

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 April 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 April 2025 and 30 April 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 30 April 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	13	13	26
General Surgery	63	3	8
Gynaecology	10	3	7
Ophthalmology	108	27	33
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	8	9	11
Oral Surgery	33	6	16
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	28	8	22
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	49	8	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 30 April 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 April 2025 - 30 April 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	36	4	10
Gynaecology	9	7	9
Ophthalmology	9	24	33
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	<5	13	18
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	<5	1	1

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 April 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 30 April 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	58	5	8
Cardiology	38	9	18
Dermatology	68	6	13
Diabetes	7	5	38
Dietetics	99	20	54
Ear, Nose & Throat	337	27	60
General Medicine	22	3	8
General Psychiatry	164	43	86
General Surgery	91	2	4
Gynaecology	48	2	4
Ophthalmology	301	31	78
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	29	26	45
Oral Surgery	64	8	43
Paediatric	52	7	24
Paediatric Surgery	10	7	12
Pain Management	30	13	29
Physiotherapy	223	4	22
Restorative Dentistry	25	19	33
Rheumatology	14	3	20
Speech and Language Therapy	242	67	149
Trauma and Orthopaedic	515	22	42

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

Seen - between 1 April 2025 - 30 April 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	19	8	9
Cardiology	16	2	14
Dermatology	21	3	7
Diabetes	16	1	7
Dietetics	36	3	8
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	33	7	20
General Psychiatry	13	12	71
General Surgery	127	4	7
Gynaecology	41	4	6
Ophthalmology	20	7	13
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	15	33	60
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	71	4	16
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	8	19	21
Speech and Language Therapy	15	4	78
Trauma and Orthopaedic	48	43	48

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