

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 2026. 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 2026 and 30 April 2026.

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 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	34	26	32
General Surgery	38	5	8
Gynaecology	18	4	15
Ophthalmology	184	40	42
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	5	6	14
Oral Surgery	11	12	13
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	20	5	13
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	105	9	24

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 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 April 2026 - 30 April 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Surgery	44	5	11
Gynaecology	7	7	11
Ophthalmology	11	40	44
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	5	12	29
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	9	9	9
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	4	13	21

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 2026. 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 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	34	2	7
Cardiology	16	1	6
Dermatology	100	11	28
Diabetes	14	4	9
Dietetics	76	9	45
Ear, Nose & Throat	191	10	22
General Medicine	49	3	9
General Psychiatry	135	66	131
General Surgery	45	1	3
Gynaecology	44	2	5
Ophthalmology	123	8	17
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	18	31	32
Oral Surgery	141	13	24
Paediatric	24	5	15
Paediatric Surgery	1	3	3
Pain Management	43	21	28
Physiotherapy	78	4	31
Restorative Dentistry	21	20	31
Rheumatology	15	7	14
Speech and Language Therapy	237	90	196
Trauma and Orthopaedic	383	15	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 30 April 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 April 2026 - 30 April 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	30	4	4
Cardiology	35	4	11
Dermatology	0	0	0
Diabetes	3	2	6
Dietetics	16	6	62
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	21	7	12
General Psychiatry	11	22	34
General Surgery	103	2	3
Gynaecology	48	3	7
Ophthalmology	18	4	16
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	16	14	38
Paediatric	6	14	23
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	8	31	40
Physiotherapy	60	3	20
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	11	14	22
Speech and Language Therapy	13	3	80
Trauma and Orthopaedic	93	34	44

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 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.