



NORTHERN IRELAND WAITING TIME STATISTICS: OUTPATIENT WAITING TIMES QE MARCH 2011

This publication presents information on waiting times for a first outpatient assessment in Northern Ireland at 31st March 2011. It details information on the number of patients waiting, and length of time waiting, for consultant led and ICATS outpatient services at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. Data are presented by HSC Trust, specialty and time band. The number of completed outpatient attendances is also presented by HSC Trust.

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Background

The data contained in this publication was previously published as part of the Northern Ireland Waiting List Bulletin which was published each quarter until the QE September 2010.

Key Points

- The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment at the end of March 2011 stood at 106,227, 18,362 (-14.7%) less than at the end of December 2010 (124,589) and 19,726 (22.8%) more than at the end of March 2010 (86,501) (Figure 1 & Table 1).
- The number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks was 31,909 (30.0% of the total number waiting). This was 22,563 less than at the end of December 2010 (54,472 waiting more than 9 weeks), but 23,328 more than at the same quarter last year (8,581) (Figure 5 & Table 4).
- When attendances from Health Service hospitals and Health Service commissioned Independent Sector activity is combined, it is estimated that approximately 136,182 outpatients attended a first outpatient appointment in Northern Ireland during the quarter January to March 2011 (Figure 10 & Table 5).
- There were 5,979 patients waiting for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment at the end of March 2011. This was 224 (-3.6%) less than at the end of December 2010 (6,203) (Figure 11 & Table 8).

Reader Information

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Purpose | Report on the number of patients waiting, and length of time waiting for consultant led and ICATS outpatient services at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. |
| Authors | Kerry McColgan, Rodney Redmond, Laura Smyth. |
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| Reporting Period | 1 st January 2011 – 31 st March 2011 |
| Publication Issue | 2 |
| Statistical Quality | Information contained in this release that has been sourced from HSC Trusts has been validated by the Department prior to release. Data in the release that have been sourced from the HSC Board are not National Statistics, and have not been validated by the Department. |
| Target audience | DHSSPS, Chief Executives of the HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics, and Health & Social Care stakeholders. |
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| Internet address | http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/waiting_times_main.htm |
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Hospital Information Branch (HIB)

Hospital Information Branch is responsible for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and publication of timely and accurate information derived from a wide range of statistical information returns supplied by the Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts and the HSC Board. Statistical information is collected routinely from a variety of electronic patient level administrative system and pre-defined EXCEL survey return templates.

The Head of the Branch is the Principal Statistician, Mrs. Laura Smyth. The Branch aims to present information in a meaningful way and provide advice on its uses to customers in the HSC Committee, Professional Advisory Groups, policy branches within the DHSSPS, other Health organisations, academia, private sector organisations, charity/voluntary organisations as well as the general public. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on the performance of the HSC system, other comparative performance exercises, target setting and monitoring, development of service frameworks as well as policy formulation and evaluation. In addition, the information is used in response to a significantly high volume of Parliamentary / Assembly questions and ad-hoc queries each year.

Information is disseminated through a number of key statistical publications, including: Inpatient Activity, Outpatient Activity, Emergency Care, Mental Health & Learning Disability and Waiting Time Statistics (Inpatient, Outpatient, Diagnostics and Cancer). A detailed list of these publications is available from:

Website: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2.htm

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Technical Notes

This statistics release is the second of a quarterly data series presenting information on waiting times for outpatient services at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. Historically, this information on the number of patients waiting for outpatient services, and the length of time they were waiting at the end of each quarter, as well as information on completed outpatient waits during the quarter, was included within the NI Waiting List publication. This publication has now been discontinued.

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from a series of statistical returns (listed below) provided by HSC Trusts and the HSC Board.

- Departmental returns CH3, IS1, Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR), and ICATS Waiting Time Dataset.

Rounding

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

Data Quality

All information provided by HSC Trusts that is presented in this bulletin has been validated and quality assured by HSC Trusts prior to publication. HSC Trusts are given a set period of time to submit the information to HIB. Following submission, HIB perform a series of checks to verify that information is consistent both within and across returns. Trend analyses are used to monitor annual variations and emerging trends. Queries arising from validation checks are presented to HSC Trusts for

clarification and if required returns may be amended and/or re-submitted.

Finally, prior to the publication of this information the data is presented to HSC Trusts and Hospitals for final sign-off.

Information on completed waits within the Independent Sector is provided by the HSC Board. These data are not validated by the Department and are not National Statistics.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor waiting times for a first outpatient appointment and first ICATS Tier 2 appointment, to help assess Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions and ad-hoc queries from the public.

Waiting Time Information Elsewhere in the United Kingdom

While it is our intention to direct users to waiting time information elsewhere in the UK, users should be aware that hospital waiting times in other administrations are not always measured in a comparable manner to those in Northern Ireland. Details of the hospital waiting times published elsewhere in the UK can be found as detailed below.

