

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 May 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 May 2025 and 30 May 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 May 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	11	13	18
General Surgery	74	5	10
Gynaecology	10	3	8
Ophthalmology	118	31	37
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	9	10	14
Oral Surgery	26	10	14
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	28	13	27
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	55	8	34

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

Seen - between 1 May 2025 - 31 May 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	5	16	30
General Surgery	26	5	11
Gynaecology	7	3	7
Ophthalmology	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	9	16	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	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	6	5	9

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 May 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 May 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	53	3	7
Cardiology	45	7	19
Dermatology	76	8	17
Diabetes	9	4	13
Dietetics	118	16	50
Ear, Nose & Throat	348	30	64
General Medicine	17	3	10
General Psychiatry	158	47	90
General Surgery	64	2	3
Gynaecology	39	3	5
Ophthalmology	315	29	82
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	48	10	44
Oral Surgery	73	8	37
Paediatric	21	4	10
Paediatric Surgery	11	9	15
Pain Management	37	16	31
Physiotherapy	180	5	26
Restorative Dentistry	5	8	28
Rheumatology	15	4	5
Speech and Language Therapy	239	72	154
Trauma and Orthopaedic	525	21	44

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

Seen - between 1 May 2025 - 31 May 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	34	10	11
Cardiology	20	4	22
Dermatology	19	6	9
Diabetes	8	1	17
Dietetics	28	3	48
Ear, Nose & Throat	29	9	15
General Medicine	19	5	9
General Psychiatry	17	7	69
General Surgery	129	2	5
Gynaecology	53	3	6
Ophthalmology	23	5	41
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	15	36	45
Paediatric	29	13	29
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	48	4	14
Restorative Dentistry	22	23	37
Rheumatology	7	19	21
Speech and Language Therapy	13	7	13
Trauma and Orthopaedic	55	44	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 - 31 May 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.