

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 August 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 August 2025 and 31 August 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 August 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	27	4	24
General Surgery	96	7	16
Gynaecology	7	2	6
Ophthalmology	258	7	44
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	8	5	25
Oral Surgery	20	13	23
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	23	11	25
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	74	10	25

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

Seen - between 1 August 2025 - 31 August 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	<5	21	26
General Surgery	36	8	19
Gynaecology	10	3	6
Ophthalmology	0	0	0
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	11	24	38
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	7	8	13

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 August 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 August 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	43	4	6
Cardiology	44	8	18
Dermatology	43	4	7
Diabetes	9	3	21
Dietetics	101	15	42
Ear, Nose & Throat	231	21	48
General Medicine	25	4	8
General Psychiatry	175	46	100
General Surgery	33	2	3
Gynaecology	24	2	4
Ophthalmology	98	8	29
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	39	9	25
Oral Surgery	97	15	30
Paediatric	11	3	16
Paediatric Surgery	<5	2	2
Pain Management	43	10	22
Physiotherapy	110	9	30
Restorative Dentistry	10	14	37
Rheumatology	12	7	14
Speech and Language Therapy	240	83	165
Trauma and Orthopaedic	505	20	43

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

Seen - between 1 August 2025 - 31 August 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	22	7	8
Cardiology	20	5	16
Dermatology	58	7	16
Diabetes	<5	4	4
Dietetics	28	10	29
Ear, Nose & Throat	138	64	77
General Medicine	15	5	9
General Psychiatry	16	13	94
General Surgery	80	2	3
Gynaecology	31	2	3
Ophthalmology	19	4	30
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	6	12	36
Paediatric	16	11	19
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	9	28	31
Physiotherapy	33	5	27
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	8	13	14
Speech and Language Therapy	13	3	19
Trauma and Orthopaedic	41	48	54

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