

## **STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**

### **MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, DECEMBER**

#### **Main Findings – December 2015:**

##### **Delayed Transfers of Care**

- There were 154,100 total delayed days in December 2015, of which 100,500 were in acute care. This is an increase from December 2014, where there were 139,000 total delayed days, of which 90,800 were in acute care. This was also the second highest number of total delayed days reported in a month since monthly data was first collected for August 2010.
- 61.0% of all delays in December 2015 were attributable to the NHS, 32.2% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 6.8% were attributable to both NHS and Social Care.
- The proportion of delays attributable to Social Care has increased over the last year to 32.2% in December 2015, compared to 26.3% in December 2014.
- The main reason for NHS delays in December 2015 was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”. This accounted for 28,200 delayed days (30.0% of all NHS delays). The number of delays attributable to this reason has shown a general increase from May 2015 with a small decrease in November 2015.
- The main reason for Social Care delays in December 2015 was “patients awaiting care package in their own home”. This accounted for 16,900 delayed days (34.0% of all Social Care delays), compared to 10,400 in December 2014.
- Delays can occur in either an acute or non-acute care setting. The proportion of delays occurring in acute care in December 2015 was 65.2% compared to 65.3% in December 2014.
- There were 5,000 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of December 2015, of which 3,200 were acute patients. This compares to 4,500 patients, including 2,900 acute patients, that were delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of December 2014.

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

Table 2 shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for December 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 – December 2012 to December 2015**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
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
September 2015	5,247	147,738
October 2015	5,328	160,094
November 2015	5,583	153,191
December 2015	5,009	154,060

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 – December 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	326	198	59	10071	5407	1873
	B) Awaiting public funding	57	16	2	1937	615	148
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	838	NA	NA	24614	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	222	151	28	7450	4550	1218
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	88	134	NA	2569	3677	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	166	309	57	5230	9900	2605
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	72	3	5	2101	193	168
	G) Patient or family choice	346	40	NA	12604	1392	NA
	H) Disputes	14	3	NA	707	102	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	32	NA	NA	1362	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	102	129	45	3484	3203	1225
	B) Awaiting public funding	32	40	27	1445	1432	751
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	126	NA	NA	3539	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	99	129	50	3028	3833	1815
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	87	206	NA	2681	6465	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	94	269	15	2164	6970	683
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	29	12	2	704	368	34
	G) Patient or family choice	184	45	NA	5108	1126	NA
	H) Disputes	14	12	NA	458	317	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	95	NA	NA	2734	NA	NA
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3023</b>	<b>1696</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>93990</b>	<b>49550</b>	<b>10520</b>

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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

#### **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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