

Information Release

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

4th December 2003

Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – September 2003

This information release gives details of the number of people waiting for inpatient or outpatient treatment at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of September 2003, 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 September 2003 stood at 54,257.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of September 2003 with the end of June 2003 (55,414), the total number waiting has decreased by 1,157 (-2.1%).

Over the year, comparing the end of September 2003 with the end of September 2002 (60,190), the total number waiting decreased by 5,933 (-9.9%).

Table 1: Quarterly Waiting Lists – September 2003

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending September 2003	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	24,333	-336	-4,458
Day case Admissions	29,924	-821	-1,475
Total Waiting	54,257	-1,157	-5,933

Source: CH1

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes to editors.



A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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 54,257 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of September 2003, 24,333 (44.8%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 29,924 (55.2%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 1).

Since the end of June 2003, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 336 (-1.4%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 821 (-2.7%).

In comparison with September 2002, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 4,458 (-15.5%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 1,475 (-4.7%).

Excess Waiters¹ – Table 2

In Northern Ireland, inpatient excess waiters are defined as those having to wait 12 months or more for admission to the Cardiac Surgery specialty and those having to wait 18 months or more to other specialties.

The number of excess waiters at the end of September 2003 stood at 6,666 or 12.3% of the total waiting.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of September 2003 with the end of June 2003, the number of excess waiters decreased by 18 (-0.3%).

Over the year, comparing the end of September 2003 with the end of September 2002, the number of excess waiters decreased by 2,492 (- 27.2%).

Table 2 Excess Waiters¹ – September 2003

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending September 2003	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary admissions	4,973	-123	-1,788
Day case admissions	1,693	+ 105	-704
Total Waiting	6,666	-18	-2,492

¹See Notes to Editors (paragraph 5) for definition of Excess waiters.
Source: CH1

Peak Figures

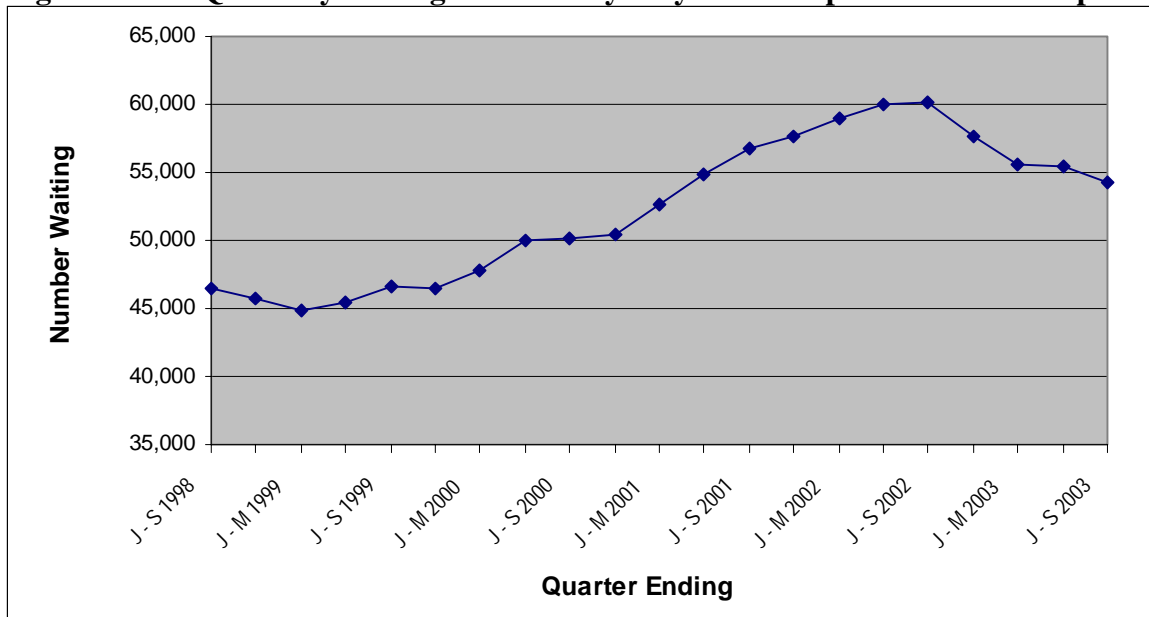
The end of September 2003 total of 54,257 on the inpatient waiting list represents a decrease of 5,933 (-9.9%) on the peak waiting list figure of 60,190 (end September 2002).

The number of excess waiters has fallen to 6,666 at the end of September 2003, and represents a decrease of 2,492 (-27.2%) on the peak figure of 9,158 recorded at the end of September 2002.