England

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Perfomedataandstatistics/ReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm>

Scotland

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/5627.html>

Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2011/1102101/?lang=en>

A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics are produced to a high professional standard set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. As we want to engage with users of our statistics, we invite you to feedback your comments on this publication to:

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Waiting Times for Outpatient Services

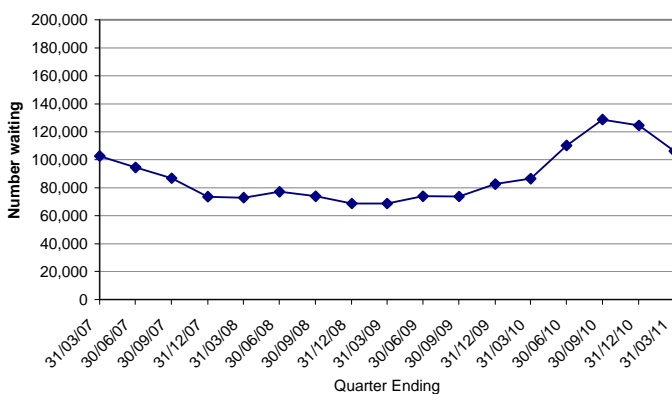
Consultant-led Outpatient Services

Data contained in this publication relates to the waiting times for a first outpatient assessment in services within HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland at 31st March 2011. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of their team or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral.

Total patients waiting¹

The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment at the end of March 2011 stood at 106,227, which is 18,362 (-14.7%) less than at the end of December 2010 (124,589) and 19,726 (22.8%) more than at the end of March 2010 (86,501) (Figure 1 & Table 1).

Figure 1: Total number of patients waiting: Quarterly trends 31st March 2007 – 31st March 2011¹

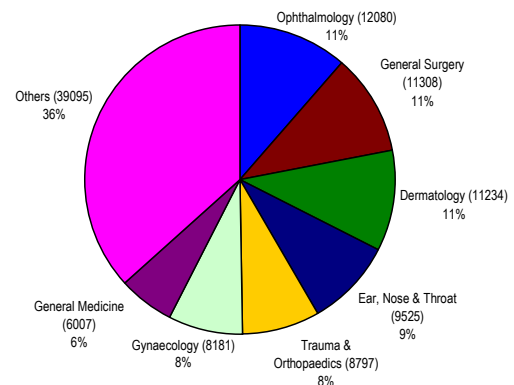


Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Total Patients Waiting by Specialty¹

Just under two-thirds of the 106,227 (63.2%, 67,132) patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment were within seven specialties: Ophthalmology; General Surgery; Dermatology; Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT); Trauma & Orthopaedics; Gynaecology and General Medicine (Figure 2 & Table 2)

Figure 2: Total number of patients waiting by specialty at 31st March 2011



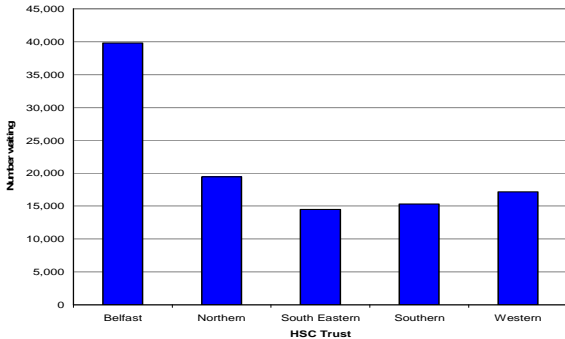
Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Total Patients Waiting by HSC Trust¹

Over a third (37.5%, 39,799) of patients waiting for a first appointment were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust. A further 18.3% (19,476) of those waiting were waiting in the Northern HSC Trust, 16.2% (17,167) in the Western HSC Trust, 14.4% (15,322) in the Southern HSC Trust and 13.6% (14,463) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Figure 3 & Table 3).

¹ Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-3

Figure 3: Total number of patients waiting by HSC Trust at 31st March 2011



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target²

The 2010/11 Priorities for Action Target relating to waiting times for a first outpatient appointment states that by 31st March 2011, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment.

Figure 4: HSC Trust performance against the 2010/11 Waiting Times PfA target for a consultant-led first appointment

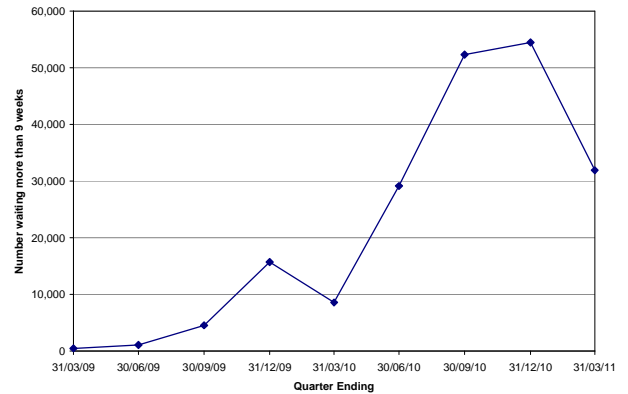
| HSC Trust | Target Achieved? |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Belfast | No |
| Northern | No |
| South Eastern | No |
| Southern | No |
| Western | No |
| Northern Ireland | No |

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Northern Ireland as a whole did not meet the 2010/11 PfA target, nor was it met individually by any of the HSC Trusts (Figure 4 and Table 3).

