

NHS Diagnostic Waiting Times and **Activity Data**

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January 2025 Monthly Report

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NHS England

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1 Executive summary

This report presents a monthly summary of diagnostic waiting times and activity across the NHS in England. This monthly report is part of a routine series of publications produced by NHS England.

The data presented in this report measures the current waiting times of patients still waiting for any of 15 key diagnostic tests or procedures at the month end. This data is split by number of weeks waiting and by test. The waiting times reported are for those patients who have been referred for a test, but whose test had not taken place by the end of the reporting period. Referrals may be from a variety of sources including GPs.

One of the main measurements covered in this report is the number and proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more for a diagnostic test, from time of referral.

This six-week diagnostic wait was initially introduced as a 'milestone' from March 2008 towards achieving the standard Referral to Treatment wait of 18 weeks by December 2008, but diagnostic waiting times now form part of the NHS Constitution. This gives patients the legal right to treatment within 18 weeks of referral (18 week RTT) and as part of this, pledges that patients should not be required to wait six weeks or more for a diagnostic test.

The NHS Standard Contract 2022/23 states that there is a standard threshold of 1% for this pledge. NHS England's planning guidance for 2023/24 requests that progress should be made towards a threshold of at least 5% by March 2025.

The 15 key diagnostic tests included in this report are:

Imaging

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Computerised Tomography (CT)
- Non-obstetric Ultrasound
- Barium Enema
- Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) Scan

Physiological Measurements

- **Audiology Assessments**
- Echocardiography
- Electrophysiology
- Neurophysiology Peripheral Neurophysiology
- Respiratory Physiology Sleep Studies
- Urodynamics Pressures & Flows

Endoscopy

- Gastroscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy
- Cystoscopy

For detailed descriptions of each diagnostic test please see the collection guidance documentation.

Some of the key terms used throughout this report are outlined below:

• 6+ Week Waits

A count of the number of patients waiting six weeks or more for a diagnostic test at month end from referral.

Activity

A count of the number of diagnostic tests undertaken during the month.

• Diagnostic Test

A test or procedure of which the primary function is to identify a patient's disease or condition to allow a medical diagnosis to be made.

Waiting List

A count of the number of patients that are waiting for a diagnostic test at the end of the month.

A more comprehensive glossary is available in the Annex.

All England figures quoted are commissioner based. Commissioner based returns reflect data for patients for whom English commissioners are responsible.

1.1 Accredited Official Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as Accredited Official Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Accredited Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as Accredited Official Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2 January 2025 Key Findings

- The total number of patients waiting six weeks or more from referral for one of the 15 key diagnostic tests at the end of January 2025 was 363,600. This was 22.4% of the total number of patients waiting at the end of the month-
- Nationally, the operational standard of less than 1% of patients waiting six weeks or more was not met this month.
- Compared with January 2024 the total number of patients waiting six weeks or more decreased by 51,300 while the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more decreased by 3.8 percentage points.
- In the last 12 months, the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more at the end of a month has varied between 19.9% (November 2024) and 23.9% (August 2024).
- At the end of January 2025, the test with the smallest proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more was CT with 10.6%. The test with the highest proportion was Audiology Assessments, with 44.7% of patients waiting six weeks or more.
- An alternative measure of diagnostic waiting times is the average (median) waiting time. The estimated average time that a patient had been waiting for a diagnostic test was 2.4 weeks at the end of January 2025.
- There were 1,622,000 patients waiting for a key diagnostic test at the end of January 2025. This is an increase of 41,500 from January 2024.
- A total of 2,512,400 diagnostic tests were undertaken in January 2025. This is an increase of 114,200 from January 2024.

3 National Trends

This section analyses trends in monthly diagnostic waiting times and activity data that has been collected since January 2006.

3.1 6+ Week Waits

- 3.1.1. The total number of patients waiting six weeks or more dropped sharply between January 2007 and March 2008 (Chart 1), as Trusts worked towards the NHS Improvement Plan (June 2004) milestone that no one should wait six weeks or more for a diagnostic test by March 2008. Since March 2008 there were fluctuations in the total number of patients waiting six weeks or more, with a significant rise between December 2013 and May 2014.
- 3.1.2. The number of patients waiting six weeks or more rose sharply in April 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. In January 2025 there was an increase of 7,700 in the number of patients waiting six weeks or more from the previous month.

