

Thursday 12 November 2015

(Note: these statistics were released at 2.30pm rather than 9.30am due to a timetabling error)

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

DIRECT ACCESS AUDIOLOGY REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (RTT) WAITING TIMES DATA September 2015

Main Points

- Data are published on Direct Access Audiology patients whose referral to treatment (RTT) pathways were completed during September 2015 (completed pathways) and on those patients who were still waiting at the end of September 2015 (incomplete pathways).
- In total, 46,078 patients for whom English commissioners are responsible completed their Direct Access Audiology RTT pathway during September 2015. The average (median) waiting time was 4.7 weeks, the 95th percentile waiting time was 15.3 weeks and 98.1% were seen within 18 weeks.
- At the end of September 2015, 67,078 patients were awaiting Direct Access Audiology treatment. Of these, the average (median) waiting time was 3.7 weeks and the 95th percentile was 15.6 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 Region. Table 2 shows Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting time trends from October 2008 to September 2015 for completed and incomplete pathways.

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 Region (commissioner based) – September 2015

	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
XDH	NHS ENGLAND	14	14	-	-	85.7%
Y54	NORTH OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION	14,235	14,235	4.5	14.2	98.9%
Y55	MIDLANDS AND EAST OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION	12,526	12,526	4.4	15.5	98.1%
Y56	LONDON COMMISSIONING REGION	4,184	4,184	4.5	15.7	97.8%
Y57	SOUTH OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION	15,119	15,119	5.3	16.1	97.4%
	TOTAL	46,078	46,078	4.7	15.3	98.1%

Table 2 – Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting times – October 2008 to September 2015

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%
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	13.9	98.1%	3.7	13.4	99.0%
May 2014	4.7	14.5	98.5%	3.7	13.9	99.3%
June 2014	4.5	14.6	98.9%	3.5	13.8	99.3%
July 2014	4.4	14.6	98.9%	3.6	13.6	99.2%
August 2014	4.7	14.4	98.8%	3.8	13.5	99.1%
September 2014	4.7	14.5	98.7%	3.5	13.7	99.1%
October 2014	4.5	14.9	98.4%	3.6	13.8	98.9%
November 2014	4.5	14.6	98.7%	3.7	13.6	99.0%
December 2014	4.4	13.9	98.9%	4.3	14.0	99.0%
January 2015	5.0	14.9	98.8%	3.3	14.2	98.7%
February 2015	4.1	14.6	98.8%	3.4	14.5	98.6%
March 2015	4.3	14.6	98.7%	3.4	14.1	98.3%
April 2015	4.7	14.1	98.4%	3.7	14.1	98.4%
May 2015	4.5	14.7	98.7%	3.8	14.7	98.4%
June 2015	4.5	15.1	98.7%	3.6	14.7	98.6%
July 2015	4.4	15.1	98.4%	3.7	15.4	97.2%
August 2015	4.5	15.0	98.4%	3.9	15.9	97.0%
September 2015	4.7	15.3	98.1%	3.7	15.6	97.4%

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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