At the end of March 2011, the number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment was 31,909 (30.0% of the total number waiting). This was 22,563 less than at the end of December 2010 (54,472 waiting more than 9 weeks) and 23,328 more than at the same time last year (8,581 waiting more than 9 weeks). Of the 31,909 patients waiting more than 9 weeks, 23,491 (22.1% of the total number waiting) were waiting more than 13 weeks (Figure 5 & Tables 3 & 4).

Figure 5: Outpatients waiting more than 9 weeks: Quarterly Trends 31st March 2009 – 31st March 2011



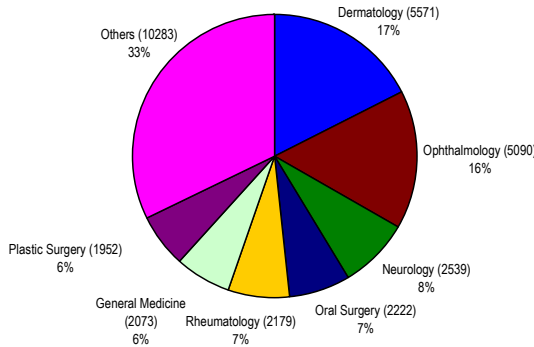
Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target by speciality²

Approximately two-thirds (67.8%, 21,626) of the 31,909 patients waiting more than 9 weeks were within seven specialities: Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Neurology, Oral Surgery, Rheumatology, General Medicine and Plastic Surgery (Figure 6 & Table 2).

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-5

Figure 6: Patients waiting more than 9 weeks by specialty at 31st March 2011

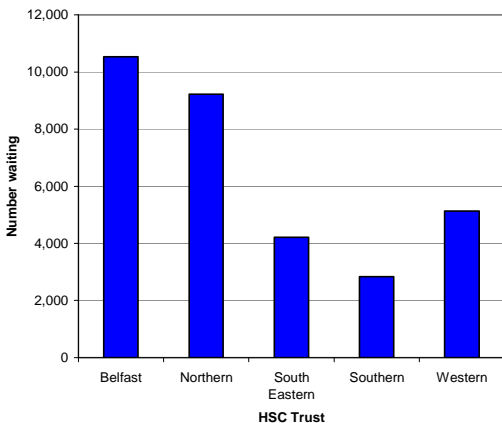


Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time by HSC Trust²

Of the 31,909 patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment, 33.0% (10,525) were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 28.9% (9,218), 16.1% (5,127), 13.2% (4,209) and 8.9% (2,830) waiting at the Northern, Western, South Eastern and Southern HSC Trusts respectively (Figure 7 & Table 3).

Figure 7: Total number of patients waiting over 9 weeks by HSC Trust at 31st March 2011

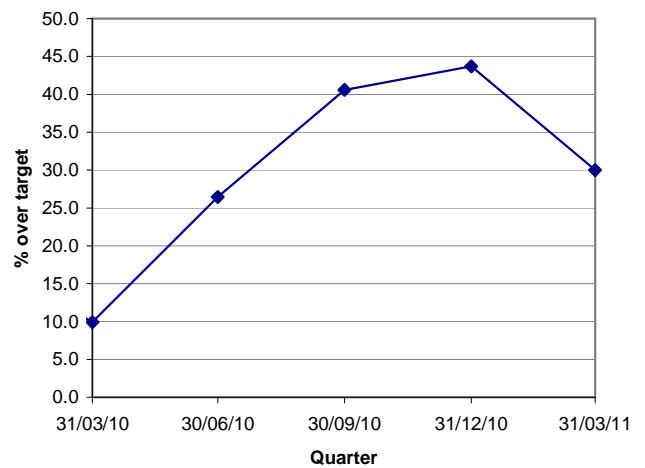


Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Proportion of patients waiting over the maximum waiting time target²

At the quarter ending March 2011, 30.0% of patients waited more than nine weeks for a first outpatient appointment (31,909 out of a total of 106,227), compared with 43.7% (54,472 out of 124,589 total patients waiting) waiting at the end of December 2010 and 9.9% (8,581 out of 86,501 total patients waiting) at the end of March 2010 (Figure 8 & Table 2).

