

Thursday 15 February 2018

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**

**DIRECT ACCESS AUDIOLOGY  
REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (RTT) WAITING TIMES DATA  
December 2017**

**Main Points**

- Data are published on Direct Access Audiology patients whose referral to treatment (RTT) pathways were completed during December 2017 (completed pathways) and on those patients who were still waiting at the end of December 2017 (incomplete pathways).
- At the end of December 2017, 64,601 patients for whom English commissioners are responsible were awaiting Direct Access Audiology treatment (incomplete pathways). Of these, the average (median) waiting time was 4.3 weeks, the 95th percentile was 14.9 weeks and 98.3% were waiting within 18 weeks.
- In total, 43,281 patients completed their Direct Access Audiology RTT pathway during December 2017. The average (median) waiting time was 4.1 weeks and the 95th percentile waiting time was 12.8 weeks.
- Table 1 shows average (median) waiting times, 95<sup>th</sup> percentile waiting times and the percentage of patients on incomplete Direct Access Audiology RTT pathways who were waiting within 18 weeks by Region. Table 2 shows Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting time trends from October 2008 to December 2017 for completed and incomplete pathways.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust did not submit any (completed and incomplete) Direct Access Audiology pathways for December 2017.

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 incomplete pathways by Region (commissioner based) – December 2017**

|     | Name  | Reported no. of incomplete DAA pathways | Average (median) waiting time (in weeks) | 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile waiting time (in weeks) | % of incomplete DAA pathways within 18 weeks |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--|
| XDH | NHS ENGLAND                                       | 76                                      | 5.4                                      | 18.1  | 94.7%  |
| Y54 | NORTH OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION             | 17,845                                  | 3.9                                      | 14.0  | 98.6%  |
| Y55 | MIDLANDS AND EAST OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION | 17,384                                  | 4.2                                      | 14.7  | 98.5%  |
| Y56 | LONDON COMMISSIONING REGION                       | 5,644                                   | 4.2                                      | 15.2  | 97.5%  |
| Y57 | SOUTH OF ENGLAND COMMISSIONING REGION             | 23,652                                  | 4.8                                      | 15.5  | 98.0%  |
|     | <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>64,601</b>                           | <b>4.3</b>                               | <b>14.9</b>   | <b>98.3%</b>                                 |

