

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 March 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 March 2026 and 31 March 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 March 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
General Surgery	58	3	8
Pain Management	16	8	8
Ophthalmology	191	36	38
Ear, Nose & Throat	34	22	28
Trauma and Orthopaedic	91	8	21
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	1	2
Oral Surgery	13	8	19
Gynaecology	18	4	11
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0

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

Seen - between 1 March 2026 - 31 March 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	6	24	30
General Surgery	46	3	18
Gynaecology	10	6	17
Ophthalmology	20	40	42
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	15	24
Oral Surgery	<5	17	27
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	9	23	23
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	<5	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	6	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 - 28 February 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 March 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	42	2	6
Cardiology	33	3	9
Dermatology	82	9	23
Diabetes	9	4	9
Dietetics	75	21	56
Ear, Nose & Throat	159	6	18
General Medicine	39	5	8
General Psychiatry	128	64	127
General Surgery	51	1	3
Gynaecology	34	4	8
Ophthalmology	105	5	17
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	21	26	29
Oral Surgery	120	11	23
Paediatric	26	4	19
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	44	18	30
Physiotherapy	90	6	29
Restorative Dentistry	19	16	25
Rheumatology	25	6	20
Speech and Language Therapy	238	92	193
Trauma and Orthopaedic	403	20	38

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

Seen - between 1 March 2026 - 31 March 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	24	3	5
Cardiology	15	7	9
Dermatology	<5	4	6
Diabetes	8	2	4
Dietetics	37	2	62
Ear, Nose & Throat	31	18	23
General Medicine	12	5	7
General Psychiatry	8	10	21
General Surgery	88	2	3
Gynaecology	45	3	5
Ophthalmology	12	5	9
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	19	4	8
Oral Surgery	6	3	25
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	8	4	15
Pain Management	5	20	36
Physiotherapy	56	4	16
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Speech and Language Therapy	9	3	22
Trauma and Orthopaedic	80	36	47

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