

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 October 2024. 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 October 2024 and 31 October 2024.

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 October 2024

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	11	17	34
General Surgery	42	6	14
Gynaecology	10	2	7
Ophthalmology	110	6	19
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	11	11
Oral Surgery	16	11	17
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	27	15	36
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	58	14	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 October 2024. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 October 2024 - 31 October 2024

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Surgery	40	5	15
Gynaecology	9	10	12
Ophthalmology	26	14	21
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	0	0	0
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	10	46	58
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	<5	3	5

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 October 2024. 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 October 2024

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	46	4	7
Cardiology	44	7	17
Dermatology	58	5	12
Diabetes	34	12	12
Dietetics	105	18	55
Ear, Nose & Throat	270	28	46
General Medicine	28	2	12
General Psychiatry	134	33	80
General Surgery	151	3	8
Gynaecology	20	2	5
Ophthalmology	236	26	64
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	39	33	73
Oral Surgery	138	23	58
Paediatric	23	10	17
Paediatric Surgery	10	10	14
Pain Management	45	23	40
Physiotherapy	87	5	38
Restorative Dentistry	5	1	21
Rheumatology	13	3	11
Speech and Language Therapy	227	70	136
Trauma and Orthopaedic	501	20	36

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 October 2024. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 October 2024 - 31 October 2024

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	40	7	8
Cardiology	16	4	10
Dermatology	19	5	21
Diabetes	6	5	9
Dietetics	19	7	69
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	28	8	25
General Psychiatry	10	3	12
General Surgery	94	5	9
Gynaecology	44	3	5
Ophthalmology	70	56	79
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	26	43	55
Oral Surgery	<5	1	2
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	9	47	50
Physiotherapy	71	3	20
Restorative Dentistry	10	44	278
Rheumatology	8	15	19
Speech and Language Therapy	<5	7	16
Trauma and Orthopaedic	57	38	43

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 October 2024. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.