

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 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 August 2026 and 31 August 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 31 August 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	33	43	44
General Surgery	65	3	10
Gynaecology	15	4	9
Ophthalmology	159	54	59
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	5	23	23
Oral Surgery	7	2	16
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	17	5	22
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	134	14	28

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

Seen - between 1 August 2026 - 31 August 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	33	3	8
Gynaecology	5	4	7
Ophthalmology	18	58	58
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	7	11	15
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	2	2	2
Trauma and Orthopaedic	1	4	4

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 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 31 August 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	18	1	3
Cardiology	25	3	8
Dermatology	115	18	39
Diabetes	10	2	5
Dietetics	94	11	41
Ear, Nose & Throat	266	18	34
General Medicine	34	4	12
General Psychiatry	142	80	148
General Surgery	25	1	7
Gynaecology	36	3	5
Ophthalmology	215	14	29
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	16	5	16
Oral Surgery	152	16	36
Paediatric	9	4	5
Paediatric Surgery	1	2	2
Pain Management	67	15	37
Physiotherapy	81	6	27
Restorative Dentistry	17	11	24
Rheumatology	5	3	7
Speech and Language Therapy	260	92	208
Trauma and Orthopaedic	346	13	31

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

Seen - between 1 August 2026 - 31 August 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	29	3	4
Cardiology	25	3	10
Dermatology	8	6	8
Diabetes	4	1	7
Dietetics	26	6	18
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	24	9	12
General Psychiatry	1	13	13
General Surgery	95	2	3
Gynaecology	40	4	6
Ophthalmology	27	5	11
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	37	10	46
Paediatric	11	7	10
Paediatric Surgery	8	9	14
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	50	4	11
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	4	7	8
Speech and Language Therapy	16	74	120
Trauma and Orthopaedic	84	35	45

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