

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, MARCH 2016

Main Findings – March 2016:

Delayed Transfers of Care

- There were 169,900 total delayed days in March 2016, of which 112,900 were in acute care. This is an increase from March 2015, where there were 140,400 total delayed days, of which 91,500 were in acute care. This is the highest number of delayed days in a month since monthly data was first published in August 2010.
- 61.1% of all delays in March 2016 were attributable to the NHS, 32.2% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 6.6% 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 March 2016, compared to 26.9% in March 2015.
- The main reason for NHS delays in March 2016 was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”. This accounted for 30,800 delayed days (29.6% 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 March 2016 was “patients awaiting care package in their own home”. This accounted for 19,400 delayed days (35.4% of all Social Care delays), compared to 11,200 in March 2015.
- Delays can occur in either an acute or non-acute care setting. The proportion of delays occurring in acute care in March 2016 was 66.4% compared to 65.2% in March 2015.
- There were 5,700 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of March 2016, of which 3,700 were acute patients. This compares to 4,900 patients, including 3,200 acute patients that were delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of March 2015.

Table 1 shows information on delayed transfers of care from March 2013 to March 2016.

Table 2 shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for March 2016.

This month sees the publication of revised data for each month back to July 2015. These are small in terms of both number and impact on the national figures. **Table 3** details the changes to the England level figures

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 – March 2013 to March 2016

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
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	4,888	147,376
August 2015	5,114	145,093
September 2015	5,247	147,738
October 2015	5,330	160,130
November 2015	5,573	153,155
December 2015	5,004	154,008
January 2016	5,831	159,641
February 2016	5,770	158,131
March 2016	5,703	169,928

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 – March 2016

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	370	238	88	11,105	6,257	2,252
	B) Awaiting public funding	62	9	3	1,934	396	218
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	902	NA	NA	27,419	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	282	176	22	8,808	5,146	703
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	97	138	NA	3,070	4,727	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	201	392	83	6,008	11,783	2,972
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	79	8	23	2,304	241	471
	G) Patient or family choice	446	26	NA	13,645	851	NA
	H) Disputes	15	5	NA	679	161	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	53	NA	NA	1,706	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	127	129	43	3,705	3,406	1,149
	B) Awaiting public funding	54	46	23	1,554	1,248	716
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	129	NA	NA	3,365	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	91	144	71	3,212	4,146	2,110
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	117	219	NA	3,562	6,827	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	91	276	21	2,276	7,620	653
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	24	18	1	964	398	21
	G) Patient or family choice	174	49	NA	4,816	1,261	NA
	H) Disputes	13	15	NA	521	295	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	110	NA	NA	3,247	NA	NA
All	Total	3,437	1,888	378	103,900	54,763	11,265

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.

Table 3 - Revisions to Delayed Transfers of Care July 2015 to February 2016

Month	Patients Delayed		Total Delayed Days	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
July 2015	4,881	4,888	147,005	147,376
August 2015	5,169	5,114	145,067	145,093
September 2015	5,247	5,247	147,738	147,738
October 2015	5,328	5,330	160,094	160,130
November 2015	5,583	5,573	153,191	153,155
December 2015	5,009	5,004	154,060	154,008
January 2016	5,799	5,831	159,089	159,641
February 2016	5,743	5,770	157,569	158,131

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 9th June 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

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

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