

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

NHS DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES QUARTERLY CENSUS JUNE 2017

Diagnostic Census – June 2017

Data are published from this latest quarterly diagnostic census of all diagnostic tests, for period ending June 2017. The key points are:

- There were 12,000 waits of 6 weeks or over for tests not captured in the June monthly return. This is a decrease of 200 since the March 2017 census.
- Of the over 6 week waits identified in the census the major areas are Cardiology (3,200), Imaging (2,300) and Pathology (2,100).
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust failed to submit data for the census this quarter.
- Tables 1 and 2 shows latest figures for quarter ending June 2017.

Detailed tables by provider can be found via the following link:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/diagnostics-census-data/>

Annex A – Detailed Tables

Table 1 – Diagnostic waits of 6 weeks or longer by area – Quarter ending June 2017

Diagnostic Area	6<13 Weeks	13+ Weeks	Total 6+ Weeks
Audiology	832	128	960
Cardiology	4,733	1,296	6,029
Endoscopy	5,224	1,686	6,910
GI Physiology	487	365	852
Imaging	8,097	1,116	9,213
Neurophysiology	806	315	1,121
Ophthalmic Science	270	122	392
Pathology	1,411	705	2,116
Respiratory Physiology	626	280	906
Urodynamics	311	94	405
Vascular Technology	252	111	363
Total Area	23,049	6,218	29,267

Note: Figures include data from the June 2017 monthly diagnostic return (DM01)

Table 2 – Diagnostic waits of 6 weeks or longer not captured in June 2017 monthly diagnostic return (DM01)

Diagnostic Area	6<13 Weeks	13+ Weeks	Total 6+ Weeks
Cardiology	2,301	947	3,248
Endoscopy	633	524	1,157
GI Physiology	487	365	852
Imaging	1,669	673	2,342
Neurophysiology	570	307	877
Ophthalmic Science	270	122	392
Pathology	1,411	705	2,116
Respiratory Physiology	433	218	651
Vascular Technology	252	111	363
All Areas	8,026	3,972	11,998

Statistical Notes

1. Diagnostic waiting times

Diagnostics data is collected from NHS providers (NHS Trusts and other providers).

The data measures the number of patients waiting 6 weeks or longer at the end of the quarter. This information is split by number of waiting between 6 and 12 weeks, those waiting 13 weeks or longer, and by test.

The waiting times reported are for those patients who have been referred for a test, but whose test had not taken place by the end of the reporting period.

Data was first published in March 2007, and is available for each quarter from August 2006 to date.

The six week diagnostic wait was initially introduced as a 'milestone' from March 2008 towards achieving the standard Referral to Treatment wait of 18 weeks by December 2008, but diagnostics waiting times now form part of the NHS Constitution. This gives patients the legal right to treatment within 18 weeks of referral (18 week RTT) and as part of this, pledges that patients should not be required to wait 6 weeks or longer for a diagnostic test.

NHS England's planning guidance states that there is a threshold of 99% for this pledge. The financial penalty for non-delivery of the standard is set out in the NHS Standard Contract 2017/18.

2. Interpretation of waiting times data

Care should be taken when making month on month and quarter on quarter comparisons of these figures. Measures of waiting time performance are subject to seasonality. For example, the presence of bank holidays, or the number of weekends, in a calendar month affect the number of working days. Similarly, adverse weather may result in emergency pressure and impacts upon the health service's ability to preserve elective capacity. These factors can affect waiting times and should be considered when making comparisons across time.

3. Feedback welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of 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 these statistics, then please email unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Additional Information

Full details of diagnostics data for individual organisations is available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/>

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959. Email enquiries should be directed to nhsengland.media@nhs.net

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