

SDR 67/2009

13 May 2009

NHS Wales Diagnostic & Therapy Services Waiting Times: At End March 2009

This statistical release shows information on waiting times for specified diagnostic and therapy services (*see notes*) for the NHS in Wales.

One of the targets relating to hospital waiting times, to be met by 31st March 2009, is that the maximum wait for access to specified diagnostic tests will be 8 weeks and for specified therapy services will be 14 weeks.

Key points at the end of March:

- The number of people waiting more than 8 weeks for specified diagnostic services fell over the month from 2,022 to 0.
- The number of people waiting more than 14 weeks for specified therapy services fell over the month from 645 to 0.

Table 1: Patients waiting for Diagnostic and Therapy Services:

	28 February 2009	31 March 2009	Change	Percentage change*
<i>Diagnostic Services: Patients waiting over 8 weeks</i>				
Cardiophysiology	101	0	-101	-100%
Diagnostic endoscopy	892	0	-892	-100%
Imaging	8	0	-8	-100%
Neurophysiology	248	0	-248	-100%
Physiological Measurement	79	0	-79	-100%
Radiology (Consultant referral)	548	0	-548	-100%
Radiology (GP referral)	146	0	-146	-100%
<i>Therapy services: Patients waiting over 14 weeks</i>				
Arts Therapies	0	0	0	.
Audiology – Adult hearing aids ¹	77	0	-77	-100%
Dietetics	66	0	-66	-100%
Occupational Therapy	38	0	-38	-100%
Physiotherapy	391	0	-391	-100%
Podiatry	28	0	-28	-100%
Speech Language	45	0	-45	-100%

¹First issue of hearing aids only. Does not include waiting lists for digital upgrades or the second issue of a hearing aid.

* Users should take care when interpreting percentage changes when dealing with small numbers.

. = not applicable

All figures relating to 31 March 2009 are provisional

This briefing and associated trust, hospital site and detailed service figures are available on

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

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Welsh Assembly Government

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPY SERVICES WAITING LISTS:

Table 2: Patients waiting for specified diagnostic and therapy services in Welsh NHS Trusts

Service	Number of patients waiting at the end of March 09				Total Waiting
	Up to 8 weeks	Over 8 weeks & up to 14 weeks	Over 14 weeks & up to 24 weeks	Over 24 weeks	
Diagnostic Services:					
Cardiophysiology	3,440	0	0	0	3,440
Diagnostic endoscopy	7,764	0	0	0	7,764
Imaging	779	0	0	0	779
Neurophysiology	1,138	0	0	0	1,138
Physiological Measurement	706	0	0	0	706
Radiology – Consultant Referral	17,601	0	0	0	17,601
Radiology – GP Referral	9,582	0	0	0	9,582
Therapy Services:					
Arts Therapies	2	1	0	0	3
Audiology - Adult Hearing Aids ¹	2,558	453	0	0	3,011
Dietetics	3,114	328	0	0	3,442
Occupational Therapy	1,172	184	0	0	1,356
Physiotherapy	17,545	2,013	0	0	19,558
Podiatry	5,227	244	0	0	5,471
Speech Language	2,261	343	0	0	2,604

¹ First issue of hearing aids only. Does not include waiting lists for digital upgrades or the second issue of a hearing aid.

Notes

1. This release provides monthly waiting lists for specific diagnostic and therapy services. The target to be maintained from 31st March 2008 is that the maximum wait for access to specified diagnostic tests is 14 weeks and for specified therapy services is 24 weeks. This is part of an ongoing series of targets to reduce waiting times in Wales. The format of this release reflects the target, to be met by 31st March 2009.

2. The following diagnostic and therapy services (and sub-services) are included:

- Adult Hearing Aids (Consultant, GP)
- Arts Therapies (Learning Disabilities, Mental Health)
- Cardiophysiology (Echocardiogram, Stress Test)
- Dietetics (Adults, Paediatrics)
- Occupational Therapy (Learning Disabilities, Adults, Paediatrics, Mental Health)
- Physiotherapy (Adults, Paediatrics)
- Podiatry (Routine, Urgent)
- Radiology (Barium Enema, C.T., M.R., Non-Obstetric Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine)
- Speech & Language Therapy (Learning Disabilities, Adults, Paediatrics, Mental Health)

Published from April 2007:

- Imaging (Fluoroscopy)
- Neurophysiology (Electromyography, Nerve conduction studies)
- Physiological measurement (Urodynamic tests, Vascular technology)

Published from September 2007:

- Diagnostic Endoscopy (Bronchoscopy, Colonoscopy, Cystoscopy, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy, Gastroscopy)

3. The waiting time is calculated from the date the referral request was received until the date on which:

- a) the diagnostic test for which the patient has been referred is carried out; or
- b) the hearing aid is fitted; or
- c) the patient commences the first treatment following an assessment or examination.

4. This release is the main mechanism for the publication of the Welsh diagnostic and therapy waiting list information. Additional waiting list information, at NHS Trust, hospital site and detailed service level is available from the Internet URL given on the front page of this release.

5. If you have any comments on the coverage or presentation of this release, we would be pleased to receive them.

Key Quality Information

Coverage

The release covers the number of people waiting and times waited at the end of each month for specific diagnostic and therapy services as reported by NHS Trusts. Waiting lists include all those patients, irrespective of their area of residence, who are waiting for NHS-funded diagnostic and therapy services within Wales.

The figures in this release represent the number of outpatients and community patients reported by the NHS as waiting for specified diagnostic and therapy services. It does not include patients waiting for admission to a hospital as an inpatient or day case.

Waits for diagnostic endoscopies have been included in this release from September 2007.

Note that all data relating to latest month is provisional and may be revised for the next update of this release.

Revisions

There are no revisions this month.

Estimates

Occasionally Trusts do not submit complete information in time for the release. When this occurs an estimate is included within the data presented. Figures which include a known estimate are marked with an "e".

Data source

NHS Trusts in Wales provide monthly data to Health Solutions Wales. The data is derived from the Trusts' patient administration systems.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADDITIONAL COPIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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