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STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

DIRECT ACCESS AUDIOLOGY REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (RTT) WAITING TIMES DATA May 2014

Main Points

- Data are published on Direct Access Audiology patients whose referral to treatment (RTT) pathways were completed during May 2014 (completed pathways) and on those patients who were still waiting at the end of May 2014 (incomplete pathways).
- In total, 43,467 patients for whom English commissioners are responsible completed their Direct Access Audiology RTT pathway during May 2014. The average (median) waiting time was 4.7 weeks, the 95th percentile waiting time was 14.5 weeks and 98.4% were seen within 18 weeks.
- At the end of May 2014, 64,682 patients were awaiting Direct Access Audiology treatment. Of these, the average (median) waiting time was 3.7 weeks and the 95th percentile was 14.0 weeks.
- Table 1 shows average (median) waiting times, 95th percentile waiting times and the percentage of patients whose Direct Access Audiology RTT pathway was completed within 18 weeks by Area Team. Table 2 shows Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting time trends from October 2008 to May 2014 for completed and incomplete pathways.

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust did not submit any (incomplete) Direct Access Audiology pathways for May 2014.

Revisions to Direct Access Audiology data for October 2013 were also published. The revisions have not had a significant impact at national level. The revised data and detailed tables by provider and commissioner can be found via the following link:
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/category/statistics/audiology-waiting-times/>

Annex A – Detailed Tables

Table 1 – Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting times for completed pathways by Area Team (commissioner based) – May 2014

	Name	Reported no. of completed DAA pathways	Reported no. of completed DAA pathways (with a known clock start)	Average (median) waiting time (in weeks)	95 th percentile waiting time (in weeks)	% of completed DAA pathways within 18 weeks
Q44	CHESHIRE, WARRINGTON AND WIRRAL AREA TEAM	1,054	1,054	4.2	11.9	99.8%
Q45	DURHAM, DARLINGTON AND TEES AREA TEAM	1,331	1,331	3.7	12.4	99.8%
Q46	GREATER MANCHESTER AREA TEAM	3,278	3,278	4.1	8.7	100.0%
Q47	LANCASHIRE AREA TEAM	955	955	4.1	12.9	100.0%
Q48	MERSEYSIDE AREA TEAM	746	746	3.8	12.1	100.0%
Q49	CUMBRIA, NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR AREA TEAM	1,255	1,255	5.3	11.5	99.9%
Q50	NORTH YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER AREA TEAM	1,914	1,914	3.9	14.0	98.7%
Q51	SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND BASSETLAW AREA TEAM	1,264	1,264	4.3	9.9	100.0%
Q52	WEST YORKSHIRE AREA TEAM	2,173	2,173	5.9	23.0	83.7%
Q53	ARDEN, HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE AREA TEAM	1,731	1,731	3.8	9.6	100.0%
Q54	BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY AREA TEAM	1,422	1,422	4.1	12.8	100.0%
Q55	DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA TEAM	1,870	1,870	4.2	11.8	99.7%
Q56	EAST ANGLIA AREA TEAM	1,428	1,428	4.4	17.4	96.8%
Q57	ESSEX AREA TEAM	1,672	1,672	4.8	15.8	99.3%
Q58	HERTFORDSHIRE AND THE SOUTH MIDLANDS AREA TEAM	1,388	1,388	5.5	15.8	98.2%
Q59	LEICESTERSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE AREA TEAM	1,075	1,075	4.4	17.4	98.8%
Q60	SHROPSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE AREA TEAM	854	854	4.1	10.5	100.0%
Q64	BATH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE AREA TEAM	1,437	1,437	5.2	13.0	100.0%
Q65	BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET, SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA TEAM	1,539	1,539	6.7	18.3	94.7%
Q66	DEVON, CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY AREA TEAM	2,819	2,819	4.4	12.3	99.6%
Q67	KENT AND MEDWAY AREA TEAM	1,297	1,297	6.6	15.5	99.6%
Q68	SURREY AND SUSSEX AREA TEAM	2,067	2,066	5.7	14.2	99.2%
Q69	THAMES VALLEY AREA TEAM	2,768	2,768	5.9	14.7	98.5%
Q70	WESSEX AREA TEAM	2,536	2,535	5.1	14.4	99.4%
Q71	LONDON AREA TEAM	3,572	3,572	4.3	14.2	99.4%
XDH	NHS ENGLAND	22	22	-	-	100.0%
	Total	43,467	43,465	4.7	14.5	98.4%

Table 2 – Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting times – October 2008 to May 2014