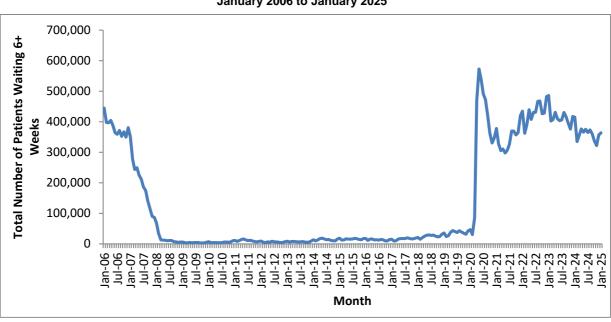


Chart 1: Total number of patients waiting 6+ weeks at month end for all tests
January 2006 to January 2025

3.1.3. The proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more shows a similar pattern (Chart 2). In the last 12 months, the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more at the end of a month has varied between 19.9% (November 2024) and 23.9% (August 2024). The 1% operational standard was last met in November 2013.

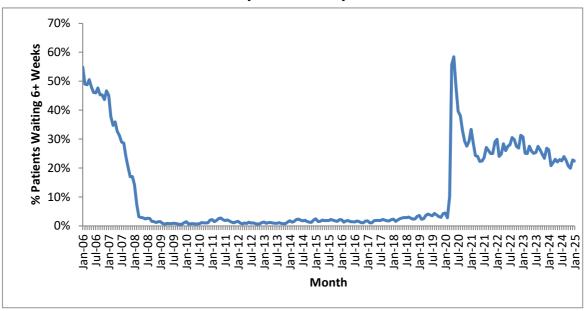


Chart 2: Percentage of patients waiting 6+ weeks at month end for all tests
January 2006 to January 2025

3.2 Total Waiting List

3.2.1. As with the number and proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more, the total number of patients waiting at the month end fell between January 2007 and the 6-week milestone in March 2008 (Chart 3). Following a period with a stable total waiting list between March 2008 and January 2009, the underlying trend showed a steady increase before dropping sharply in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 and subsequently rising.

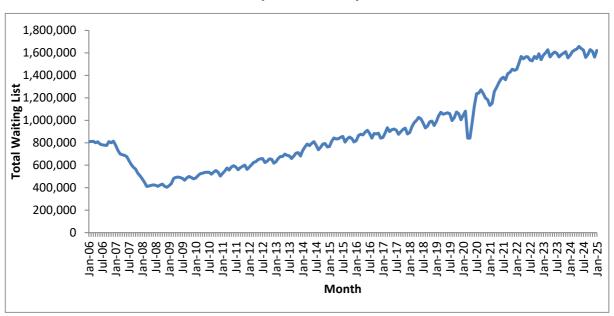


Chart 3: Total number of patients waiting at month end for all tests January 2006 to January 2025

3.3 Median Waiting Time

3.3.1. The average (median) waiting time displays a similar trend to the total waiting list and 6 weeks or more waits. After a rapid decrease in the two years leading to the 6-week milestone, the median waiting time remained stable until the COVID-19 period (Chart 4). The data shows significant increases during December every year as a result of the higher number of bank holidays and resulting lower activity. In the last 12 months, the median waiting time had a high of 3.2 weeks (December 2024) and a low of 2.4 weeks (January 2025). The median waiting time in January 2025 was 2.4 weeks.

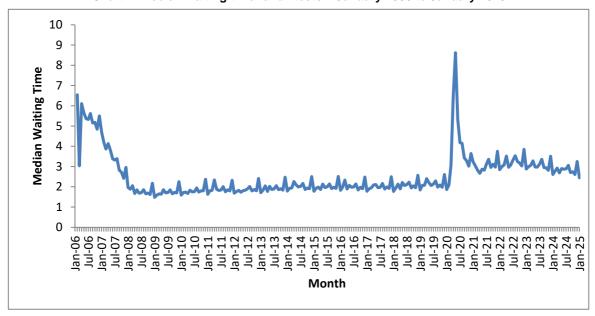


Chart 4: Median waiting time for all tests - January 2006 to January 2025

3.4 Total Activity

- 3.4.1. The monthly activity figure can significantly fluctuate month to month, with particularly notable decreases in December due to the bank holidays. If the data is adjusted to show activity per working day, the monthly variation becomes less pronounced (Chart 5).
- 3.4.2. The underlying trend showed an increase from January 2006 to the COVID-19 period when total activity in April 2020 fell by 68% compared to April 2019. Monthly activity subsequently started to rise again.

