

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 30 September 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 September 2024 and 30 September 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 30 September 2024

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	10	17	29
General Surgery	56	6	14
Gynaecology	11	4	9
Ophthalmology	96	6	41
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	6	6
Oral Surgery	15	8	13
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	33	32	44
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	54	13	32

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

Seen - between 1 September 2024 - 30 September 2024

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	<5	25	25
General Surgery	44	4	12
Gynaecology	8	3	8
Ophthalmology	19	36	42
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	12	19
Oral Surgery	0	0	0
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	14	40	55
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	7	7	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 - 30 September 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 30 September 2024

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	60	3	8
Cardiology	31	5	15
Dermatology	44	4	16
Diabetes	36	8	8
Dietetics	99	22	68
Ear, Nose & Throat	252	25	42
General Medicine	42	6	20
General Psychiatry	113	36	78
General Surgery	143	3	8
Gynaecology	29	2	5
Ophthalmology	304	32	67
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	12	64	72
Oral Surgery	182	22	51
Paediatric	22	9	19
Paediatric Surgery	9	6	9
Pain Management	50	29	48
Physiotherapy	112	5	41
Restorative Dentistry	13	45	273
Rheumatology	14	11	18
Speech and Language Therapy	222	66	132
Trauma and Orthopaedic	504	18	35

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

Seen - between 1 September 2024 - 30 September 2024

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	13	7	8
Cardiology	16	9	16
Dermatology	17	5	7
Diabetes	5	6	9
Dietetics	27	6	76
Ear, Nose & Throat	32	44	47
General Medicine	14	5	13
General Psychiatry	9	5	71
General Surgery	78	4	8
Gynaecology	25	3	5
Ophthalmology	59	47	78
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	13	3	55
Oral Surgery	<5	9	56
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	8	39	40
Physiotherapy	51	3	14
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Speech and Language Therapy	7	4	63
Trauma and Orthopaedic	89	39	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 - 30 September 2024. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.