

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 September 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 September 2025 and 30 September 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 September 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	28	6	12
General Surgery	73	7	13
Gynaecology	11	3	6
Ophthalmology	269	11	48
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	4	4
Oral Surgery	30	5	23
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	23	15	29
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	54	12	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 September 2025. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 September 2025 - 30 September 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	5	23	29
General Surgery	41	7	14
Gynaecology	5	4	6
Ophthalmology	11	18	40
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	8	9	27
Oral Surgery	8	15	25
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	<5	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	12	13	14

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 September 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 September 2025

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	51	4	8
Cardiology	33	6	16
Dermatology	46	5	11
Diabetes	13	1	6
Dietetics	123	10	36
Ear, Nose & Throat	140	13	30
General Medicine	26	6	11
General Psychiatry	175	48	102
General Surgery	53	2	4
Gynaecology	35	2	5
Ophthalmology	62	5	24
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	6	4	17
Oral Surgery	87	7	32
Paediatric	26	4	11
Paediatric Surgery	5	5	6
Pain Management	50	14	26
Physiotherapy	96	6	24
Restorative Dentistry	14	16	36
Rheumatology	10	4	14
Speech and Language Therapy	257	80	167
Trauma and Orthopaedic	502	20	43

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

Seen - between 1 September 2025 - 30 September 2025

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	18	7	8
Cardiology	20	15	23
Dermatology	25	5	7
Diabetes	31	0	3
Dietetics	11	5	52
Ear, Nose & Throat	109	32	51
General Medicine	9	3	6
General Psychiatry	20	9	98
General Surgery	74	2	3
Gynaecology	35	3	5
Ophthalmology	73	7	31
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	50	8	13
Oral Surgery	45	17	22
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	58	3	28
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	8	7	13
Speech and Language Therapy	10	1	104
Trauma and Orthopaedic	58	38	51

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