

# 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 31 January 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 January 2025 and 31 January 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 31 January 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	12	13	30
General Surgery	38	8	21
Gynaecology	11	3	8
Ophthalmology	100	15	20
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	8	8
Oral Surgery	11	4	23
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	25	10	22
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	57	10	33

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 31 January 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

## Seen - between 1 January 2025 - 31 January 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	6	11
Gynaecology	5	4	7
Ophthalmology	13	22	26
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	<5	21	21
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	6	4	11

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 - 31 January 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 31 January 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	40	3	7
Cardiology	37	7	14
Dermatology	58	9	15
Diabetes	18	26	26
Dietetics	117	16	50
Ear, Nose & Throat	256	32	51
General Medicine	36	8	13
General Psychiatry	145	30	77
General Surgery	182	5	12
Gynaecology	45	2	6
Ophthalmology	279	25	68
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	38	10	72
Oral Surgery	180	25	49
Paediatric	37	9	17
Paediatric Surgery	<5	16	22
Pain Management	32	19	30
Physiotherapy	216	3	16
Restorative Dentistry	<5	16	37
Rheumatology	24	8	11
Speech and Language Therapy	223	65	140
Trauma and Orthopaedic	501	23	39

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 31 January 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 January 2025 - 31 January 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	31	8	9
Cardiology	11	5	7
Dermatology	20	5	10
Diabetes	17	5	23
Dietetics	20	6	59
Ear, Nose & Throat	46	11	57
General Medicine	17	8	10
General Psychiatry	18	24	52
General Surgery	85	4	13
Gynaecology	37	5	8
Ophthalmology	21	5	63
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	21	19	65
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	8	40	58
Physiotherapy	23	3	6
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Speech and Language Therapy	16	62	149
Trauma and Orthopaedic	39	39	49

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 - 31 January 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.