Figure 8: Proportion of patients waiting over 9 weeks: Quarterly trends 31st March 2010 – 31st March 2011



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

Completed Waits within Health Service Hospitals³

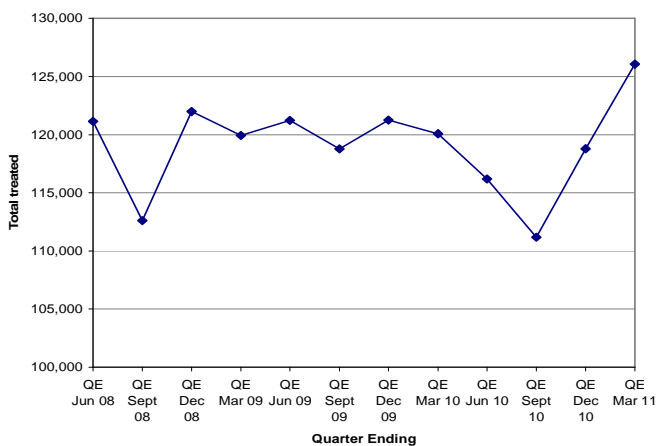
The number of completed outpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, is shown in Table 5. The total number of completed waits each quarter, within HSC hospitals, is derived as the total number of attendances at a first outpatient appointment (Figure 9).

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1 - 5

³ Refer to Explanatory Notes 6 & 7

During the quarter ending the 31st March 2011, 126,071 patients attended a first outpatient appointment in a Health Service hospital, compared with 119,089 in the quarter ending 31st December 2010 (an increase of 5.9%) and 120,086 in the quarter ending 31st March 2010 (up 5.0%).

Figure 9: Total number of completed waits in Health Service hospitals: Quarterly trends QE June 2008 – QE March 2011



Source: Departmental Return QOAR.
P-Provisional

Completed Waits within Independent Sector³

During the March 2011 quarter, a number of patients attended a first outpatient appointment, commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. The number of such patients attending a first outpatient appointment within the Independent Sector has been provided by the Health and Social Care Board, split by commissioning Trust (Table 6).

During the quarter ending March 2011, 10,111 Health Service patients attended a first outpatient appointment, within the Independent Sector. This is an increase

on the quarter ending December 2010 (7,063), but a decrease on the same quarter of the previous year (11,241).

Completed Waits Including Independent Sector Activity³

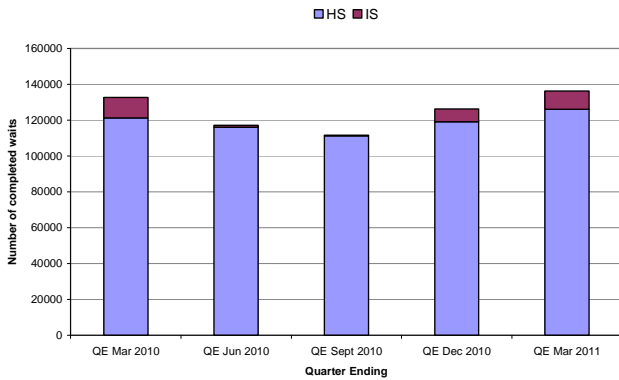
When the total number of completed outpatient waits commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, during the quarter ending March 2011 (10,111) is combined with that for outpatients attending a first outpatient appointment in Health Service hospitals during the same period (126,071), it is estimated that approximately 136,182 outpatients attended a first appointment in Northern Ireland for an assessment commissioned by the Health Service (Table 5)

Approximately 38.5% (52,469) of completed waits for the quarter ending 31st March 2011 occurred in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 17.2% (23,479), 16.3% (22,138), 16.1% (21,990) and 11.8% (16,106) occurring in the South Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Trusts respectively (Table 6)

There has been a 8.0% (10,030) increase in the total number of completed outpatient waits between December 2010 (126,152) and March 2011 (136,182) and a increase of 3.7% (4,855) from March 2010 (131,327) to March 2011 (136,182) (Figure 10 & Table 7).

³ Refer to Explanatory Notes 6 & 7

Figure 10: Completed outpatient waits including Independent Sector activity: Quarterly trends QE March 2010 – QE March 2011^P



Source: Departmental Return QOAR and IS1 Part 1 P – Data are currently provisional

Between the quarters ending March 2010 and March 2011, there have been variations in the total number of completed outpatient waits commissioned by Health Service hospitals. There were decreases in the two quarters between March 2010 and September 2010 (from 131,327 in the quarter ending March 2010, to 116,985 in the quarter ending June 2010, falling to 111,475 in the quarter ending September 2010).

