

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 30 November 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 November 2025 and 30 November 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 30 November 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	40	5	15
General Surgery	62	4	17
Gynaecology	12	4	8
Ophthalmology	217	20	38
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	3	13	13
Oral Surgery	26	11	25
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	21	6	6
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	81	7	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 30 November 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 November 2025 - 30 November 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	5	13	20
General Surgery	44	4	16
Gynaecology	9	5	8
Ophthalmology	58	38	57
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	4	10	23
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	12	13	21
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	1	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 - 30 November 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 30 November 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	52	3	6
Cardiology	44	4	13
Dermatology	56	6	13
Diabetes	7	2	5
Dietetics	130	13	43
Ear, Nose & Throat	74	4	11
General Medicine	30	3	8
General Psychiatry	131	53	110
General Surgery	53	1	2
Gynaecology	42	3	5
Ophthalmology	102	7	19
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	25	9	32
Oral Surgery	111	10	20
Paediatric	13	5	19
Paediatric Surgery	8	12	14
Pain Management	49	13	23
Physiotherapy	98	10	30
Restorative Dentistry	7	8	29
Rheumatology	7	3	3
Speech and Language Therapy	251	89	176
Trauma and Orthopaedic	457	19	36

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

Seen - between 1 November 2025 - 30 November 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	32	7	8
Cardiology	29	3	16
Dermatology	56	9	18
Diabetes	6	1	5
Dietetics	11	7	36
Ear, Nose & Throat	102	11	35
General Medicine	14	6	10
General Psychiatry	16	12	39
General Surgery	81	2	3
Gynaecology	24	3	6
Ophthalmology	24	4	24
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	19	4	19
Paediatric	21	7	13
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	7	24	30
Physiotherapy	46	2	12
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	7	3	5
Speech and Language Therapy	18	5	63
Trauma and Orthopaedic	94	42	55

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