Trends

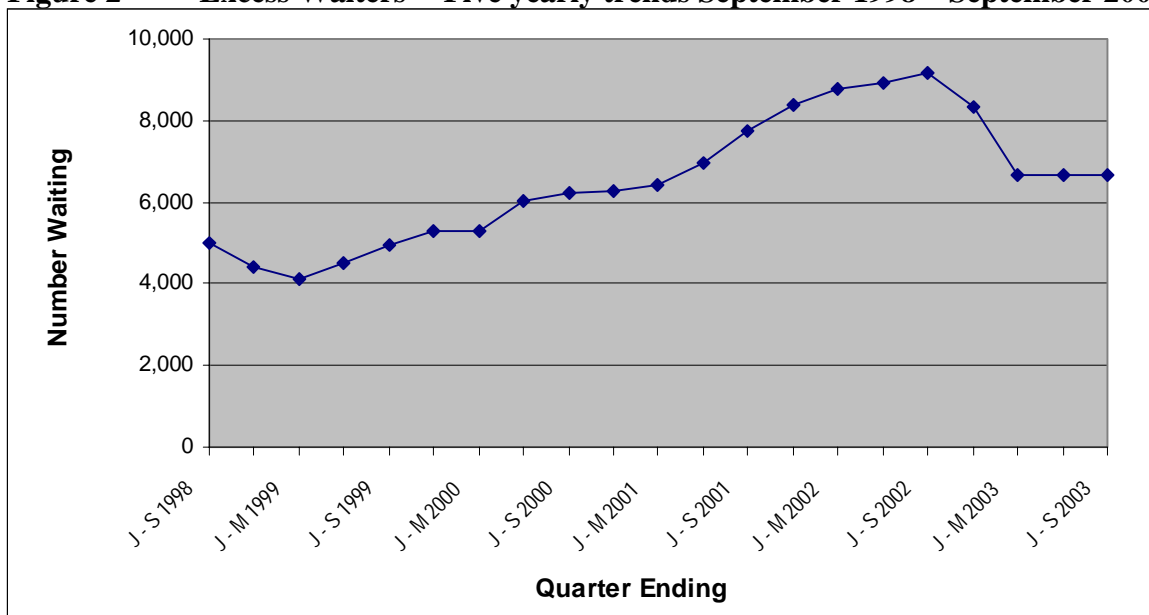
Since September 1998 the total waiting was on a generally downward trend until March 1999, when the trend reversed and total waiting rose to peak in September 2002. The total waiting decreased during the quarters ending December 2002, March 2003 and June 2003 and has continued to decrease in the current quarter (Figure 1). Excess waiters have followed a similar trend (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Quarterly waiting lists – Five yearly trends September 1998 – September 2003



Source: CH1

Figure 2 Excess Waiters¹ - Five yearly trends September 1998 – September 2003



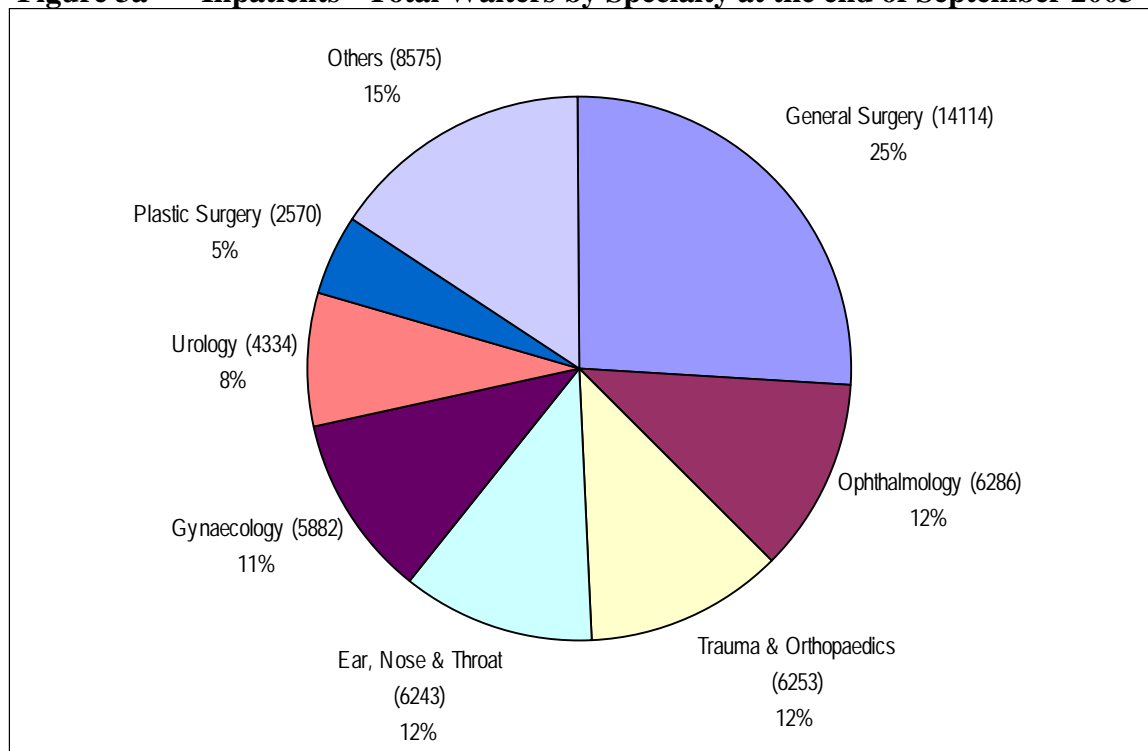
¹See Notes to Editors (paragraph 5) for definition of Excess waiters.