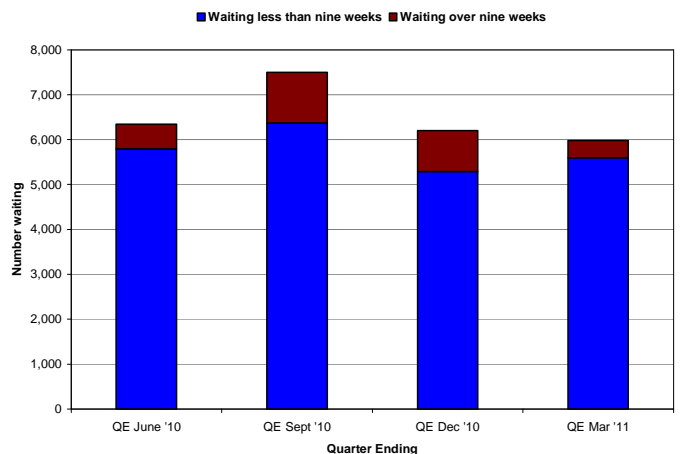
However, in the subsequent two quarters, there were increases in the total number of completed outpatient waits with 126,152 completed waits in the quarters ending December 2010, rising further to 136,182 in the quarter ending March 2011. These increases were due to rises in both in-house activity (+7,951 between the quarters ending September 2010 and December 2010, and + 6,982 between the quarters ending December 2010 and March 2011), and independent sector activity (+6,726 and +3,048 respectively).

Waiting Times for a first Tier 2 Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (ICATS) Appointment⁴

During the March 2011 quarter, a number of patients were waiting for a Tier 2 appointment within Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS). ICATS is the term used for a range of services for patients, which are provided by integrated multi-disciplinary teams of health service professionals, including GPs with special interest, specialist nurses and allied health professionals. They are provided in a variety of primary, community and secondary care settings and include assessment, treatment, diagnostic and advisory services.

There were 5,979 patients waiting for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment at the end of March 2011. This was 224 (-3.6%) less than at the end of December 2010 (6,203) (Figure 11 & Table 8)

Figure 11: Total number of patients waiting for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment: Quarterly trends 30th June 2010 – 31st March 2011



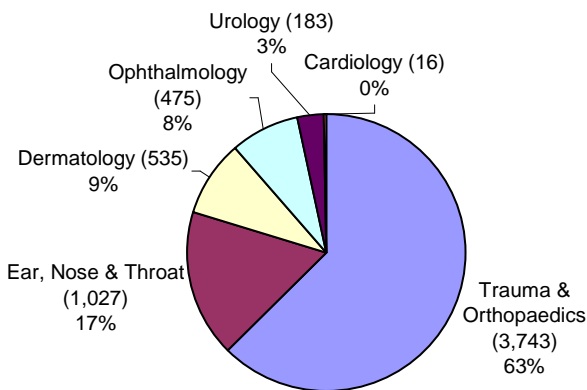
Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Total Patients Waiting for an ICATS Appointment by Specialty⁴

The majority (62.6%, 3,743) of those waiting for a first ICATS appointment were waiting for an appointment within the Trauma & Orthopaedics specialty, followed by ENT, Dermatology and Ophthalmology (17.2%, 1,027; 9.0%, 535; and 7.9%, 475 respectively). Only a small proportion of those waiting were within the Urology (3.1%, 183) and Cardiology specialties (0.3%, 16) (Figure 12 & Table 9).

Figure 12: Total number of ICATS patients waiting by specialty at 31st March 2011

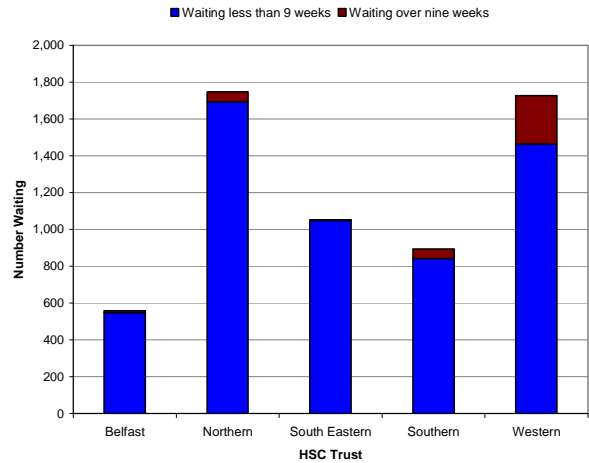


Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

Total Patients Waiting for an ICATS Appointment by HSC Trust⁴

Nearly six tenths of those waiting for a first ICATS appointment were waiting in the Northern (29.2%, 1,748) and Western (28.9%, 1,727) HSC Trusts. A further 17.6% (1,052) and 15.0% (894) were waiting in the South Eastern and Southern HSC Trusts respectively, with only 9.3% (558) waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust (Figure 13 & Table 10).

Figure 13: Total number of ICATS patients waiting by HSC Trust at 31st March 2011



Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target for a first Tier 2 ICATS⁴

The 2010/11 Priorities for Action targets for waiting times for ICATS services states that by 31st March 2011, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first Tier 2 appointment at ICATS.

