

## STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, MARCH 2017

### Main Findings – March 2017:

#### Delayed Transfers of Care

- There were 199,300 total delayed days in March 2017, of which 132,600 were in acute care. This is an increase from March 2016, where there were 169,900 total delayed days, of which 112,900 were in acute care.
- 55.3% of all delays in March 2017 were attributable to the NHS, 36.8% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 7.9% were attributable to both NHS and Social Care.
- The proportion of delays attributable to Social Care has increased over the last year to 36.8% in March 2017, compared to 32.2% in March 2016.
- The main reason for NHS delays in March 2017 was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”. This accounted for 35,000 delayed days (31.8% of all NHS delays). The number of delays attributable to this reason showed a general increase between July 2015 and March 2016, before levelling off for several months. The number of delays attributable to this reason has shown an overall decrease in February and March after peaking in January.
- The main reason for Social Care delays in March 2017 was “patients awaiting care package in their own home”. This accounted for 25,200 delayed days (34.3% of all Social Care delays), compared to 19,400 in March 2016. The proportion of delays attributable to this reason has been steadily increasing since February 2015.
- Delays can occur in either an acute or non-acute care setting. The proportion of delays occurring in acute care in March 2017 was 66.6% compared to 66.4% in March 2016.
- There were 6,600 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of March 2017, of which 4,400 were acute patients. This compares to 5,600 patients, including 3,700 acute patients, which were delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of March 2016.

**Table 1** shows information on delayed transfers of care from March 2014 to March 2017.

**Table 2** shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for March 2017.

This month sees the publication of revisions for each month back to January 2016. 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-2016-17/>

**Table 1 – Delayed Transfers of Care – March 2014 to March 2017**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
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	5,777	159,467
February 2016	5,714	158,055
March 2016	5,601	169,882
April 2016	5,852	168,018
May 2016	5,996	172,294
June 2016	6,152	173,122
July 2016	6,361	184,578
August 2016	6,387	187,851
September 2016	6,759	196,570
October 2016	6,777	200,095
November 2016	6,771	193,206
December 2016	6,167	195,445
January 2017	7,104	197,329
February 2017	6,834	186,068
March 2017	6,622	199,260

Notes:

- 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 2017**

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	444	322	85	11,589	8,432	2,676
	B) Awaiting public funding	73	42	NA	2,129	833	18
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	913	NA	NA	29,509	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	283	314	28	8,902	8,631	1,037
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	102	218	NA	3,242	7,799	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	243	496	145	7,015	15,661	4,852
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	79	11	10	2,860	372	290
	G) Patient or family choice	452	55	NA	13,092	1,284	NA
	H) Disputes	27	6	NA	730	113	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	57	NA	NA	1,574	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	166	149	66	4,938	4,250	1,842
	B) Awaiting public funding	61	64	37	1,414	1,935	1,328
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	172	NA	NA	5,518	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	101	154	63	3,184	4,664	1,894
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	108	234	NA	3,191	7,473	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	78	323	48	2,485	9,521	1,634
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	37	15	1	1,007	395	103
	G) Patient or family choice	161	61	NA	4,603	1,632	NA
	H) Disputes	26	10	NA	873	336	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	82	NA	NA	2,400	NA	NA
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,665</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>110,255</b>	<b>73,331</b>	<b>15,674</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.

**Table 3 – Revisions to Delayed Transfers of Care January 2016 to February 2017**

Month	Patients Delayed		Total Delayed Days	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
January 2016	5,781	5,777	159,641	159,467
February 2016	5,727	5,714	158,131	158,055
March 2016	5,628	5,601	169,928	169,882
April 2016	5,879	5,852	167,966	168,018
May 2016	6,010	5,996	172,195	172,294
June 2016	6,121	6,152	171,546	173,122
July 2016	6,364	6,361	184,188	184,578
August 2016	6,448	6,387	188,340	187,851
September 2016	6,777	6,759	196,246	196,570
October 2016	6,810	6,777	200,008	200,095
November 2016	6,825	6,771	193,680	193,206
December 2016	6,191	6,167	195,286	195,445
January 2017	7,106	7,104	197,054	197,329
February 2017	6,797	6,834	184,855	186,068

## 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-2016-17/>

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

### **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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