3,000,000 | 140,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,

Chart 5: Total activity and working day adjusted activity per month for all tests
January 2006 to January 2025

Note: Activity data was not collected in May 2006 and all activity time series graphs will show missing values for that month

3.4.3. In the previous 12 months, individual tests have shown differing changes in activity. The test with the largest proportional increase in activity was Sleep Studies, where January 2025 activity was 1.3% higher per month than January 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total activity, by test - January 2024 and January 2025

	Jan-24	Jan-25	Average monthly growth
MRI	379,937	408,727	0.6%
СТ	723,846	759,197	0.4%
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	744,549	767,276	0.3%
Barium Enema	4,016	4,278	0.5%
Dexa Scan	47,602	48,970	0.2%
Audiology Assessments	113,314	119,535	0.4%
Echocardiography	168,699	180,788	0.6%
Electrophysiology	659	272	-7.1%
Peripheral Neurophysiology	21,738	23,067	0.5%
Sleep Studies	17,713	20,718	1.3%
Urodynamics	6,277	6,584	0.4%
Colonoscopy	57,646	57,743	0.0%
Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	17,504	16,882	-0.3%
Cystoscopy	30,925	31,539	0.2%
Gastroscopy	63,784	66,809	0.4%
All Tests	2,398,209	2,512,385	0.4%

4 January 2025 Data

This section analyses the January 2025 diagnostic waiting times and activity data and includes comparisons between tests, regions, providers and commissioners.

4.1 6+ Week Waits

- 4.1.1. At the end of January 2025, there were a total of 363,600 patients waiting six weeks or more from referral for one of the 15 key diagnostic tests. This was 22.4% of the total number of patients waiting at the end of the month.
- 4.1.2. Compared with January 2024, the number of patients waiting six weeks or more decreased by 51,300, while the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more decreased by 3.8 percentage points.
- Compared with January 2024, the test with the largest increase in the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more was Barium Enema, which increased by 5.8 percentage points. The test with the largest decrease was Flexi Sigmoidoscopy, which decreased by 12.3 percentage points (Table 2).

Table 2: Proportion of patients waiting 6+ weeks, by test - January 2024 and January 2025

	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference (%age points)
MRI	21.9%	19.4%	-2.5
СТ	16.1%	10.6%	-5.6
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	21.3%	19.0%	-2.3
Barium Enema	9.7%	15.5%	5.8
Dexa Scan	30.5%	21.2%	-9.2
Audiology Assessments	41.1%	44.7%	3.6
Echocardiography	36.8%	30.5%	-6.3
Electrophysiology	36.5%	26.1%	-10.4
Peripheral Neurophysiology	35.1%	37.4%	2.4
Sleep Studies	41.9%	37.0%	-4.9
Urodynamics	45.5%	43.6%	-1.9
Colonoscopy	35.4%	26.2%	-9.1
Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	40.4%	28.2%	-12.3
Cystoscopy	34.6%	27.1%	-7.5
Gastroscopy	31.0%	23.7%	-7.3
All Tests	26.3%	22.4%	-3.8

Note: Figures may differ due to rounding.

4.1.4. Compared with January 2024, the test type with the smallest change in the proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more was Physiological Measurement with a decrease of 1.9 percentage points. Imaging decreased by 3.2 percentage points, while Endoscopy decreased by 8.8 percentage points (Table 3). See section 5.4 for which tests are included under the different test types.

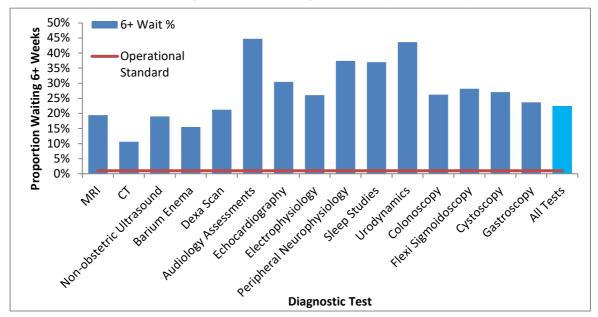
Table 3: Proportion of patients waiting 6+ weeks, by test type - January 2024 and January 2025

	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference (%age points)
Imaging	21.1%	17.8%	-3.2
Physiological Measurement	38.7%	36.7%	-1.9
Endoscopy	34.4%	25.6%	-8.8
Total	26.3%	22.4%	-3.8

Note: Figures may differ due to rounding.