Figure 14: HSC Trust Performance against the 2010/11 Waiting Times PfA target for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment

| HSC Trust | Target Achieved? |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Belfast | No |
| Northern | No |
| South Eastern | No |
| Southern | No |
| Western | No |
| Northern Ireland | No |

The 2010/11 PfA target was not met for Northern Ireland as a whole, nor did any of the HSC Trusts meet it, though it was only marginally missed by the South Eastern and Belfast HSC Trusts (3 and

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

10 patients waiting over nine weeks respectively) (Figure 14 and Table 10).

Overall, 93.6% of those waiting for an appointment were waiting less than 9 weeks (Table 11). In total there were 381 patients who waited more than 9 weeks for a first ICATS outpatient appointment, a decrease of 537 from the previous quarter (918 waiting over nine weeks). At the quarter ending March 2011, the proportion of patients waiting longer than 9 weeks for an ICATS appointment was 6.4%, a decrease on the 14.8% (918 out of 6203 total patients waiting) waiting at the end of December 2010.

Patients waiting for an ICATS appointment longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target by Specialty⁴

Of those waiting over nine weeks for a first outpatient appointment at ICATS, nearly six tenths (58.8%, 224) of those patients were waiting in the ENT specialty, with a further 13.6%, 13.4% and 12.6% waiting in the Urology (52), T & O (51) and Dermatology (48) specialties respectively. Only 1.6% of patients were waiting in the Ophthalmology (6) specialty, and no one was waiting longer than nine weeks in the Cardiology specialty at the 31st March 2011 (Table 9).

Patients waiting for an ICATS appointment longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target by HSC Trust⁴

Of the 381 patients waiting more than nine weeks, approximately two-thirds (68.8%, 262) were waiting in the Western HSC Trust. A further 14.2% and 13.6% were waiting in the Northern (54) and Southern (52) HSC Trusts, with only 2.6% and 0.8% waiting more than nine

weeks in the Belfast (10) and South Eastern (3) HSC Trusts respectively.

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Consultant-led Outpatient Services

Table 1 Quarterly outpatient waiting lists – 31st March 2011¹

| | Quarter Ending March 2011 | Change compared with end of previous quarter | Change compared with end same quarter - previous year |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Total Waiting | 106,227 | -18,362 | +19,726 |

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

¹ Refer to Explanatory Notes 1 - 3

Table 2 Number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st March 2011²

| Specialty | Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting | | | | | Total Number of Patients Waiting |
|------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| | 0-6 | >6-9 | >9-13 | >13-26 | >26 | |
| Ophthalmology | 5,165 | 1,825 | 1,323 | 3,236 | 531 | 12,080 |
| General Surgery | 7,723 | 1,696 | 725 | 1,081 | 83 | 11,308 |
| Dermatology | 4,289 | 1,374 | 1,155 | 2,376 | 2,040 | 11,234 |
| Ear, Nose & Throat | 6,111 | 2,012 | 545 | 834 | 23 | 9,525 |
| Trauma & Orthopaedics | 6,302 | 2,013 | 158 | 221 | 103 | 8,797 |
| Gynaecology | 5,494 | 1,558 | 640 | 483 | 6 | 8,181 |
| General Medicine | 3,061 | 873 | 489 | 1,129 | 455 | 6,007 |
| Other:- | 18,917 | 5,905 | 3,383 | 7,214 | 3676 | 39,095 |
| Neurology | 1,704 | 591 | 510 | 1504 | 525 | 4,834 |
| Oral Surgery | 1,787 | 722 | 532 | 1190 | 500 | 4,731 |
| Rheumatology | 1,700 | 599 | 500 | 1327 | 352 | 4,478 |
| Paediatrics | 2,414 | 674 | 321 | 356 | 99 | 3,864 |
| Cardiology | 2,252 | 639 | 211 | 479 | 204 | 3,785 |
| Urology | 1,644 | 499 | 419 | 266 | 28 | 2,856 |
| Plastic Surgery | 509 | 227 | 186 | 624 | 1142 | 2,688 |
| Pain Management | 971 | 410 | 167 | 350 | 61 | 1,959 |
| Gastroenterology | 1,108 | 296 | 12 | 22 | 0 | 1,438 |
| Restorative Dentistry | 516 | 261 | 194 | 224 | 1 | 1,196 |
| Dental Medicine Specialities | 84 | 32 | 60 | 465 | 553 | 1,194 |
| Thoracic Medicine | 734 | 236 | 84 | 83 | 3 | 1,140 |
| Neurosurgery | 257 | 119 | 83 | 147 | 100 | 706 |
| Other | 3,237 | 600 | 104 | 177 | 108 | 4,226 |
| All Specialties | 57,062 | 17,256 | 8,418 | 16,574 | 6,917 | 106,227 |

