

Waiting times for planned (elective) care

Our waiting times statistics include information on waiting times for planned (elective) care. They exclude information about emergency (unscheduled) care. The information provides an overview of patients who are currently on an NHS Orkney waiting list as at 28 February 2025. The statistics included relate to the wait you may experience to:

- Attend a particular outpatient clinic for the first time (known as a new outpatient attendance)
- Receive treatment under the national Treatment Time Guarantee (TTG) standard as an inpatient or day case

The waiting times figures are displayed in weeks and show patients who have either completed their wait and have been seen at a new outpatient appointment or have been admitted for treatment between 1 February 2025 and 28 February 2025.

For patients currently on an NHS Orkney waiting list, some will have waited less than the median waiting time* whilst others will have waited longer. We use the 90th percentile to show that out of every 10 patients, 9 are currently waiting less than the number of weeks indicated.

The wait experienced by our patients may vary from the median for a number of reasons, and this includes:

- The clinical need of the patient
- The urgency of the care required
- The availability of services
- The number of patients waiting to be treated

To note – Decisions about waiting times will always be made by a clinician and influenced by a clinical decision or the urgency of the care required. Statistics are likely to fluctuate as NHS Orkney addresses the backlog of patients waiting for planned care, consistent with Health Boards across NHS Scotland.

To ensure patient confidentiality, waiting times statistics are not included if there were less than 5 patients waiting or seen for treatment in the period (indicated as '<5' on each table).

Patients who need to go off island for care and treatment

NHS Orkney waiting times figures are only for patients waiting for an appointment or treatment here in Orkney. If patients need to go off island for treatment/appointment, please click on the Health Board where you have been referred to view their waiting times statistics.

The next set of statistics will be published the third week of every month and will provide an update on waiting times for the previous month.

For more information please visit [NHS Inform](#).

* The median wait time is used to calculate the typical length of time patients are currently waiting or have waited to be seen.

Inpatient Waiting Times by specialty

Currently waiting - as at 28 February 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	13	17	34
General Surgery	38	2	11
Gynaecology	14	3	6
Ophthalmology	102	19	24
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	3	9
Oral Surgery	20	5	27
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	22	13	26
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	49	13	27

The table above shows the median number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Inpatient Waiting List have been waiting for an appointment or treatment as at 28 February 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 February 2025 - 28 February 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Surgery	29	5	11
Gynaecology	12	5	12
Ophthalmology	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	10	10
Oral Surgery	0	0	0
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	7	22	22
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	<5	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	5	6	10

The table above shows the average number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Inpatient Waiting List had waited before being seen for an appointment or treatment between 1 - 28 February 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.

Outpatient Waiting Times by specialty

Currently waiting - as at 28 February 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	54	4	6
Cardiology	38	8	16
Dermatology	40	3	8
Diabetes	15	30	30
Dietetics	112	13	47
Ear, Nose & Throat	293	31	54
General Medicine	30	5	13
General Psychiatry	141	34	82
General Surgery	146	5	9
Gynaecology	40	1	3
Ophthalmology	306	25	69
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	36	15	51
Oral Surgery	158	28	52
Paediatric	33	5	22
Paediatric Surgery	<5	12	20
Pain Management	39	14	33
Physiotherapy	175	5	22
Restorative Dentistry	6	18	35
Rheumatology	25	11	15
Speech and Language Therapy	222	69	141
Trauma and Orthopaedic	516	23	40

The table above shows the median number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Outpatient Waiting List have been waiting for an appointment or treatment as at 28 February 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 February 2025 - 28 February 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	19	8	9
Cardiology	15	5	17
Dermatology	55	11	19
Diabetes	8	3	27
Dietetics	32	5	42
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	23	11	15
General Psychiatry	15	18	57
General Surgery	112	9	14
Gynaecology	54	3	7
Ophthalmology	29	4	43
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	34	6	61
Oral Surgery	25	24	57
Paediatric	17	8	14
Paediatric Surgery	<5	14	15
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	33	3	10
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Speech and Language Therapy	16	4	108
Trauma and Orthopaedic	40	41	46

The table above shows the average number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Outpatient Waiting List had waited before being seen for an appointment or treatment between 1 - 28 February 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.