Source: CH1

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

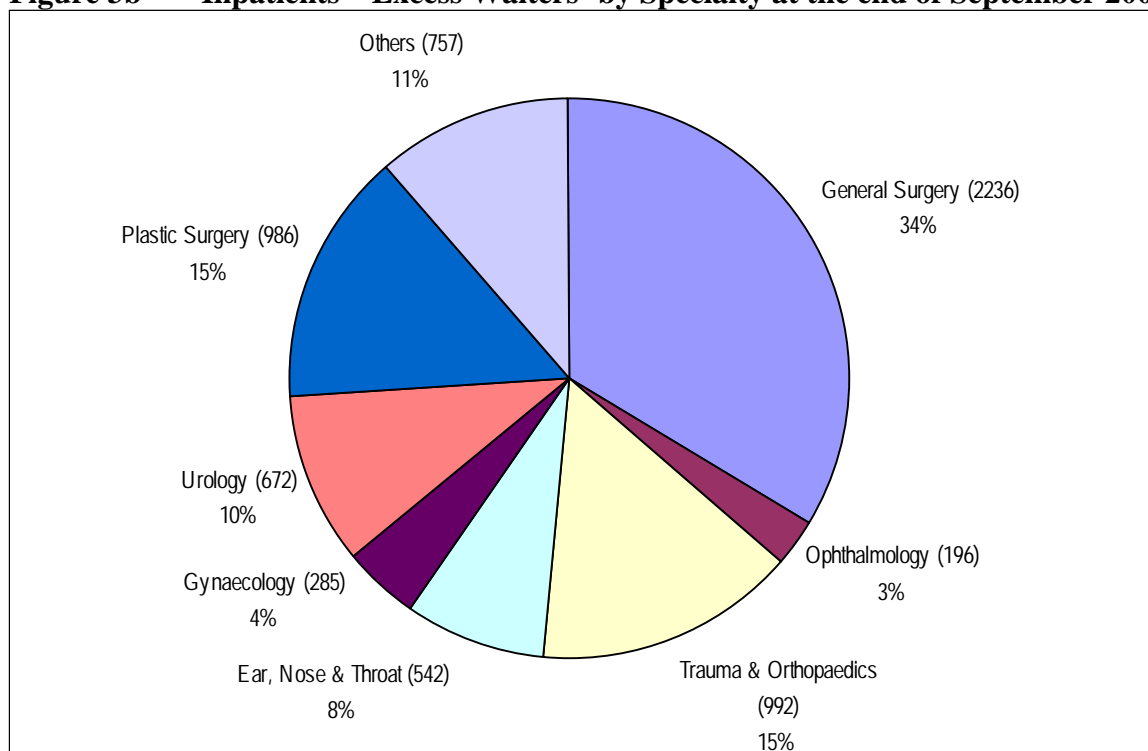
The overwhelming majority of those waiting (85%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Ophthalmology; Gynaecology (Gynae); Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Urology and Plastic Surgery (Figure 3a). Corresponding figures for excess waiters are shown in Figure 3b.

Figure 3a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of September 2003



Source: CH1

Figure 3b Inpatients – Excess Waiters¹ by Specialty at the end of September 2003



¹See notes to editors (paragraph 5) for definition of Excess Waiters.

Source: CH1

Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 3a and 3b. The proportion of those waiting less than 12 months ranged from 99.8% in Rheumatology to 41.7% in Neurosurgery. Overall over three quarters (80.1%) of those waiting for admission were waiting less than 12 months.

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

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting					Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24 +	
General Surgery	5,897	4,947	1,034	760	1,476	14,114
Ophthalmology	2,229	3,302	559	149	47	6,286
Trauma & Orthopaedics	1,474	3,054	733	388	604	6,253
Ear, Nose & Throat	1,922	3,309	470	260	282	6,243
Gynaecology	2,736	2,487	374	188	97	5,882
Urology	1,688	1,618	356	234	438	4,334
Plastic Surgery	556	805	223	180	806	2,570
General Medicine	1,413	495	25	8	17	1,958
Cardiology	577	411	171	152	37	1,348
Gastroenterology	625	240	2	3	7	877
Neurosurgery	108	167	70	52	262	659
Rheumatology	520	125	1	0	0	646
Paediatric Surgery	180	334	30	8	3	555
Oral Surgery	215	228	25	16	4	488
Pain Management	214	216	11	17	10	468
Dermatology	188	156	27	7	29	407
Cardiac Surgery	109	160	29	15	4	317
Thoracic Surgery	52	65	32	24	34	207
Neurology	76	74	19	13	4	186
Paediatric Dentistry	103	57	2	0	0	162
Other	199	90	6	2	0	297
All Specialties	21,081	22,340	4,199	2,476	4,161	54,257

Source: CHI

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

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting				
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24 +
General Surgery	41.8%	35.1%	7.3%	5.4%	10.5%
Ophthalmology	35.5%	52.5%	8.9%	2.4%	0.7%
Trauma & Orthopaedic	23.6%	48.8%	11.7%	6.2%	9.7%
Ear, Nose & Throat	30.8%	53.0%	7.5%	4.2%	4.5%
Gynaecology	46.5%	42.3%	6.4%	3.2%	1.6%
Urology	38.9%	37.3%	8.2%	5.4%	10.1%
Plastic Surgery	21.6%	31.3%	8.7%	7.0%	31.4%
General Medicine	72.2%	25.3%	1.3%	0.4%	0.9%
Cardiology	42.8%	30.5%	12.7%	11.3%	2.7%
Gastroenterology	71.3%	27.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%
Neurosurgery	16.4%	25.3%	10.6%	7.9%	39.8%
Rheumatology	80.5%	19.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Surgery	32.4%	60.2%	5.4%	1.4%	0.5%
Oral Surgery	44.1%	46.7%	5.1%	3.3%	0.8%
Pain Management	45.7%	46.2%	2.4%	3.6%	2.1%
Dermatology	46.2%	38.3%	6.6%	1.7%	7.1%
Cardiac Surgery	34.4%	50.5%	9.1%	4.7%	1.3%
Thoracic Surgery	25.1%	31.4%	15.5%	11.6%	16.4%
Neurology	40.9%	39.8%	10.2%	7.0%	2.2%
Paediatric Dentistry	63.6%	35.2%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	67.0%	30.3%	2.0%	0.7%	0.0%
All Specialties	38.9%	41.2%	7.7%	4.6%	7.7%

