

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 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 July 2026 and 31 July 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 July 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	33	39	39
General Surgery	54	4	9
Gynaecology	9	4	7
Ophthalmology	176	53	55
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	5	19	19
Oral Surgery	9	9	19
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	8	18	20
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	113	13	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 July 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 July 2026 - 31 July 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	30	4	8
Gynaecology	6	5	7
Ophthalmology	9	33	57
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	<5	14	26
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	11	18	23
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	15	14	18

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 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 July 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	27	2	3
Cardiology	29	3	9
Dermatology	102	18	35
Diabetes	6	3	7
Dietetics	98	9	47
Ear, Nose & Throat	239	15	29
General Medicine	49	6	9
General Psychiatry	144	76	144
General Surgery	52	1	3
Gynaecology	38	3	6
Ophthalmology	194	12	26
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	11	34
Oral Surgery	183	15	34
Paediatric	18	6	11
Paediatric Surgery	8	8	13
Pain Management	59	14	34
Physiotherapy	95	4	19
Restorative Dentistry	14	9	26
Rheumatology	10	3	6
Speech and Language Therapy	239	99	206
Trauma and Orthopaedic	388	12	37

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

Seen - between 1 July 2026 - 31 July 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	33	4	5
Cardiology	19	2	4
Dermatology	32	29	41
Diabetes	5	6	7
Dietetics	19	6	23
Ear, Nose & Throat	48	24	33
General Medicine	18	9	14
General Psychiatry	16	8	23
General Surgery	99	2	3
Gynaecology	45	3	6
Ophthalmology	17	3	16
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	20	7	36
Paediatric	<5	9	9
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	13	37	41
Physiotherapy	55	3	14
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	8	7	10
Speech and Language Therapy	24	2	5
Trauma and Orthopaedic	73	14	40

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