists total has decreased in eight of the previous nine quarters.

Figure 3 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment (including and excluding cancellations and deferrals), Five Yearly Trends June 2003 – June 2008



Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

Outpatients Waiting More than 9 Weeks

The 2008/09 Priority For Action Target relating to Waiting Times for a first outpatient appointment states that 'Trusts should ensure that, from April 2008, no patient waits longer than 13 weeks for a first outpatient appointment, reducing to 9 weeks by March 2009. At the end of June 2008, the number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment was 8,424, 10.7% of the total waiting.

Table 8 Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks⁵ - June 2008

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2008
Excluding Cancellations and Deferrals	8,185
Cancellations and Deferrals	239
Total Waiting	8,424

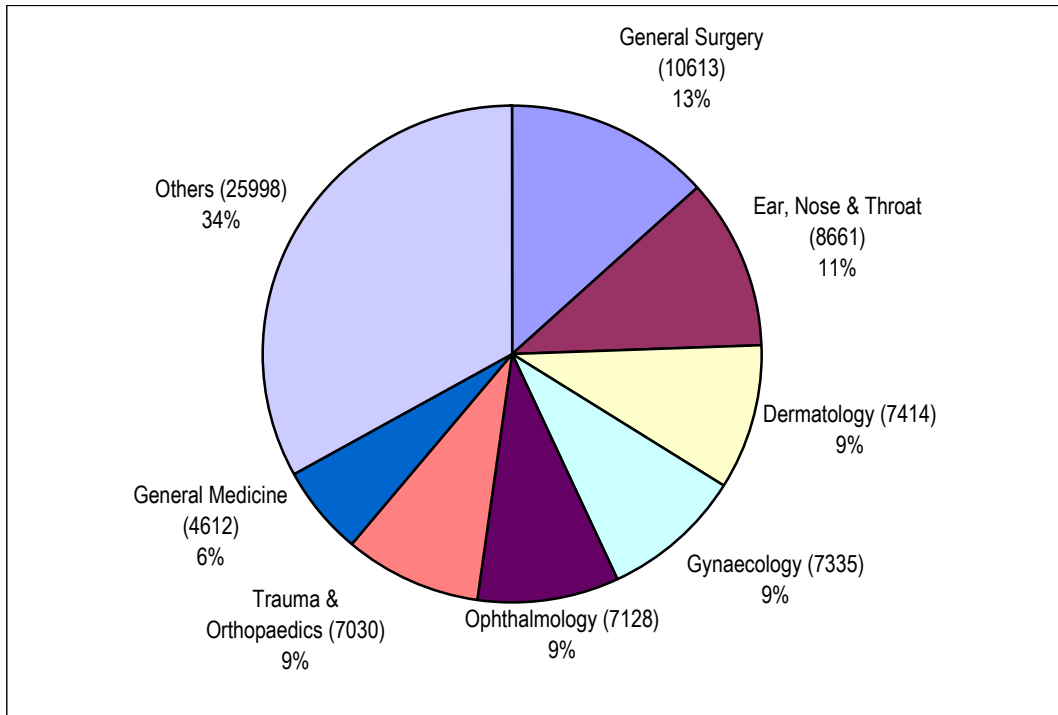
Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

⁵ Refer to Technical Notes 15-20.

Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

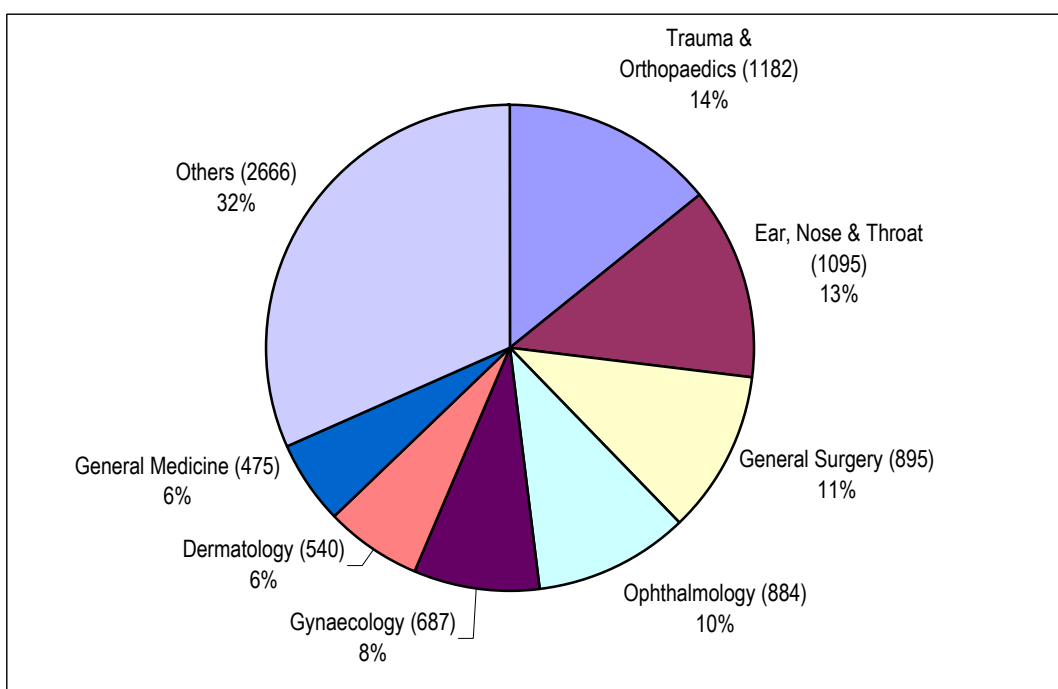
The majority of those waiting (66.0%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Dermatology; Gynaecology (Gynae); Ophthalmology; Trauma & Orthopaedics and General Medicine (Figure 4a). Figures represent the total number waiting for their first outpatient appointment during the June 2008 quarter including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment.

Figure 4a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of June 2008



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

Figure 4b Outpatients – Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks by Specialty at the end of June 2008



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 9a and 9b. Overall 89.3% of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 9 weeks.

Table 9a Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – June 2008

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting				Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13	
General Surgery	8,087	1,631	889	6	10,613
Ear, Nose & Throat	5,910	1,656	1,095	0	8,661
Dermatology	5,334	1,540	540	0	7,414
Gynaecology	5,242	1,406	687	0	7,335
Ophthalmology	4,793	1,451	882	2	7,128
Trauma & Orthopaedics	4,371	1,477	1,153	29	7,030
General Medicine	3,279	858	475	0	4,612
Paediatrics	2,231	584	212	16	3,043
Cardiology	1,792	445	261	13	2,511
Neurology	1,352	411	280	15	2,058
Urology	1,384	278	187	0	1,849
Rheumatology	1,176	367	247	0	1,790
Oral Surgery	1,187	369	171	0	1,727
Mental Illness	1,327	252	106	2	1,687
Gastroenterology	784	203	172	0	1,159
Pain Management	768	231	117	0	1,116
Restorative Dentistry	629	236	103	0	968
Thoracic Medicine	541	141	83	0	765
Plastic Surgery	585	118	32	0	735
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	425	123	117	52	717
Other	4,559	834	479	1	5,873
All Specialties	55,756	14,611	8,288	136	78,791

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Table 9b Percentage of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – June 2008

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting			
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13
General Surgery	76.2%	15.4%	8.4%	0.1%
Ear, Nose & Throat	68.2%	19.1%	12.6%	0.0%
Dermatology	71.9%	20.8%	7.3%	0.0%
Gynaecology	71.5%	19.2%	9.4%	0.0%
Ophthalmology	67.2%	20.4%	12.4%	<0.1%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	62.2%	21.0%	16.4%	0.4%
General Medicine	71.1%	18.6%	10.3%	0.0%
Paediatrics	73.3%	19.2%	7.0%	0.5%
Cardiology	71.4%	17.7%	10.4%	0.5%
Neurology	65.7%	20.0%	13.6%	0.7%
Urology	74.9%	15.0%	10.1%	0.0%
Rheumatology	65.7%	20.5%	13.8%	0.0%
Oral Surgery	68.7%	21.4%	9.9%	0.0%
Mental Illness	78.7%	14.9%	6.3%	0.1%
Gastroenterology	67.6%	17.5%	14.8%	0.0%
Pain Management	68.8%	20.7%	10.5%	0.0%
Restorative Dentistry	65.0%	24.4%	10.6%	0.0%
Thoracic Medicine	70.7%	18.4%	10.8%	0.0%
Plastic Surgery	79.6%	16.1%	4.4%	0.0%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	59.3%	17.2%	16.3%	7.3%
Other	77.6%	14.2%	8.2%	<0.1%
All Specialties	70.8%	18.5%	10.5%	0.2%

