

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 March 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 March 2025 and 31 March 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 March 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	13	9	21
General Surgery	57	2	7
Gynaecology	12	6	7
Ophthalmology	106	23	29
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	8	4	7
Oral Surgery	28	4	12
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	27	4	18
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	45	7	29

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

Seen - between 1 March 2025 - 31 March 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	6	27	35
General Surgery	27	3	6
Gynaecology	6	7	14
Ophthalmology	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	8	11
Oral Surgery	<5	19	37
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	14	15	26
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	5	5	9

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 March 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 March 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	56	4	6
Cardiology	36	6	16
Dermatology	45	6	13
Diabetes	10	3	34
Dietetics	114	12	45
Ear, Nose & Throat	301	29	56
General Medicine	38	6	18
General Psychiatry	123	38	85
General Surgery	111	3	7
Gynaecology	47	3	4
Ophthalmology	285	29	75
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	26	25	55
Oral Surgery	45	33	56
Paediatric	47	5	22
Paediatric Surgery	5	4	18
Pain Management	25	10	27
Physiotherapy	162	7	22
Restorative Dentistry	22	17	30
Rheumatology	13	16	19
Speech and Language Therapy	211	73	149
Trauma and Orthopaedic	494	22	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 31 March 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 March 2025 - 31 March 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	32	8	9
Cardiology	16	11	20
Dermatology	16	8	11
Diabetes	13	32	33
Dietetics	23	5	38
Ear, Nose & Throat	30	9	56
General Medicine	<5	6	11
General Psychiatry	23	16	36
General Surgery	133	5	10
Gynaecology	42	3	5
Ophthalmology	47	16	34
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	137	22	41
Oral Surgery	14	22	83
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	15	27	36
Physiotherapy	54	4	8
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	12	9	16
Speech and Language Therapy	13	45	99
Trauma and Orthopaedic	76	42	47

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