Source: CHI

Completed Waits

Waiting times for completed inpatient waits are shown in Table 4. A total of 34,080 inpatients were admitted to hospital (excluding those who had previously refused an offer of attendance) during the September 2003 quarter. Seventy two percent of patients received their treatment within 3 months of being placed on the waiting list and 95% received their treatment within 12 months.

Table 4 Completed Inpatient Waits

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months					Total
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24+	
J - M 2000	75.4%	20.1%	3.0%	0.8%	0.7%	35,637
A - J 2000	76.4%	19.5%	2.6%	0.8%	0.7%	36,307
J - S 2000	74.2%	21.2%	2.9%	1.0%	0.7%	33,322
O - D 2000	76.7%	18.9%	2.9%	0.8%	0.7%	37,183
J - D 2000	75.7%	19.9%	2.9%	0.8%	0.7%	142,449
J - M 2001	76.9%	18.7%	2.7%	0.8%	0.8%	36,377
A - J 2001	76.6%	19.4%	2.5%	0.8%	0.7%	35,858
J - S 2001	74.4%	20.8%	3.1%	1.0%	0.8%	33,271
O - D 2001	75.0%	20.0%	3.1%	1.0%	0.9%	37,656
J - D 2001	75.7%	19.7%	2.9%	0.9%	0.8%	143,162
J - M 2002	74.9%	19.7%	3.6%	1.1%	0.8%	38,042
A - J 2002	74.4%	20.4%	3.3%	1.0%	0.9%	36,885
J - S 2002	72.9%	21.9%	3.3%	1.1%	0.7%	33,522
O - D 2002	74.1%	20.3%	3.5%	1.2%	0.9%	38,009
J - D 2002	74.1%	20.5%	3.4%	1.1%	0.8%	146,458
J - M 2003	74.1%	19.5%	3.8%	1.4%	1.2%	38,371
A - J 2003	74.3%	20.7%	3.1%	1.0%	1.0%	37,948
J - S 2003	72.4%	22.6%	2.9%	1.2%	1.0%	34,080

Source: CH2 Part 1

Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists

The Department also collects monthly data on the size of the inpatient waiting list excluding private patients and non-NI residents. These figures are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5 Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists

Month Ending	Admission Method		Total Waiting	Excess Waiters	
	Ordinary	Day Case		Number	% of Total
September 2002 ^{2,3}	28,534	30,512	59,046	9,254	15.7%
October 2002 ^{2,3}	27,830	30,311	58,141	8,809	15.2%
November 2002 ^{2,3}	26,857	29,916	56,773	8,371	14.7%
December 2002 ²	26,483	30,040	56,523	8,260	14.6%
January 2003 ²	25,702	29,967	55,669	7,450	13.4%
February 2003 ²	25,061	30,238	55,299	6,863	12.4%
March 2003 ²	24,502	29,828	54,330	6,626	12.2%
April 2003 ²	24,480	29,862	54,342	6,620	12.2%
May 2003 ²	24,309	30,147	54,456	6,702	12.3%
June 2003	24,250	30,299	54,549	6,646	12.2%
July 2003	24,612	30,148	54,760	6,774	12.4%
August 2003	24,474	29,867	54,341	6,886	12.7%
September 2003	23,853	29,355	53,208	6,629	12.5%

Source: CHA

² Estimated Figures – See Note 14

³ Estimated Figures – See Note 15

The monthly waiting list figures have shown an overall decrease in the 3 month period since June 2003.

Patients resident in a Health Board Area may receive treatment in any of the four Health Boards. Table 6 shows the number of residents in each Health Board Area waiting for admission to hospitals in their own and other Health Board Areas.

Table 6 Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists by Board of Residence and Board of Treatment

Board of Residence	Board of Treatment			
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB
Eastern	20,280	87	103	0
Northern	6,036	7,341	476	685
Southern	3,649	43	8,005	196
Western	1,102	49	43	5,113
Northern Ireland	31,067	7,520	8,627	5,994