**Table 2 – Direct Access Audiology RTT waiting times – October 2008 to December 2017**

| Month                     | Completed DAA pathways |                                     | Incomplete DAA pathways |                                     |                   |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
|                           | Median wait (weeks)    | 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile (weeks) | Median wait (weeks)     | 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile (weeks) | % within 18 weeks |
| October 2008 <sup>1</sup> | 5.6                    | 19.6                                | 4.2                     | 17.3                                | 95.4%             |
| March 2009                | 4.6                    | 14.4                                | 3.4                     | 11.8                                | 99.2%             |
| March 2010                | 4.6                    | 15.1                                | 3.4                     | 11.8                                | 99.7%             |
| March 2011                | 4.7                    | 15.7                                | 3.5                     | 12.5                                | 99.3%             |
| March 2012                | 4.5                    | 15.5                                | 3.6                     | 13.3                                | 99.0%             |
| March 2013                | 4.2                    | 14.5                                | 3.6                     | 13.8                                | 98.5%             |
| March 2014                | 4.4                    | 14.6                                | 3.5                     | 12.9                                | 99.0%             |
| March 2015                | 4.3                    | 14.6                                | 3.4                     | 14.1                                | 98.3%             |
| April 2015                | 4.7                    | 14.1                                | 3.7                     | 14.1                                | 98.4%             |
| May 2015                  | 4.5                    | 14.7                                | 3.8                     | 14.7                                | 98.4%             |
| June 2015                 | 4.5                    | 15.1                                | 3.6                     | 14.7                                | 98.6%             |
| July 2015                 | 4.4                    | 15.1                                | 3.7                     | 15.4                                | 97.2%             |
| August 2015               | 4.5                    | 15.0                                | 3.9                     | 15.9                                | 97.0%             |
| September 2015            | 4.7                    | 15.3                                | 3.7                     | 15.6                                | 97.4%             |
| October 2015              | 4.4                    | 15.1                                | 3.7                     | 15.9                                | 97.0%             |
| November 2015             | 4.3                    | 14.8                                | 3.7                     | 15.6                                | 97.1%             |
| December 2015             | 4.3                    | 14.0                                | 4.3                     | 15.9                                | 96.8%             |
| January 2016              | 4.8                    | 14.9                                | 3.3                     | 16.2                                | 96.7%             |
| February 2016             | 3.9                    | 14.8                                | 3.4                     | 16.1                                | 96.7%             |
| March 2016                | 4.3                    | 14.4                                | 3.9                     | 16.0                                | 96.9%             |
| April 2016                | 4.9                    | 13.9                                | 3.9                     | 16.2                                | 96.2%             |
| May 2016                  | 4.6                    | 15.1                                | 3.8                     | 16.7                                | 96.3%             |
| June 2016                 | 4.6                    | 16.0                                | 3.9                     | 17.2                                | 95.9%             |
| July 2016                 | 4.5                    | 16.0                                | 3.9                     | 16.9                                | 95.8%             |
| August 2016               | 4.4                    | 14.7                                | 4.3                     | 16.8                                | 96.1%             |
| September 2016            | 4.6                    | 15.1                                | 3.8                     | 16.6                                | 96.3%             |
| October 2016              | 4.2                    | 15.1                                | 3.6                     | 15.6                                | 97.5%             |
| November 2016             | 4.2                    | 14.5                                | 3.6                     | 15.4                                | 97.7%             |
| December 2016             | 4.2                    | 13.5                                | 4.2                     | 15.5                                | 97.6%             |
| January 2017              | 4.5                    | 14.3                                | 3.0                     | 15.0                                | 97.8%             |
| February 2017             | 3.8                    | 14.8                                | 3.2                     | 14.5                                | 98.2%             |
| March 2017                | 4.0                    | 13.7                                | 3.3                     | 14.5                                | 98.1%             |
| April 2017                | 4.4                    | 13.0                                | 3.8                     | 14.4                                | 97.9%             |
| May 2017                  | 4.6                    | 14.2                                | 3.6                     | 15.2                                | 98.0%             |
| June 2017                 | 4.3                    | 14.3                                | 3.4                     | 15.3                                | 98.0%             |
| July 2017                 | 4.1                    | 14.0                                | 3.4                     | 15.1                                | 97.7%             |
| August 2017               | 4.2                    | 13.8                                | 3.7                     | 15.4                                | 97.6%             |
| September 2017            | 4.5                    | 14.4                                | 3.3                     | 14.4                                | 98.3%             |
| October 2017              | 4.1                    | 14.4                                | 3.3                     | 14.0                                | 98.6%             |
| November 2017             | 4.2                    | 13.5                                | 3.4                     | 14.2                                | 98.6%             |
| December 2017             | 4.1                    | 12.8                                | 4.3                     | 14.9                                | 98.3%             |

1. Direct Access Audiology RTT data were first published in October 2008

## Statistical Notes

### 1. Direct Access Audiology Referral to Treatment (RTT) times

This data collection covers all patients referred to a direct access audiology (DAA) service – that is a service not led by a medical or surgical consultant – regardless of where that service is provided. Patients referred to consultant-led audiology services are already on an RTT pathway for consultant-led elective care and are therefore not included in this collection.

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.

In June 2015, Simon Stevens accepted Sir Bruce Keogh's recommendations for improvements to the waiting times standards for consultant-led elective care. The standards for completed pathways were abolished and the incomplete pathway standard became the sole measure of patients' constitutional right to start consultant-led elective care treatment within 18 weeks. The presentation of this DAA statistical press notice has been amended to reflect this change. Please see the latest statistical press notice for consultant-led RTT waiting times for more information on waiting times standards for consultant-led elective care: [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/).

The format of the completed pathway data file published alongside this statistical press notice has also been amended to reflect the change in the operational standards for consultant-led elective care. This file no longer includes a column showing the percentage of pathways within 18 weeks. However, a full breakdown of waiting times by weekly time band is still available in the file. The number of columns in the England-level time-series file has been increased to provide a more comprehensive summary of key measures.

### 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 [england.rtt@nhs.net](mailto:england.rtt@nhs.net)

### **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](mailto:nhsengland.media@nhs.net), or call 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959.

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