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

Outpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for outpatients by Trust are shown in Table 10.

Table 10 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Outpatient Appointment by Provider Trust and Weeks Waiting – June 2008⁵

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting				Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13	
Belfast	19,845	5,906	4,090	82	29,923
Northern	9,076	2,517	1,683	52	13,328
South Eastern	9,136	2,309	941	0	12,386
Southern	8,848	2,104	990	0	11,942
Western	8,851	1,775	584	2	11,212
Total	55,756	14,611	8,288	136	78,791

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

⁵Refer to Technical Notes – points 15-20.

Outpatient Waiting Times by Programme of Care

Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment by programme of care are shown in Table 11. The vast majority (94.6%) of patients were awaiting their first outpatient appointment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 11 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Programme of Care – June 2008

Programme of Care	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting				Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13	
Acute Services	52,409	14,017	8,007	82	74,515
Maternity & Child Health	479	53	7	0	539
Elderly Care	1,000	143	50	0	1,193
Mental Health	1,822	384	224	54	2,484
Learning Disability	46	14	0	0	60
All POCs	55,756	14,611	8,288	136	78,791

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Completed Outpatient Waits – June 2008

Waiting times for completed outpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, are shown in Table 12. A total of 108,230 patients received a first outpatient appointment within Health Service hospitals (excluding those who had previously cancelled or not attended a previous appointment) during the June 2008 quarter. Including patients who have cancelled, or did not attend a previous appointment, the total number of patients that attended a first outpatient appointment within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter was 115,771.

Table 12 Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment⁶

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits	
	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 2005	86,944	94,865
A - J 2005	91,489	99,698
J - S 2005	82,721	92,047
O - D 2005	91,969	101,037
J - D 2005	353,123	387,647
J - M 2006	91,695	101,249
A - J 2006	90,531	99,418
J - S 2006	90,716	100,769
O - D 2006	104,266	113,927
J - D 2006	377,208	415,363
J - M 2007	110,712	121,104
A - J 2007	105,202	114,317
J - S 2007	102,848	110,509
O - D 2007	109,135	116,634
J - D 2007	427,897	462,564
J - M 2008	104,041	112,140
A - J 2008	108,230	115,771

Source: Departmental Return CH4

⁶Refer to Technical Notes – points 21 & 22

Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity– June 2008

During the June 2008 quarter, a number of patients attended a first outpatient appointment, commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. Estimates of the number of patients attending a first outpatient appointment, within the Independent Sector have been provided by commissioning Trusts.

It is estimated that approximately 5,716 Health Service patients attended a first outpatient appointment, within the Independent Sector, during the quarter ending June 2008. When this number is combined with that for outpatients attending a first appointment in Health Service hospitals during the same period, it is estimated that approximately 121,487 outpatients attended a first appointment in Northern Ireland for an assessment commissioned by the Health Service.

Table 13a Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity⁷

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	43,855	907	44,762
Northern	16,695	1566	18,261
South Eastern	19,574	1066	20,640
Southern	17,029	531	17,560
Western	18,618	1646	20,264
Total Treated	115,771	5,716	121,487

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

⁷Refer to Technical Notes – points 22 & 23.

Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity, June 2007 - June 2008

Table 13b has been included to reflect the total completed outpatient waits in the Health Service for the past five quarters.

