

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 December 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 December 2025 and 31 December 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 December 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	41	9	19
General Surgery	46	5	13
Gynaecology	12	4	8
Ophthalmology	223	24	32
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	3	4
Oral Surgery	23	15	18
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	23	10	10
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	70	11	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 31 December 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 December 2025 - 31 December 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	43	4	13
Gynaecology	10	2	6
Ophthalmology	9	56	62
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	14	14
Oral Surgery	<5	27	27
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	7	6	15

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 December 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 December 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	32	4	6
Cardiology	23	6	9
Dermatology	72	10	14
Diabetes	6	6	10
Dietetics	124	15	47
Ear, Nose & Throat	97	6	14
General Medicine	22	3	7
General Psychiatry	128	55	114
General Surgery	39	2	3
Gynaecology	50	4	7
Ophthalmology	93	6	15
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	9	4	33
Oral Surgery	141	10	23
Paediatric	26	5	16
Paediatric Surgery	<5	4	5
Pain Management	56	13	27
Physiotherapy	77	7	29
Restorative Dentistry	12	6	14
Rheumatology	11	5	8
Speech and Language Therapy	240	86	182
Trauma and Orthopaedic	475	21	39

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

Seen - between 1 December 2025 - 31 December 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	48	5	7
Cardiology	40	4	13
Dermatology	6	7	31
Diabetes	<5	3	4
Dietetics	34	16	45
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	20	6	10
General Psychiatry	5	17	87
General Surgery	96	2	3
Gynaecology	35	4	6
Ophthalmology	51	11	26
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	27	8	23
Oral Surgery	15	5	19
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	9	13	15
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	46	4	33
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Speech and Language Therapy	21	90	105
Trauma and Orthopaedic	20	35	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 - 31 December 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.