

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 July 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 July 2025 and 31 July 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 July 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	12	20	26
General Surgery	94	5	16
Gynaecology	8	2	9
Ophthalmology	253	3	40
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	4	11	20
Oral Surgery	19	14	18
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	26	21	21
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	80	8	22

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

Seen - between 1 July 2025 - 31 July 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	50	5	14
Gynaecology	5	2	3
Ophthalmology	14	44	45
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	10	17	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	<5	1	1
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 - 31 July 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 July 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	40	3	5
Cardiology	43	6	17
Dermatology	65	6	14
Diabetes	7	7	27
Dietetics	111	12	37
Ear, Nose & Throat	351	36	72
General Medicine	27	3	8
General Psychiatry	173	45	97
General Surgery	43	1	2
Gynaecology	26	1	3
Ophthalmology	82	6	36
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	10	13	47
Oral Surgery	112	11	32
Paediatric	25	8	18
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	48	10	26
Physiotherapy	127	6	28
Restorative Dentistry	9	10	33
Rheumatology	17	6	13
Speech and Language Therapy	251	78	160
Trauma and Orthopaedic	501	19	45

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

Seen - between 1 July 2025 - 31 July 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	30	6	7
Cardiology	28	4	14
Dermatology	20	4	6
Diabetes	10	3	6
Dietetics	25	3	55
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	12	10	13
General Psychiatry	7	18	66
General Surgery	111	2	4
Gynaecology	48	2	6
Ophthalmology	230	33	69
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	12	4	33
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	63	5	11
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	10	9	11
Speech and Language Therapy	19	3	77
Trauma and Orthopaedic	45	33	53

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