Source: CHA

Outpatients

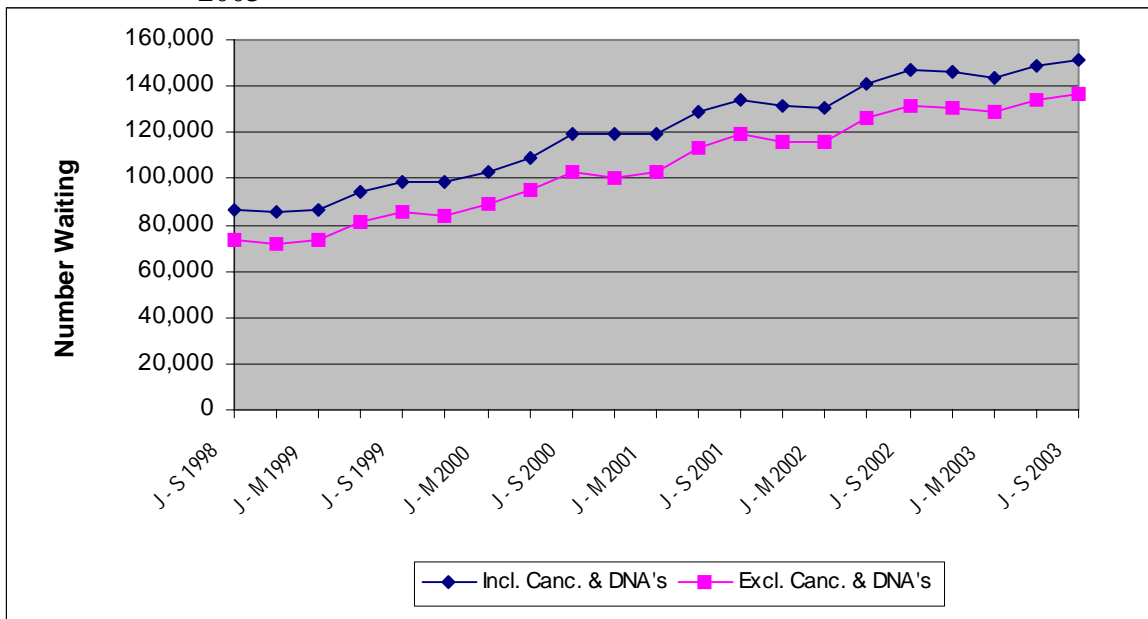
Headline Totals

The number of patients waiting for admission as outpatients (including cancellations and deferrals) at the end of September 2003 stood at 151,752⁴ representing an increase of 2,944 (2.0%) over the quarter and an increase of 4,934 (3.4%) compared with the same quarter in the previous year.

Corresponding quarterly and annual changes (excluding cancellations and deferrals) were +1.8% and +4.0% respectively. Figure 4 shows five yearly trends in the number of outpatients waiting for a first appointment, Figure 5 shows the same trends information for excess waiters (excess waiters are defined as patients waiting more than 3 months for a first outpatient appointment).

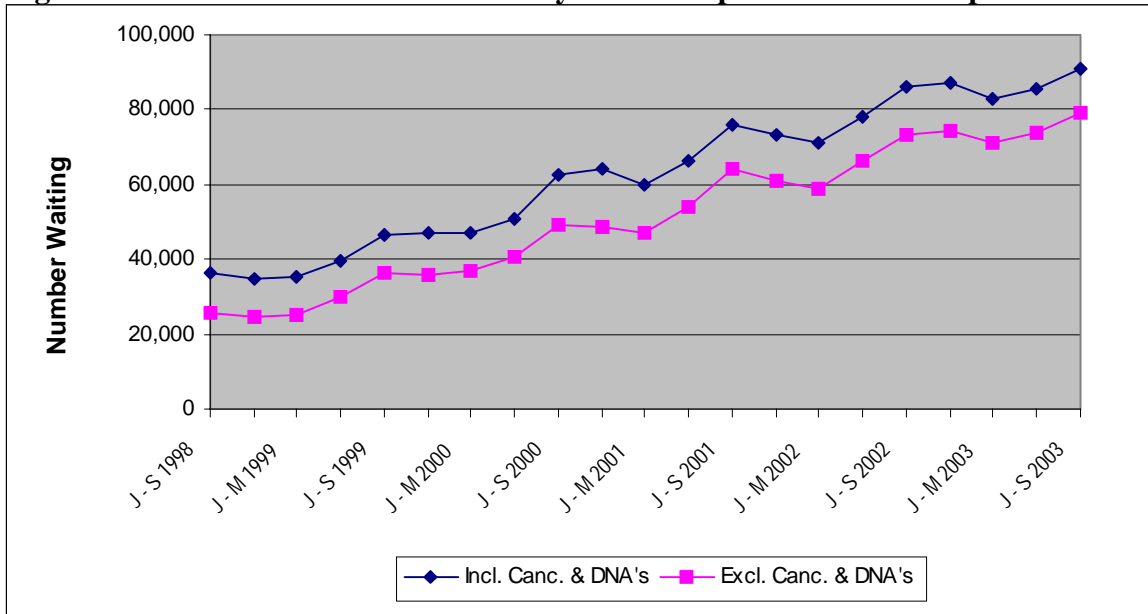
⁴Outpatient figures for the September 2002, December 2002, March 2003 and June 2003 quarters have been revised to include estimates – see note 16.

Figure 4 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment (including and excluding cancellations and deferrals) – Five Yearly Trends September 1998 – September 2003



Source: CH3 Parts 1&2.

