

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS, CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS,  
DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Main Findings - September 2013:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 3,830 adult critical care beds available and 3,181 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 83.1%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in recent months, but is a little higher than September 2012, where the figure was 82.0%.
- There were 421 paediatric critical care beds available and 329 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 78.1%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in recent months with the exception of last month (71.9%), but is higher than September 2012, where the figure was 73.6%.
- There were 1,365 neo-natal critical care beds available and 995 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 72.9%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in recent months, but is higher than September 2012, where the figure was 70.0%.

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since August 2011.  
Details of critical care data for individual organisations are available at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/critical-care-capacity/>

**Cancelled Urgent Operations**

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 242, which compares to 245 in August 2013 and 244 in September 2012.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from August 2011 to September 2013  
Details of cancelled urgent operations data for individual organisations are available at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/critical-care-capacity/>

In addition, data on cancelled elective operations can be found at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/cancelled-elective-operations/>

**Delayed Transfers of Care**

- There were 4,226 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of the month, of which 2,729 were acute patients.
- There were 118,915 total delayed days during the month, of which 75,297 were acute. 67% of all delays were attributable to the NHS, 27% were attributable to Social Care and 6%, where both agencies were responsible.
- The main reason for NHS delays was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”, this accounted for 30% of all NHS delays. The main reason for Social Care delays was “patients awaiting a residential home placement or availability”, this accounted for 26% of all Social Care delays. Where both the NHS and Social Care are attributable, the major

reason for delay was “patients awaiting completion of assessment”, this accounted for 33% of delays attributed to both NHS and Social Care.

- The distribution of delays between responsible agency has been broadly stable over the past 6 months.

Table 2 shows information on delayed transfers of care from August 2011 to September 2013. Table 3 shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for September 2013.

Details of delayed transfers of care data for individual organisations are available at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/dtoc-data-2013-14/>

### **Revisions to historical data**

- Delayed transfers of care data for January 2013 - August 2013 has been revised, which has resulted in small changes at national level.
- There have been revisions to cancelled urgent operations data for April 2013 – June 2013, resulting in a reduction in cancellations.

Table 4 summarises the impact of revisions at national level on delayed transfers of care and cancelled urgent operations.

**Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – August 2011 to September 2013**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Critical Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
Aug-11	3,704	2,953	79.7%	396	265	66.9%	1,269	917	72.3%
Sep-11	3,718	3,042	81.8%	409	314	76.8%	1,277	924	72.4%
Oct-11	3,728	3,046	81.7%	396	307	77.5%	1,289	984	76.3%
Nov-11	3,702	3,121	84.3%	393	334	85.0%	1,295	988	76.3%
Dec-11	3,696	2,961	80.1%	393	335	85.2%	1,295	953	73.6%
Jan-12	3,733	3,154	84.5%	402	320	79.6%	1,291	935	72.4%
Feb-12	3,744	3,198	85.4%	405	336	83.0%	1,301	946	72.7%
Mar-12	3,738	3,193	85.4%	404	340	84.2%	1,313	985	75.0%
Apr-12	3,729	3,137	84.1%	407	309	75.9%	1,324	973	73.5%
May-12	3,722	3,189	85.7%	402	301	74.9%	1,319	1,008	76.4%
Jun-12	3,727	3,046	81.7%	395	316	80.0%	1,380	1,026	74.3%
Jul-12	3,719	3,017	81.1%	409	309	75.6%	1,368	985	72.0%
Aug-12	3,712	2,891	77.9%	411	287	69.8%	1,374	979	71.3%
Sep-12	3,730	3,059	82.0%	405	298	73.6%	1,368	957	70.0%
Oct-12	3,731	3,083	82.6%	410	320	78.0%	1,377	963	69.9%
Nov-12	3,788	3,264	86.2%	425	373	87.8%	1,375	996	72.4%
Dec-12	3,758	3,067	81.6%	426	326	76.5%	1,376	951	69.1%
Jan-13	3,785	3,273	86.5%	423	331	78.3%	1,365	934	68.4%
Feb-13	3,770	3,309	87.8%	429	341	79.5%	1,365	959	70.3%
Mar-13	3,786	3,221	85.1%	425	346	81.4%	1,370	967	70.6%
Apr-13	3,828	3,264	85.3%	416	346	83.2%	1,391	970	69.7%
May-13	3,810	3,129	82.1%	424	323	76.2%	1,395	1,011	72.5%
Jun-13	3,798	3,152	83.0%	427	340	79.6%	1,369	959	70.1%
Jul-13	3,814	3,130	82.1%	423	328	77.5%	1,362	930	68.3%
Aug-13	3,830	3,124	81.6%	417	300	71.9%	1,360	945	69.5%
Sep-13	3,830	3,181	83.1%	421	329	78.1%	1,365	995	72.9%

Notes:

1. Data relating to the number of available and occupied critical care beds is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month.
2. Before February 2011, data on Critical Care beds were published bi-annually in a separate collection. Therefore, Critical Care data published until January should be treated with a degree of caution.

