



Thursday 9th February 2016

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE
NHS INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT EVENTS
December 2016**

The following statistics were released today by NHS England:

Latest monthly hospital activity events (December 2016)

The activity data for individual months can be affected by the number of working days. To counter this, figures are adjusted for the number of working days for comparison; April to December 2014 and April to December 2015 had 190 working days, while April to December 2016 had 191 working days.

The key points from the latest release are:

- GP referrals made for year-to-date (YTD) December 2016 increased by 2.5% compared to YTD December 2015 (2.0% adjusted for working days). These referrals had shown a 5.5% increase at the same stage last year.
- GP referrals seen for YTD December 2016 increased by 2.6% compared to YTD December 2015 (2.0% adjusted for working days). These referrals had shown a 3.9% increase at the same stage last year.
- The volume of first outpatient attendances for YTD December 2016 increased by 3.9% compared to YTD December 2015 (3.4% adjusted for working days). These outpatient appointments had shown a 4.1% increase at the same stage last year.
- Elective growth for YTD December 2016 is 2.0% compared with YTD December 2015 (1.5% adjusted for working days). At the same stage last year elective growth was 4.0%.
- The day case rate (the proportion of total elective admissions that were day cases) for YTD December 2016 is 82.8%, compared with 82.3% in YTD December 2015 and 81.3% in YTD December 2014.
- Non-elective admissions for YTD December 2016 increased by 3.2% compared to YTD December 2015, the change between YTD December 2015 and YTD December 2014 was an increase of 2.0%.

Full tables are available at the link below:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/hospital-activity/monthly-hospital-activity/>

Notes to Editors

This dataset covers some key aspects of inpatient and outpatient activity in the NHS.

Monthly actuals

This is a count of activity for a given month.

Revisions

Revised data for April 15 to May 2016 and August to October 2016 have also been published this month. The most notable change is for other referrals made (G&A), changes were also seen in GP referrals made. The table shows the revisions to the England level commissioner based figures for these data lines. Changes were also seen in elective and non-elective admissions, GP referrals seen and all first outpatient appointments to a lesser extent. All revised data are included on the [hospital activity webpage](#).

	GP Referrals Made (All specialties)		GP Referrals Made (G&A)		Other Referrals Made (G&A)	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
Apr-15	1,117,834	1,118,855	1,064,692	1,065,711	596,699	591,195
May-15	1,079,304	1,081,742	1,026,645	1,029,088	586,639	581,057
Jun-15	1,183,717	1,187,001	1,126,670	1,129,959	651,470	646,075
Jul-15	1,221,989	1,224,758	1,164,939	1,167,680	660,953	655,823
Aug-15	1,037,406	1,039,247	990,601	992,446	554,725	549,428
Sep-15	1,147,781	1,149,109	1,096,759	1,098,077	629,537	624,262
Oct-15	1,175,948	1,177,480	1,125,765	1,127,293	648,101	642,696
Nov-15	1,139,941	1,139,941	1,091,241	1,091,241	623,075	623,075
Dec-15	1,043,118	1,044,639	996,844	998,360	589,272	584,491
Jan-16	1,106,944	1,108,309	1,057,785	1,059,148	605,215	600,140
Feb-16	1,169,614	1,172,111	1,120,488	1,122,984	626,869	622,223
Mar-16	1,188,701	1,190,989	1,138,968	1,141,249	630,325	626,136
Apr-16	1,200,937	1,201,909	1,150,473	1,151,438	631,362	626,973
May-16	1,168,572	1,169,670	1,120,194	1,121,289	640,612	636,001
Aug-16	1,151,322	1,151,412	1,103,662	1,103,751	626,472	626,730
Sep-16	1,179,863	1,179,863	1,129,347	1,129,347	642,884	642,971
Oct-16	1,155,091	1,155,091	1,106,993	1,106,993	638,799	638,799

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

Commissioner based returns also include data for specialised commissioning. These are separate from the CCGs as there are different arrangements for commissioning specialised services.

Provider based returns cover patients who were treated in hospitals in England.

GP referrals made (general & acute)

This is a count of the referrals made by GPs to hospital consultants for a first outpatient appointment in general & acute specialties.

GP referrals seen (general & acute)

This is a count of the GP referrals seen by hospital consultants as a first attendance appointment in general & acute specialties. There is a time lag between GP referrals made and seen so that not all the referrals made in a given month are seen in the same month. Not all "GP referrals made" result in a "GP referral seen" as some referrals will be seen as inappropriate and do not require a consultant outpatient appointment. In these instances the referral will be returned to the GP. In addition some patients do not attend (DNA) appointments. Inappropriate referrals and DNAs contribute to the difference in volumes between GP referrals "made" and "seen".

First Outpatient attendances (general & acute)

This is the number of first outpatient attendances in general and acute specialties where the patient was seen by a consultant (or a doctor acting for the consultant). This count of attendances is for all sources of referral and is not restricted to just those as a result of a GP referral.

Elective ordinary admissions (general & acute)

This is a count of ordinary elective admissions made to general & acute specialties in a given month. An ordinary admission is a hospital admission requiring an overnight stay.

Elective day case admissions (general & acute)

This is a count of the day case admissions made to general & acute specialties in a given month. A day case admission is where a patient is admitted to hospital but an overnight stay is not required. The day case rate

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is calculated by expressing the volume of day case admissions as a proportion of all elective admissions ie. elective ordinary admissions and elective day case admissions combined.

Elective admissions (general & acute)

This is the count of elective ordinary admissions and elective day case admissions to general & acute specialties in a given month. There are three different admission methods for elective patients - waiting list, booked and planned. These categories are technical in nature and potentially misleading as both waiting list AND booked patients are, in lay terms, "admitted from a waiting list". Planned patients - again this is a technical term as to the lay person all elective patients might be considered to be "planned". In this more technical context, planned patients are a subset of elective patients and are those patients for whom the wait for admission was determined by clinical constraints rather than resource constraints. For example, a cancer patient will be required to wait a clinically appropriate period between doses of chemotherapy and these admissions will be classified as planned.

Elective ordinary admissions planned (general & acute)

This is the count of planned patients admitted as elective ordinary admissions in general & acute specialties.

Elective day case admission planned (general & acute)

This is the count of planned patients admitted as elective day case admissions in general & acute specialties. The proportion of elective admissions which are planned can be calculated by adding the planned ordinary admissions and planned day case admissions. Data is not collected separately on waiting list & booked admissions but the proportion of such admissions can be deduced by subtracting the proportion of planned electives from the total. So, for example, if 25% of elective admissions are planned the remainder (75%) by deduction are, in lay terms, "waiting list" (in technical terms "waiting list & booked") admissions.

Feedback welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of the 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 the data and statistics, then please email:

Unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Additional Information

Full details of activity data for individual organisations is available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/hospital-activity/monthly-hospital-activity/>

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Press enquiries:

For press enquiries please email the NHS England media team at nhsengland.media@nhs.net, or call 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959.

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