Figure 5 Excess Waiters Five Yearly Trends September 1998 – September 2003

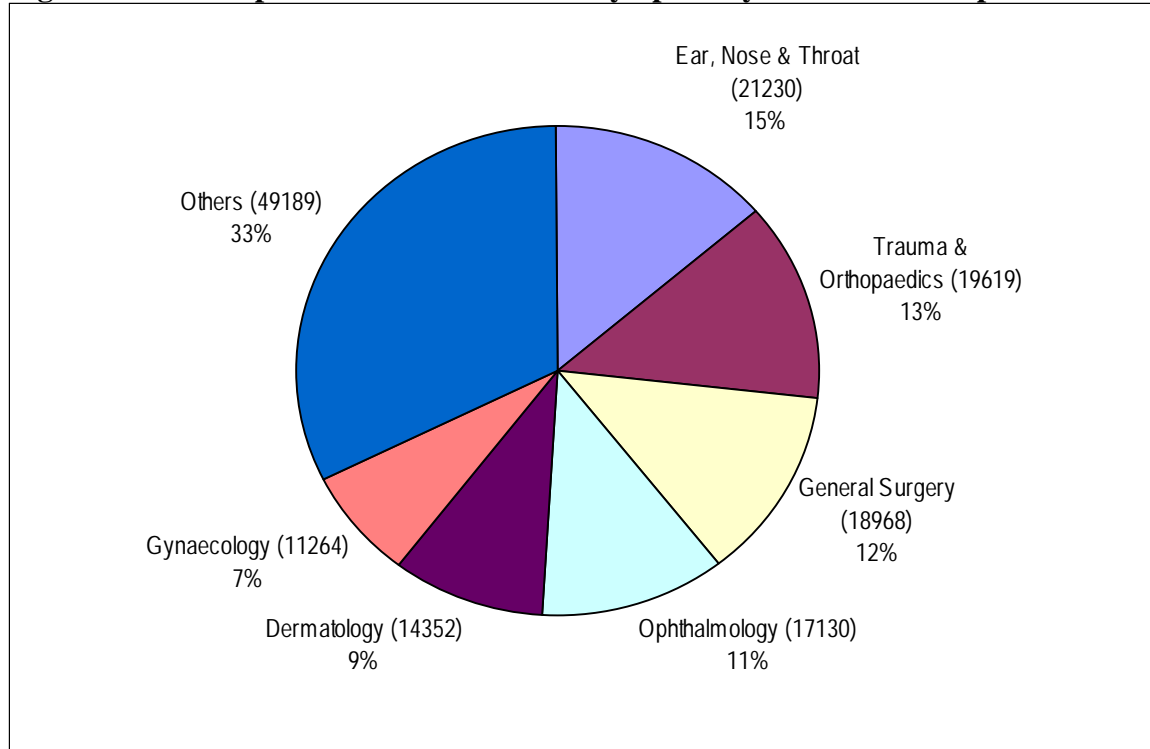


Source: CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

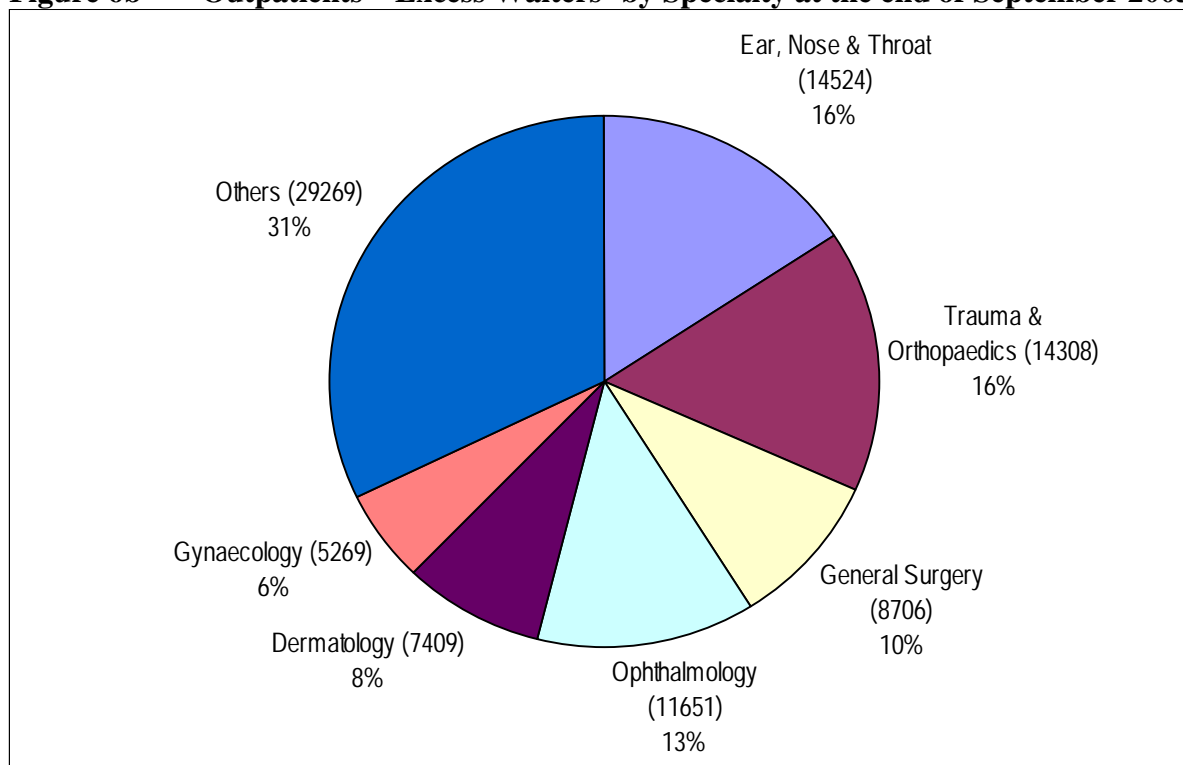
The majority of those waiting (67%) were within six specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Ophthalmology; Dermatology and Gynaecology (Gynae) (Figure 5a). Corresponding figures for excess waiters are shown in Figure 5b. All figures include those who are waiting for their first appointment including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment during the September 2003 quarter.