**Table 2 – Cancelled Operations and Delayed Transfers of Care – August 2011 to September 2013**

Month	Urgent Operations Cancelled	Delayed Transfers of Care	
		Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
August 2011	254	4,144	117,297
September 2011	310	4,165	117,194
October 2011	301	4,150	116,878
November 2011	419	4,165	114,705
December 2011	389	3,617	112,096
January 2012	322	4,094	111,934
February 2012	352	4,007	109,532
March 2012	282	4,028	119,736
April 2012	229	3,954	108,482
May 2012	283	3,857	119,331
June 2012	229	4,086	110,348
July 2012	250	4,031	117,200
August 2012	238	3,961	120,094
September 2012	244	4,102	114,264
October 2012	301	4,115	116,881
November 2012	299	3,894	116,169
December 2012	220	3,448	107,652
January 2013 *	316	4,188	125,716
February 2013 *	272	4,007	109,180
March 2013 *	355	4,053	115,158
April 2013 **	345	4,044	113,202
May 2013 **	271	4,183	120,387
June 2013 **	288	3,891	112,913
July 2013 *	280	3,976	112,094
August 2013 *	245	4,096	122,286
September 2013 *	242	4,226	118,915

\* Delayed Transfers of care data has been revised for January – August 2013

\*\* Urgent Operations Cancelled data has been revised for April – June 2013

Notes:

1. A change from weekly to monthly data in Aug-10 led to data quality issues with the first few months of delayed transfers of care data in the monthly collection.
2. Information on the numbers of people delayed on the last Thursday of the reporting period and the total number of Delayed Days are not directly comparable because the first is a 'snapshot' and the second a cumulative total.

**Table 3 – Delayed Transfers of Care by Type of Care, Reason for Delay and Responsible Organisation – September 2013**

Type of Care	Reason For Delay	Patients Delayed			Total Days Delayed		
		NHS	Social Care	Both	NHS	Social Care	Both
Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	448	100	35	11,174	3,252	1,357
	B) Awaiting public funding	94	21	9	2,575	551	129
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	746	NA	NA	20,681	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	180	86	21	5,055	2,328	637
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	64	103	NA	2,003	2,706	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	91	155	35	2,680	4,339	1,214
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	72	7	13	1,742	175	159
	G) Patient or family choice	362	18	NA	10,080	518	NA
	H) Disputes	21	6	NA	644	103	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	42	NA	NA	1,195	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	116	87	30	3,368	2,769	842
	B) Awaiting public funding	34	59	22	1,034	1,429	614
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	119	NA	NA	3,485	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	81	101	41	2,162	3,074	1,156
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	78	180	NA	2,572	5,651	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	39	105	18	1,002	3,300	551
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	34	11	1	869	309	69
	G) Patient or family choice	163	32	NA	4,247	1,001	NA
	H) Disputes	17	8	NA	392	333	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	121	NA	NA	3,389	NA	NA

Notes:

1. NA means the combination of reason and responsible organisation is not permitted.
2. Information on the numbers of people delayed on the last Thursday of the reporting period and the total number of Delayed Days are not directly comparable because the first is a 'snapshot' and the second a cumulative total.

**Table 4 – Impact of revisions at national level to delayed transfers of care and cancelled urgent operations data.**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care				Urgent Operations Cancelled	
	Patients Delayed		Total Delayed Days		Previous	Revised
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised		
Jan-13	4,188	4,188	125,690	125,716	NA	NA
Feb-13	4,009	4,007	109,240	109,180	NA	NA
Mar-13	4,052	4,053	118,186	115,158	NA	NA
Apr-13	4,043	4,044	112,994	113,202	401	345
May-13	4,200	4,183	120,233	120,387	282	271
Jun-13	3,895	3,891	113,086	112,913	330	288
Jul-13	3,977	3,976	112,283	112,094	NA	NA
Aug-13	4,105	4,096	122,329	122,286	NA	NA

Notes:

1. NA means the data was not revised for that month.

## **Statistical Notes to Editors**

### **1. Critical Care data**

Data relating to the number of available and occupied critical care beds is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month.

### **2. Delayed Transfers of Care data**

A delayed transfer of care occurs when a patient is medically fit for discharge from acute or non-acute care and is still occupying a bed. For a more detailed definition please read the guidance on NHS England's website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/>

Data on the number of patients with a delayed transfers of care is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month. Data on the number of delayed days is a cumulative figure for the month and therefore, the two are not comparable.

Data on delayed transfers of care is collected from providers of NHS funded care and is split by:

- Local Authority that is responsible for each patient delayed
- Agency responsible for delay (NHS, Social Services or both)
- Type of care that the patient receives (acute or non-acute)
- Reason for delay

A detailed breakdown of the data can be found on NHS England's website in CSV format at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/delayed-transfers-of-care-data-2013-14/>

### **3. Trust and Local Authority level data**

Delayed transfers of care data covers NHS patients in English Hospitals, who may or may not reside in England and is published on both a trust and Local Authority basis.

Trust level reflects data at organisation level for those organisations that provide NHS funded care, for example acute Trusts, community providers, mental health trusts and Social Enterprise organisations.

Local Authority data reflects data on a regional population basis, i.e. Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibility (CASSRs) that are responsible for all patients who reside in their region.

### **4. Data Quality**

Monthly SitReps data has been collected and published since August 2010. Prior to August 2010, data was collected weekly and was un-validated management information.

Delayed transfers of care data published during the early months of the collection from August 2010 to October 2010 should be treated with a degree of caution as a change

from a weekly to a monthly data collection led to data quality issues. Since October, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

Critical care data published until January should be treated with a degree of caution as data on Critical Care beds was published bi-annually in a separate collection until January 2011. Since February 2011, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

## **5. Data Availability**

Monthly Sitreps data is published approximately 3 – 4 weeks after the end of the reference period.

## **6. Revisions**

Revisions to previous month's data are made in line with NHS England's revisions protocol for performance monitoring data. Future revisions will be made on a six monthly cycle. The revisions protocol can be found here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/#Unifypolicy>

## **7. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of Critical Care, Cancelled Operations and Delayed Transfers of Care statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on NHS England's website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the SitReps data and statistics, to: [unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 07768 901293

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

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