Month	Completed DAA pathways			Incomplete DAA pathways		
	Median wait (weeks)	95 th percentile (weeks)	% within 18 weeks	Median wait (weeks)	95 th percentile (weeks)	% within 18 weeks
October 2008 ¹	5.6	19.6	94.3%	4.2	17.3	95.4%
March 2009	4.6	14.4	99.4%	3.4	11.8	99.2%
March 2010	4.6	15.1	99.5%	3.4	11.8	99.7%
March 2011	4.7	15.7	99.1%	3.5	12.5	99.3%
March 2012	4.5	15.5	98.8%	3.6	13.3	99.0%
April 2012	4.9	14.8	98.9%	3.7	13.7	99.0%
May 2012	4.8	15.1	99.2%	3.7	13.8	98.9%
June 2012	5.1	15.4	99.0%	4.1	14.9	98.5%
July 2012	4.7	16.0	98.6%	3.7	14.2	98.6%
August 2012	4.8	15.6	98.6%	3.9	14.6	98.5%
September 2012	5.0	15.7	98.4%	3.8	14.3	98.3%
October 2012	4.6	14.3	99.2%	3.8	13.8	99.0%
November 2012	4.6	14.6	99.2%	3.6	13.0	98.9%
December 2012	4.5	13.8	99.1%	4.4	14.2	98.7%
January 2013	5.0	14.8	99.2%	3.1	14.5	98.7%
February 2013	4.0	14.9	99.1%	3.2	14.3	98.6%
March 2013	4.2	14.5	99.2%	3.6	13.8	98.5%
April 2013	4.7	14.0	99.3%	3.3	13.5	98.7%
May 2013	4.5	14.5	98.8%	3.6	14.2	98.7%
June 2013	4.6	14.7	98.8%	3.4	14.5	98.2%
July 2013	4.5	14.1	99.0%	3.6	14.4	98.1%
August 2013	4.5	13.8	99.0%	3.8	14.5	98.3%
September 2013	4.6	13.9	99.0%	3.5	14.5	98.0%
October 2013	4.3	14.2	98.8%	3.5	14.5	97.9%
November 2013	4.4	14.3	98.6%	3.6	13.9	98.7%
December 2013	4.3	14.0	98.8%	4.2	14.3	98.7%
January 2014	4.9	14.8	98.6%	3.2	14.0	99.1%
February 2014	4.1	14.8	98.4%	3.4	13.7	99.2%
March 2014	4.4	14.6	98.5%	3.5	12.9	99.0%
April 2014	4.6	14.0	98.1%	3.7	13.5	99.0%
May 2014	4.7	14.5	98.4%	3.7	14.0	99.1%

1. Direct Access Audiology RTT data were first published in October 2008

Statistical Notes

1. Direct Access Audiology Referral to Treatment (RTT) times

Direct Access Audiology (DAA) RTT data is collected from NHS providers (NHS Trusts and other providers) and signed off by commissioners (CCGs).

The data collection is in two parts:

Part 1 – Completed pathways

Part 2 – Incomplete pathways

The return includes all patients whose RTT clock stopped at any point in the reporting period. A column has been provided to enter data for patients whose length of DAA RTT period is unknown, i.e. patients who have had a clock stop during the month but where the clock start date is not known.

2. Provider and Commissioner based data

Commissioner based returns reflect data on a responsible population basis, which is defined as:

- all those patients resident within the CCG boundary; plus
- all patients registered with GPs who are members of the CCG, but are resident in another CCG; minus
- All patients resident in the CCG, but registered with a GP who is a member of another CCG

Provider based returns cover patients for whom English commissioners are responsible.

3. Average (median) and 95th percentile waiting times

The median is the mid-point of the waiting times distribution (i.e. the 50th percentile) and can be interpreted by saying that 50% of all patients, whose RTT clock stopped during the month, were treated within this time.

The 95th percentile is another statistical measure of the waiting time distribution. It can be interpreted by saying that 95% of patients, whose clock stopped during the month, were treated within this time with one in twenty patients waiting longer than this time for treatment.

It should be noted that medians and percentiles times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

4. Changes to the published Direct Access Audiology RTT statistics – feedback welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of RTT statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. If anyone has any comments on this, or any other issues regarding RTT data and statistics, then please email RTTdata@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Additional Information

Full details of DAA RTT data for individual organisations is available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/category/statistics/audiology-waiting-times/>

For further information, please e-mail the NHS England media team at nhsengland.media@nhs.net, or call 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959.

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

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