Table 13b Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity⁷, Quarter Ending 30 June 2007 – Quarter Ending 30 June 2008

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	30 June 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2007	31 March 2008	30 June 2008
Belfast	41,909	39,827	45,196	43,938	44,762
Northern	15,829	17,555	18,053	15,618	18,261
South Eastern	19,246	17,675	20,827	19,131	20,640
Southern	16,980	16,217	16,369	14,674	17,560
Western	24,393	24,970	23,541	22,478	20,264
Total	118,357	116,244	123,986	115,839	121,487

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

⁷Refer to Technical Notes – points 22 & 23.

Diagnostic Services

Tables 14 -18 provide details of the number of people waiting for the 16 selected diagnostic services, carried out at hospitals in Northern Ireland, and covered by the maximum waiting time Ministerial target for 2008/09⁸.

Headline Totals – Table 14

The total number of patients waiting for one of the 16 selected diagnostic services at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2008 stood at 30,751, a decrease of 557 (-1.8%) on the position at 31st March 2008 (31,308).

Table 14 Quarterly Diagnostic Services Waiting List – June 2008⁸

Diagnostic Service:	Number of Patients Waiting Quarter Ending June 2008	Change compared with the end of the previous quarter
Imaging (excluding Interventional Imaging)		
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	3,659	512
Computerised Tomography	2,896	-104
Non-obstetric ultrasound	6,055	-570
Barium Studies	1,144	-159
DEXA Scan	835	-139
Radio-Nuclide Imaging	648	-56
Physiological Measurement		
Audiology - pure tone audiometry	561	-16
Cardiology - echocardiography	2,857	-218
Cardiology - perfusion studies	456	146
Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology	1,076	154
Respiratory physiology - sleep studies	361	54
Urodynamics - pressures and flows	374	-10
Day case Endoscopy		
Colonoscopy	2,531	-119
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	1,293	-137
Cystoscopy	1,624	-23
Gastroscopy	4,381	128
Other Endoscopy		
Colonoscopy	0	0
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	0	0
Cystoscopy	0	0
Gastroscopy	0	0
Total waiting for selected diagnostic tests	30,751	-557

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

⁸Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-29.

Table 15 Diagnostic Services Waiting Times by Diagnostic Test and Weeks Waiting – June 2008⁸

Diagnostic Test	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6 weeks	>6 - 9 weeks	>9 - 13 weeks	>13 - 21 weeks	>21 weeks	
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	2,742	543	374	0	0	3,659
Computerised Tomography	2,434	249	213	0	0	2,896
Non Obstetric Ultrasound	5,136	739	180	0	0	6,055
Barium Studies	981	137	26	0	0	1,144
DEXA Scan	640	135	60	0	0	835
Radio Nuclide Imaging	606	27	15	0	0	648
Audiology - Pure Tone Audiometry	424	97	40	0	0	561
Cardiology - Echocardiography	2,128	486	243	0	0	2,857
Cardiology - Perfusion Studies	360	78	18	0	0	456
Neurophysiology - Peripheral Neurophysiology	613	261	202	0	0	1,076
Respiratory Physiology - Sleep Studies	247	79	35	0	0	361
Urodynamics - Pressures & Flows	246	80	48	0	0	374
daycase colonoscopy	1,325	406	459	341	0	2,531
daycase flexi sigmoidoscopy	770	227	183	113	0	1,293
daycase cystoscopy	863	280	268	212	1	1,624
daycase gastroscopy	2,307	753	779	542	0	4,381
Total waiting for selected diagnostic tests	21,822	4,577	3,143	1,208	1	30,751

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

⁸Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-29.

Waiting times for diagnostic services by Trust are shown in Table 16.

Table 16 Diagnostic Services Waiting Times by Provider Trust – June 2008⁸

Diagnostic Test	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6 weeks	>6 - 9 weeks	>9 - 13 weeks	>13 - 21 weeks	>21 weeks	
Belfast	7,567	1,856	1,309	461	0	11,193
Northern	3,274	703	507	254	0	4,738
South Eastern	3,196	673	418	86	0	4,373
Southern	4,622	856	533	307	0	6,318
Western	3,163	489	376	100	1	4,129
Total	21,822	4,577	3,143	1,208	1	30,751

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

⁸Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-29.