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1 - 5

Table 3 Number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st March 2011²

| HSC Trust | Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting | | | | | Total Number of Patients Waiting |
|---------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 0-6 | >6-9 | >9-13 | >13-26 | >26 | |
| Belfast | 22,574 | 6,700 | 2,827 | 5,519 | 2,179 | 39,799 |
| Northern | 7,564 | 2,694 | 2,085 | 4,922 | 2,211 | 19,476 |
| South Eastern | 7,821 | 2,433 | 960 | 1,947 | 1,302 | 14,463 |
| Southern | 9,700 | 2,792 | 947 | 1,689 | 194 | 15,322 |
| Western | 9,403 | 2,637 | 1,599 | 2,497 | 1,031 | 17,167 |
| Total | 57,062 | 17,256 | 8,418 | 16,574 | 6,917 | 106,227 |

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1 - 5

Table 4 Patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment– 31st March 2011²

| | Quarter Ending March 2011 | Change compared with end of previous quarter | Change compared with end same quarter - previous year |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Total Waiting | 31,909 | -22,563 | +23,328 |

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1 - 5

Table 5 Completed outpatient waits: QE June 2008 – QE March 2011³

| Quarter | Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Within Health Service Hospitals | Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits in Independent Sector | Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| A - J 2008 | 121,147 | 5,087 | 126,234 |
| J - S 2008 | 112,610 | 7,173 | 119,783 |
| O- D 2008 | 121,985 | 10,354 | 132,339 |
| J - M 2009 | 119,942 | 13,260 | 133,202 |
| A - M 2008/9 | 354,537 | 30,787 | 385,324 |
| A - J 2009 | 121,244 | 13,246 | 134,490 |
| J - S 2009 | 118,770 | 12,799 | 131,569 |
| O- D 2009 | 121,245 | 2,202 | 123,447 |
| J - M 2010 | 120,086 | 11,241 | 131,327 |
| A - M 2009/10 | 481,345 | 39,488 | 520,833 |
| A - J 2010 ^{RP} | 116,116 | 869 | 116,985 |
| J - S 2010 ^{RP} | 111,138 | 337 | 111,475 |
| O- D 2010 ^{RP} | 119,089 | 7,063 | 126,152 |
| J - M 2011 ^P | 126,071 | 10,111 | 136,182 |
| A - M 2010/11^P | 472,414 | 18,380 | 490,794 |

Source: Departmental Return QOAR and IS1 part 1.

R – Data have been revised P – Data are currently provisional

³ Refer to Explanatory Notes 6 & 7

Table 6 Completed outpatient waits by HSC Trust including Independent Sector activity – QE March 2011³

| Provider Trust | Number of Completed Outpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals ^P | Number of Completed Outpatient Waits in Independent Sector ^P | Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service ^P |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Belfast | 46,996 | 5,473 | 52,469 |
| Northern | 16,105 | 1 | 16,106 |
| South Eastern | 20,974 | 2,505 | 23,479 |
| Southern | 20,516 | 1,474 | 21,990 |
| Western | 21,480 | 658 | 22,138 |
| Total Treated | 126,071 | 10,111 | 136,182 |

Source: Departmental Returns QOAR and IS1 part 1

P – Data are currently provisional

³ Refer to Explanatory Notes 6 & 7

Table 7 Completed outpatient waits by Trust including Independent Sector activity, QE March 2010- QE March 2011³

| Provider Trust | Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | QE March 2010 | QE June 2010 ^{RP} | QE September 2010 ^{RP} | QE December 2010 ^{RP} | QE March 2011 ^P |
| Belfast | 47,142 | 46,094 | 44,060 | 51,679 | 52,469 |
| Northern | 19,251 | 15,124 | 13,697 | 15,516 | 16,106 |
| South Eastern | 23,651 | 19,461 | 19,552 | 20,174 | 23,479 |
| Southern | 18,195 | 17,538 | 15,987 | 19,071 | 21,990 |
| Western | 23,088 | 18,768 | 18,179 | 19,712 | 22,138 |
| Total | 131,327 | 116,985 | 111,475 | 126,152 | 136,182 |

Source: Departmental Returns QOAR and IS1 part 1

R – Data have been revised

P – Data are currently provisional

³ Refer to Explanatory Notes 6 & 7

Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services

Table 8 Quarterly ICATS waiting lists – 31st March 2011⁴

| | Quarter Ending 31st March 2011 | Change compared with end of previous quarter |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Total Waiting | 5,979 | -224 |

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Table 9 Number of patients waiting for a first ICATS Tier 2 appointment by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st March 2011⁴

| Specialty | Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting | | | | | Total Number of Patients Waiting |
|------------------------|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|
| | 0-6 | >6-9 | >9-13 | >13-26 | >26 | |
| Urology | 89 | 42 | 45 | 7 | 0 | 183 |
| Trauma & Orthopaedics | 3,095 | 597 | 48 | 3 | 0 | 3,743 |
| Ear, Nose & Throat | 686 | 117 | 171 | 53 | 0 | 1,027 |
| Ophthalmology | 435 | 34 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 475 |
| Cardiology | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Dermatology | 393 | 94 | 41 | 6 | 1 | 535 |
| All Specialties | 4,713 | 885 | 310 | 70 | 1 | 5,979 |

