

## STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, AUGUST

### Main Findings – August 2015:

#### Delayed Transfers of Care

- There were 145,100 total delayed days in August 2015, of which 93,100 were in acute care. This is an increase from August 2014, where there were 137,600 total delayed days, of which 90,600 were in acute care.
- 61.9% of all delays in August 2015 were attributable to the NHS, 30.8% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 7.3% were attributable to both NHS and Social Care.
- The proportion of delays attributable to Social Care has increased over the last year to 30.8% in August 2015, compared to 26.8% in August 2014.
- The main reason for NHS delays in August 2015 was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”. This accounted for 25,500 delayed days (28.4% of all NHS delays). The number of delays attributable to this reason decreased between January 2015 and May 2015, but has risen since then.
- The main reason for Social Care delays in August 2015 was “patients awaiting care package in their own home”. This accounted for 15,800 delayed days (35.3% of all Social Care delays), compared to 10,000 in August 2014.
- Delays can occur in either an acute or non-acute care setting. The proportion of delays occurring in acute care in August 2015 was 64.2% compared to 65.9% in August 2014. In the last 12 months, there was an increase in the proportion of delays occurring in acute care. This trend has reversed in the last few months and the proportion has now fallen back to a lower level than at this time last year.
- There were 5,200 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of August 2015, of which 3,400 were acute patients. This compares to 4,700 patients, including 3,100 acute patients, that were delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of August 2014.
- Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust did not submit data this month.

Table 1 shows information on delayed transfers of care from August 2012 to August 2015.

Table 2 shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for August 2015.

Details of delayed transfers of care data for individual organisations are available at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/delayed-transfers-of-care-data-2015-16/>

**Table 1 –Delayed Transfers of Care – August 2012 to August 2015**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
August 2012	3,961	120,094
September 2012	4,102	114,264
October 2012	4,115	116,881
November 2012	3,894	116,169
December 2012	3,448	107,652
January 2013	4,188	125,716
February 2013	4,007	109,180
March 2013	4,053	115,158
April 2013	4,046	113,297
May 2013	4,184	120,550
June 2013	3,888	112,984
July 2013	3,961	111,951
August 2013	4,084	122,337
September 2013	4,231	118,864
October 2013	4,147	123,852
November 2013	4,200	116,932
December 2013	3,649	112,629
January 2014	4,221	124,289
February 2014	4,276	112,845
March 2014	4,327	123,061
April 2014	4,207	116,261
May 2014	4,516	126,779
June 2014	4,363	124,118
July 2014	4,612	133,903
August 2014	4,704	137,613
September 2014	4,960	138,267
October 2014	4,930	142,927
November 2014	5,063	140,949
December 2014	4,475	139,025
January 2015	5,221	150,392
February 2015	4,942	134,353
March 2015	4,948	140,390
April 2015	4,739	138,030
May 2015	4,972	137,115
June 2015	4,996	139,538
July 2015	4,881	147,005
August 2015	5,169	145,067

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 2 – Delayed Transfers of Care by Type of Care, Reason for Delay and Responsible Organisation – August 2015**

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	447	172	84	10158	4533	2238
	B) Awaiting public funding	55	24	1	1701	438	41
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	838	NA	NA	22216	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	245	139	28	7264	3904	932
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	89	130	NA	2467	3588	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	156	321	80	4748	8695	2398
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	76	10	5	2144	181	188
	G) Patient or family choice	421	41	NA	11920	1169	NA
	H) Disputes	21	1	NA	676	71	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	39	NA	NA	1413	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	95	94	53	2922	2648	1523
	B) Awaiting public funding	46	50	19	1369	1450	660
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	110	NA	NA	3237	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	88	103	48	2661	3077	1355
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	128	197	NA	3808	5895	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	70	263	30	2188	7075	971
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	28	11	7	817	434	330
	G) Patient or family choice	151	35	NA	4648	1169	NA
	H) Disputes	16	12	NA	473	378	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	92	NA	NA	2896	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.

## **Statistical Notes to Editors**

### **1. 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-2015-16/>

### **2. 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.

### **3. Data Quality**

Monthly delayed transfers of care 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 2010, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

#### **4. Data Availability**

Delayed Transfers of Care data is published approximately 6 weeks after the end of the reference period. The next publication of this report and accompanying data will be 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### **5. 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 on the NHS England website at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/>

#### **6. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of 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 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959. Emails enquiries should be sent to: [nhsengland.media@nhs.net](mailto:nhsengland.media@nhs.net)

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