Figure 6a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of September 2003



Source: CH3.

Figure 6b Outpatients – Excess Waiters¹ by Specialty at the end of September 2003



¹See notes to editors (paragraph 6) for definition of Excess Waiters.

Source: CH3.

Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 7a and 7b. The proportion of those waiting less than 12 months ranged from 100% in Old Age Psychiatry to 26.7% in Plastic Surgery. Overall four fifths (80%) of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 12 months.

Table 7a Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting					Total Number of Patients Awaiting Appointment
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24 +	
Ear, Nose & Throat	6,706	9,795	2,684	1,087	958	21,230
Trauma & Orthopaedics	5,311	7,310	2,266	1,380	3,352	19,619
General Surgery	10,262	7,100	1,035	337	234	18,968
Ophthalmology	5,479	8,297	1,621	866	867	17,130
Dermatology	6,943	5,194	1,057	524	634	14,352
Gynaecology	5,995	4,704	450	53	62	11,264
General Medicine	3,727	2,932	503	180	184	7,526
Plastic Surgery	763	852	559	462	3,402	6,038
Urology	1,475	2,160	508	277	467	4,887
Cardiology	2,182	1,712	127	126	58	4,205
Rheumatology	1,153	1,850	458	152	33	3,646
Neurology	1,235	1,665	386	71	59	3,416
Paediatrics	1,549	931	139	106	266	2,991
Oral Surgery	675	1,243	306	159	226	2,609
Mental Illness	1,934	464	7	2	1	2,408
Pain Management	605	1,061	251	130	170	2,217
Geriatric Medicine	729	657	34	5	0	1,425
Paediatric Surgery	435	489	47	25	86	1,082
Gastroenterology	460	252	40	57	2	811
Nephrology	437	220	29	11	34	731
Thoracic Medicine	367	307	12	12	1	699
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	264	352	20	5	1	642
Resorative Dentistry	167	188	70	56	105	586
Endocrinology	342	184	9	1	0	536
Orthodontics	238	247	27	13	5	530
Neurosurgery	146	182	19	3	4	354
Old Age Psychiatry	134	106	0	0	0	240
Audiological Medicine	135	40	15	20	29	239
Haematology (Clinical)	169	33	1	0	1	204
Paediatric Dentistry	53	34	25	17	64	193
Anaesthetics	52	54	32	15	34	187
Chemical Pathology	41	71	8	3	2	125
Cardiac Surgery	91	27	2	1	0	121
Accident & Emergency	85	21	0	0	0	106
Clinical Oncology	82	3	0	0	0	85
Other	195	119	11	7	18	350
All Specialties	60,616	60,856	12,758	6,163	11,359	151,752

Source: CH3

Table 7b Percentage of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months				
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24+
Ear, Nose & Throat	31.6%	46.1%	12.6%	5.1%	4.5%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	27.1%	37.3%	11.6%	7.0%	17.1%
General Surgery	54.1%	37.4%	5.5%	1.8%	1.2%
Ophthalmology	32.0%	48.4%	9.5%	5.1%	5.1%
Dermatology	48.4%	36.2%	7.4%	3.7%	4.4%
Gynaecology	53.2%	41.8%	4.0%	0.5%	0.6%
General Medicine	49.5%	39.0%	6.7%	2.4%	2.4%
Plastic Surgery	12.6%	14.1%	9.3%	7.7%	56.3%
Urology	30.2%	44.2%	10.4%	5.7%	9.6%
Cardiology	51.9%	40.7%	3.0%	3.0%	1.4%
Rheumatology	31.6%	50.7%	12.6%	4.2%	0.9%
Neurology	36.2%	48.7%	11.3%	2.1%	1.7%
Paediatrics	51.8%	31.1%	4.6%	3.5%	8.9%
Oral Surgery	25.9%	47.6%	11.7%	6.1%	8.7%
Mental Illness	80.3%	19.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%
Pain Management	27.3%	47.9%	11.3%	5.9%	7.7%
Geriatric Medicine	51.2%	46.1%	2.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Paediatric Surgery	40.2%	45.2%	4.3%	2.3%	7.9%
Gastroenterology	56.7%	31.1%	4.9%	7.0%	0.2%
Nephrology	59.8%	30.1%	4.0%	1.5%	4.7%
Thoracic Medicine	52.5%	43.9%	1.7%	1.7%	0.1%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	41.1%	54.8%	3.1%	0.8%	0.2%
Resorative Dentistry	28.5%	32.1%	11.9%	9.6%	17.9%
Endocrinology	63.8%	34.3%	1.7%	0.2%	0.0%
Orthodontics	44.9%	46.6%	5.1%	2.5%	0.9%
Neurosurgery	41.2%	51.4%	5.4%	0.8%	1.1%
Old Age Psychiatry	55.8%	44.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Audiological Medicine	56.5%	16.7%	6.3%	8.4%	12.1%
Haematology (Clinical)	82.8%	16.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Paediatric Dentistry	27.5%	17.6%	13.0%	8.8%	33.2%
Anaesthetics	27.8%	28.9%	17.1%	8.0%	18.2%
Chemical Pathology	32.8%	56.8%	6.4%	2.4%	1.6%
Cardiac Surgery	75.2%	22.3%	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%
Accident & Emergency	80.2%	19.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Clinical Oncology	96.5%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	55.7%	34.0%	3.1%	2.0%	5.1%
All Specialties	39.9%	40.1%	8.4%	4.1%	7.5%