Diagnostic Services Waiting over 9/13 Weeks

The 2008/09 Ministerial target for diagnostic services states that from April 2008, no patient should wait longer than 13 weeks for one of the selected diagnostic tests (21 weeks for a day case endoscopy) reducing to 9 weeks (13 weeks for a day case endoscopy) by 31st March 2009.

There were 1,454 patients waiting over 9 weeks for the 16 selected diagnostic services (except for day case endoscopies). No patients were waiting over 13 weeks.

Table 17 Selected Diagnostic Tests – Over 9 Weeks⁸

Diagnostic Test	Total Number of Patients Waiting	Total Number of Patients Waiting over 9 weeks
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	3,659	374
Computerised Tomography	2,896	213
Non Obstetric Ultrasound	6,055	180
Barium Studies	1,144	26
DEXA Scan	835	60
Radio Nuclide Imaging	648	15
Audiology - Pure Tone Audiometry	561	40
Cardiology - Echocardiography	2,857	243
Cardiology - Perfusion Studies	456	18
Neurophysiology - Peripheral		
Neurophysiology	1,076	202
Respiratory Physiology - Sleep Studies	361	35
Urodynamics - Pressures & Flows	374	48
Total waiting	20,922	1,454

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

⁸Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-29.

There were 1,209 patients waiting over 13 weeks for a day case endoscopy at the 30th June 2008, of which one patient was waiting more than 21 weeks.

Table 18 Day Case Endoscopies – Over 13 Weeks⁸

Diagnostic Test	Total Number of Patients Waiting	Total Number of Patients Waiting over 13 weeks
Day case Colonoscopy	2,531	341
Day case Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	1,293	113
Day case Cystoscopy	1,624	213
Day case Gastroscopy	4,381	542
Total Waiting	9,829	1,209

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

⁸Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-29.

Technical Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset and Departmental Returns CH2, CH3, CH4 and SDR1. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts on a quarterly basis.
2. Trust based information (DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset, CH2, CH3, CH4 and SDR1) returns include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.
3. Due to an amendment to data relating to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the total number of patients waiting for inpatient treatment at 30th June 2007 has been revised to 35,894 to include 451 patients waiting to be seen by an Independent Sector provider.
4. Due to administrative difficulties, it has not been possible to differentiate a cohort of 35 patients waiting within Belfast Health and Social Care Trusts for Inpatient Trauma and Orthopaedic treatment in the Independent Sector at the end of June 2008 into the 'ordinary admission' and 'day case' categories. Hospital Information Branch have analysed the case mix of patients waiting for inpatient admission in the T & O specialty in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in previous quarters and estimate that approximately 70% of these patients were waiting for ordinary admission, with approximately 30% waiting for day case admission. It is therefore estimated that 25 of these patients were waiting for ordinary admission and 10 were waiting for day case admission. These figures are included within the inpatient waiting time position.
5. For Tables 2, 3a, 3b, 4 and Figure 2b, inpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for inpatient admission. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-13 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 13 weeks) timeband.
6. The current ministerial target for inpatient waiting times states that from April 2008 no patient should wait longer than 21 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment, reducing to 13 weeks by 31st March 2009. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' include all patients in the >13-21, >21-26 and >26 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 21 weeks' include all patients in the >21-26 and >26 week timebands.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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 CNA's (Could Not Attend) and are included in the total number waiting.
12. Waiting times for completed inpatient waits are available upon request from Hospital Information Branch.
13. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment during the period 01 January 2008 – 31 March 2008 has been revised from 45,218 to 45,217. This is due to an amendment received from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.
14. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector are provided in Tables 6a and 6b. These figures have been provided for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Health Trust responsible for the patients waiting time). They are not National Statistics and they have not been validated by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of completed inpatient waits during each quarter.
15. Outpatients waiters 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.
16. Outpatient waiting list figures presented do not include maternity specialties 510 and 520.
17. For Tables 8, 9a, 9b, 10, 11 and Figure 4b, outpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for outpatient assessment. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-9 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks) timeband.
18. The current ministerial target for outpatient waiting times states that from April 2008 no patient should wait longer than 13 weeks for a first outpatient appointment, reducing to 9 weeks by 31st March 2009. Patients waiting 'more than 9 weeks' include all patients in the >9-13 and >13 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' include all patients in the >13 week timeband.
19. From the 1st October 2007, Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS) were introduced for orthopaedic patients referred for first outpatient assessment in the Trauma & Orthopaedic specialty. ICATS are provided by integrated multidisciplinary teams of Health Service Professionals, including GPs with a special interest, specialist nurses and Allied Health Professionals. They are provided in a variety of community and secondary care settings and they include assessment, treatment, diagnostic and advisory services. The introduction of these