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Table 10 Number of patients waiting for a first ICATS Tier 2 appointment by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st March 2011⁴

| Provider Trust | Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting | | | | | Total Number of Patients Waiting |
|----------------|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|
| | 0-6 | >6-9 | >9-13 | >13-26 | >26 | |
| Belfast | 516 | 32 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 558 |
| Northern | 1,496 | 198 | 46 | 8 | 0 | 1,748 |
| South Eastern | 882 | 167 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1,052 |
| Southern | 636 | 206 | 45 | 7 | 0 | 894 |
| Western | 1,183 | 282 | 210 | 52 | 0 | 1,727 |
| Total | 4,713 | 885 | 310 | 70 | 1 | 5,979 |

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Table 11 Patients waiting more than 9 Weeks for a first ICATS Tier 2 appointment – 31st March 2011⁴

| | Quarter ending 31st March 2011 | Change compared with end of previous quarter |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Total Waiting > 9 weeks | 381 | -537 |

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes 8 - 10

Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Departmental Returns CH3, IS1, Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR), and the ICATS Waiting Time Dataset. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts and the Health and Social Care Board on a quarterly basis.
2. Trust based information (CH3, QOAR, Departmental Return IS1 and ICATS Waiting Time Datasets) returns include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.
3. Outpatient waiters are defined as patients still waiting for their first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter, including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of their team or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral. Waiting time for a first outpatient appointment begins on the date the HSC Trust receives a referral for a first outpatient appointment and ends on the date a patient attends a first outpatient appointment. Patients who cannot attend (CNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date they informed the HSC Trust they could not attend, while patients who do not attend (DNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date of their DNA.
4. For Tables 2, 3 and 4, and Figures 4 to 8 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.
5. The 2010/11 ministerial target for outpatient waiting times states that by 31st March 2011 no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment. Patients waiting 'more than 9 weeks' includes all patients in the >9-13, >13-26 and >26 week timebands.
6. The total number of completed outpatient waits each quarter, within HSC hospitals, is derived as the total number of attendances at a first outpatient appointment from the Departmental Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return.
7. The number of patients that received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector is provided in Tables 5 to 7. These figures are provided by the HSC Board. They are published for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patient's 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.
8. From 1st April 2010, a number of Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS) were officially introduced within the HSC. ICATS is the term used for a range of outpatient services for patients, which are provided by integrated multi-disciplinary teams of health service professionals, including GPs with a special interest, specialist nurses and allied health professionals. They are provided in a variety of primary, community and secondary care settings and they include assessment, treatment, diagnostic and advisory services. A first appointment at ICATS is known as a Tier 2 appointment. Waiting times for a first ICATS Tier 2 appointment are measured in a similar fashion to those for a first outpatient appointment (see point 3).
9. ICATS introduced from 1st April 2010 included services in the Belfast HSCT (Ophthalmology and Dermatology), the Northern HSCT (ENT, Ophthalmology and Dermatology), the South Eastern HSCT (ENT, Ophthalmology and Dermatology), Southern HSCT (Dermatology, Urology and Cardiology) and the Western HSCT (ENT and Ophthalmology). ICATS in the Trauma and Orthopaedic specialty were introduced on 1st October 2007 and are provided in all five Health and Social Care Trusts.

10. An ICATS Tier 2 first appointment is considered as a non-consultant outpatient appointment and hence these waiters are not reported along with consultant led outpatient waiters. Following ICATS Triage, patients who have not been given either discharge, advice only or referral incomplete outcomes will proceed for either a (i) first outpatient appointment, (ii) a diagnostic test or (iii) an ICATS Tier 2 appointment. Following a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment there are a number of outcomes, including a review Tier 2 ICATS appointment or a referral for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment. If the latter is the case then the outpatient waiting time starts from the date on which this referral is received by the outpatient service, i.e., it is treated as a new referral.
11. 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.
12. All of the data contained in the tables are also available on a quarterly basis and can be supplied by individual specialty or Provider HSC Trust if this level of detail is required (as in previous bulletins). In addition, quarterly data relating to outpatient and ICATS waiting times have also been published in spreadsheet format (Microsoft Excel), split by HSC Trust, Specialty and Programme of Care, in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/waiting_times_main.htm
13. Figures relating to the quarter ending 30th June 2011 will be released on Thursday 25th August 2011.

Further information on Outpatient Waiting Times in Northern Ireland, is available from:

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This Statistical bulletin and others published by Hospital Information Branch are available to download from the DHSSPS Internet site at:

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2.htm