Source: CH3

Outpatient Completed Waits

Waiting times for completed outpatient waits are shown in Table 8. During the September 2003 quarter a total of 80,128 outpatients attended their first appointment without having cancelled or missed a previous appointment. Seventy percent of patients attended their first outpatient appointment within 3 months of being placed on the waiting list and 96.1% had their first outpatient appointment within 12 months.

Table 8 Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months					Total
	0 - 2	3 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24+	
J - M 2000	77.0%	21.7%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	84,604
A - J 2000	78.5%	20.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.2%	77,699
J - S 2000	75.4%	23.1%	1.2%	0.2%	0.1%	75,721
O - D 2000	74.5%	23.5%	1.6%	0.3%	0.2%	84,326
J - D 2000	76.3%	22.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	322,350
J - M 2001	75.6%	22.5%	1.3%	0.4%	0.2%	86,024
A - J 2001	77.2%	21.0%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%	82,161
J - S 2001	74.4%	23.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0.3%	77,880
O - D 2001 ⁵	72.4%	24.7%	1.8%	0.7%	0.3%	88,331
J - D 2001⁵	74.9%	23.0%	1.4%	0.5%	0.3%	334,396
J - M 2002 ⁵	72.4%	25.3%	1.4%	0.6%	0.3%	85,856
A - J 2002 ⁵	74.9%	22.7%	1.4%	0.5%	0.4%	82,282
J - S 2002 ⁵	71.0%	26.3%	1.8%	0.4%	0.4%	79,986
O - D 2002 ⁵	70.2%	26.6%	2.0%	0.6%	0.6%	88,056
J - D 2002⁵	72.1%	25.2%	1.7%	0.5%	0.4%	336,180
J - M 2003 ⁵	70.0%	25.6%	2.4%	0.9%	1.2%	85,054
A - J 2003 ⁵	72.1%	24.4%	2.2%	0.7%	0.7%	84,963
J - S 2003	69.5%	26.6%	2.2%	0.8%	0.9%	80,128

Source: CH4 Part 1

⁵ Estimated Figures – See note 17.

Notes to Editors

1. Unless otherwise stated hospitals and patients mentioned in this release refer only to HPSS hospitals and patients.
2. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Charter Monitoring Returns CH1, CH2, CH3 and CH4. These returns collect information from Hospital Trusts on a quarterly basis. The CHA return collects information from Health Boards on a monthly basis.
3. There is a fundamental difference in coverage between Board based and Trust based information. Board based (CHA) returns exclude all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals.
4. Apart from Tables 5 and 6, figures include all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals and those patients who are resident outside Northern Ireland.
5. In Northern Ireland, inpatient excess waiters are defined as those having to wait 12 months or more for admission to the Cardiac Surgery specialty and those having to wait 18 months or more to other specialties.
6. For outpatients, excess waiters are defined as those having to wait more than 3 months for a first outpatient appointment.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The 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.
10. Outpatient waiting list figures presented do not include maternity specialties 510 and 520.
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 self-deferred cases and are included in the total waiting.

12. The source for the monthly waiting list figures is the monthly CHA return. The monthly figures presented here are produced from an ad-hoc reporting system which does not go through the more stringent validation processes which produce the quarterly figures. For this reason and the fact that the two sets of figures are run-off at different points in time mean that there may be anomalies when comparing the monthly figures with the quarterly figures.
13. Health Board residents included in Table 6 are not always assigned a Health Board of treatment as some patients may be waiting for admission to a hospital outside Northern Ireland.
14. Western Board have now provided figures for Western Board residents awaiting admission to hospital as a day case in the General Medicine specialty. Estimated data was supplied for months ending April 2002 to May 2003 and figures for these months have been revised to include the estimated data. Revised figures are included in Tables 5 and 6.
15. Green Park HSS Trust was unable to provide waiting list figures for long waiters in the Trauma and Orthopaedic Specialty by Health Board of Residence for months ending September, October and November 2002. Estimated figures have been included in the monthly data shown in Tables 5 and 6.
16. Green Park HSS Trust now provide outpatient waiting list figures in the Pain Management specialty. Estimated totals were provided for quarters ending June, September and December 2002 and March 2003 and estimates for each time band have been calculated. These new estimates have been included in the outpatient figures shown in Figures 4 and 5.
17. Due to reasons beyond the control of the Trust, United Hospitals HSS Trust has been unable to produce CH4 data for all quarters between December 2001 and September 2003. 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 8. When CH4 data becomes available these estimates will be recast.
18. Some of the data is provisional and may be subject to revision in subsequent quarters.
19. Figures relating to the quarter ending December 2003 will be released on Thursday, 4th March 2004.
20. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on

020 7533 5888

minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: room DG/18, Drummond Gate,
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
Regional Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3UD

Internet address: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/index.html