services is aimed at reducing outpatient waiting times by referring to hospitals, only those patients who will benefit from seeing a consultant. Waiting times for ICATS appointments are subject to existing outpatient waiting times targets i.e. no patient to be waiting more than 13 weeks by 31st March 2008.

20. Due to technical difficulties it is not currently possible to accurately report on the total number of patients waiting for a first ICATS appointment at 30 June 2008. The Department can confirm that one patient was waiting more than 13 weeks for a first ICATS appointment at 30 June 2008.
21. Waiting times for completed outpatient waits are available upon request from Hospital Information Branch.
22. Data on the number of completed outpatient waits performed within the Independent sector, as commissioned by the Royal Group of Hospitals site of the Belfast HSC Trust are included within the figures contained in Table 12.
23. The number of patients that received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector is provided in Tables 13a and 13b. These figures have been provided for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patients waiting time). They are not National Statistics and they have not been validated by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of completed outpatient waits during each quarter.
24. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety commenced the collection of waiting times information for diagnostic services for the quarter ending 31st December 2007, following a pilot exercise for the quarter ending 30th September 2007. The source for the data is the Information Return SDR1. This return will be collected from Hospital Trusts on a quarterly basis. The data are not National Statistics and they have had limited validation by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of waiting times for the selected diagnostic services subject to the 2008/09 Ministerial target.
25. A diagnostic service provides an examination, test or procedure used to identify a person's disease or condition and which allows a medical diagnosis to be made.
26. The Ministerial target for diagnostic waiting times states that from April 2008, no patient should wait longer than 13 weeks for one of the selected diagnostic tests (21 weeks for a day case endoscopy) reducing to 9 weeks (13 weeks for a day case endoscopy) by 31st March 2009. The 16 selected services are: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Computerised Tomography; Non-Obstetric Ultrasound; Barium Studies; DEXA Scan; Radio-Nuclide Imaging; Pure Tone Audiometry; Echocardiography; Perfusion Studies; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Sleep Studies; Urodynamics Pressures and Flows; Colonoscopy; Flexi Sigmoidoscopy; Cystoscopy; Gastroscopy.
27. The diagnostic waiting time target relates to all tests with a diagnostic element. Included are tests that are part diagnostic and subsequently part therapeutic. A therapeutic procedure is defined as a procedure which involves actual treatment of a person's disease, condition or injury. Purely therapeutic procedures are excluded from the diagnostic waiting times target. Patients currently admitted to a hospital bed and waiting for an emergency procedure, patients waiting for a planned procedure and patients waiting for procedures as part of screening programme are also excluded from the waiting times target.

28. The waiting time for a diagnostic service commences on the date on which the referral for the service is received by the Health Care provider and stops on the date on which the test is performed.
29. A number of the diagnostic services reported on the SDR 1 return are managed as day cases. As such, they will be included in both the inpatient and diagnostic services waiting time figures. Due to the risk of multiple counting, these two sets of data should not be combined to give an estimate of the total number of patients waiting for either inpatient admission or a diagnostic service.
30. 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.
31. Figures relating to the quarter ending 30th September 2008 will be released on Thursday, 4th December 2008.
32. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on

020 7533 5888

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E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

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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
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BT4 3SQ

E-mail: statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/waiting_times.htm