

# 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 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 May 2026 and 31 May 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 May 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	32	30	31
General Surgery	35	2	9
Gynaecology	14	3	7
Ophthalmology	174	45	46
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	10	10
Oral Surgery	16	12	17
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	20	9	17
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	119	9	26

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

## Seen - between 1 May 2026 - 31 May 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	6	33	37
General Surgery	30	4	11
Gynaecology	9	6	11
Ophthalmology	12	48	48
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	8	20
Oral Surgery	0	0	0
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	<5	12	12

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 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 May 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	22	2	4
Cardiology	19	3	3
Dermatology	122	13	32
Diabetes	14	5	13
Dietetics	84	12	46
Ear, Nose & Throat	201	14	26
General Medicine	68	5	10
General Psychiatry	139	69	135
General Surgery	64	2	2
Gynaecology	34	2	5
Ophthalmology	151	8	20
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	9	35	37
Oral Surgery	158	15	28
Paediatric	8	2	3
Paediatric Surgery	<5	2	6
Pain Management	50	21	31
Physiotherapy	75	5	29
Restorative Dentistry	7	3	23
Rheumatology	18	4	18
Speech and Language Therapy	236	94	200
Trauma and Orthopaedic	401	13	34

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

Seen - between 1 May 2026 - 31 May 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	28	4	5
Cardiology	18	3	4
Dermatology	<5	10	10
Diabetes	7	5	5
Dietetics	16	5	41
Ear, Nose & Throat	25	8	13
General Medicine	16	6	10
General Psychiatry	13	15	24
General Surgery	89	2	4
Gynaecology	45	4	6
Ophthalmology	19	8	16
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	6	6	13
Oral Surgery	45	3	23
Paediatric	21	6	11
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	47	3	16
Restorative Dentistry	18	23	33
Rheumatology	8	9	11
Speech and Language Therapy	13	3	69
Trauma and Orthopaedic	69	39	43

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