4.1.5. The operational standard that less than 1% of patients should wait six weeks or more from referral for a diagnostic test was met in none of the 15 key tests this month. The test with the lowest proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more was CT (10.6%), whilst the test with the highest proportion was Audiology Assessments (44.7%) (Chart 6).

Chart 6: Percentage of patients waiting 6+ weeks, by test - January 2025



- 4.1.6. 126 of the 133 acute trusts that submitted data for January 2025 failed to meet the 1% operational standard.
- 4.1.7. All 42 Commissioners (ICBs) failed to meet the 1% operational standard.
- 4.1.8. None of the seven NHS England Regions met the 1% operational standard. The proportion of patients waiting six weeks or more for a diagnostic test varied by region between 17.8% (Northwest region) and 30.1% (East of England) (Table 4).
- 4.1.9. Feedback from NHS trusts has indicated that variations can exist between different regions due to a variety of reasons, from machines breaking down to staff shortages in trusts that usually only affect one region.

Table 4: January 2025 Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity by Regional Team*

Region	Number of patients waiting six weeks or more at month end	Percentage of patients waiting six weeks or more at month end	Total number of patients waiting at month end	Total activity undertaken in month	Median waiting time
London	55,989	19.8%	283,464	423,850	2.3
South West	36,774	24.0%	153,009	244,902	2.6
South East	51,059	21.9%	233,075	380,897	2.4
Midlands	79,740	25.3%	314,828	473,109	2.6
East of England	62,796	30.1%	208,504	286,074	3.0
North West	34,468	17.8%	194,162	325,051	2.2
North East and Yorkshire	41,861	18.1%	230,643	368,971	2.2
England	363,612	22.4%	1,621,958	2,512,385	2.4

^{*}Includes all independent sector providers and excludes centrally commissioned.

4.2 Total Waiting List

- 4.2.1. At the end of January 2025 there were a total of 1,622,000 patients still waiting for a diagnostic test. This is an increase of 41,500 (2.6%) from January 2024.
- 4.2.2. The test with the largest waiting list was Non-obstetric Ultrasound, which accounted for 34.5% of the total waiting list, or 558,800 patients. The test with the smallest waiting list was Electrophysiology, which accounted for 0.02% of the total waiting list, or 300 patients (Table 5).

Table 5: Total number of patients waiting at month end, by test - January 2024 and January 2025

	Jan-24	Jan-25	Growth (%age)
MRI	302,852	321,906	6.3%
СТ	183,555	185,667	1.2%
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	524,810	558,801	6.5%
Barium Enema	2,424	3,051	25.9%
Dexa Scan	57,950	58,118	0.3%
Audiology Assessments	103,567	102,037	-1.5%
Echocardiography	156,601	145,222	-7.3%
Electrophysiology	753	303	-59.8%
Peripheral Neurophysiology	31,920	33,832	6.0%
Sleep Studies	29,523	30,197	2.3%
Urodynamics	8,664	9,523	9.9%
Colonoscopy	66,260	64,638	-2.4%
Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	24,455	21,592	-11.7%
Cystoscopy	25,575	23,490	-8.2%
Gastroscopy	61,510	63,581	3.4%
All Tests	1,580,419	1,621,958	2.6%

Note: Barium Enema is a test that should be replaced by Colonoscopy or CT Colonography, so the number of tests undertaken should be reducing.

4.2.3. The largest proportional increase in the number of patients waiting by test has been for Barium Enema where the reported waiting list grew by 25.9% compared with January 2024.

4.3 Median Waiting Times

4.3.1. At the end of January 2025, the estimated median waiting time for all 15 diagnostic tests was 2.4 weeks from the time of referral, down from 3.2 in the previous month. The test with the shortest median waiting time was CT at 1.6 weeks. The test with the longest median waiting time was Audiology Assessments at 4.3 weeks (Chart 7).

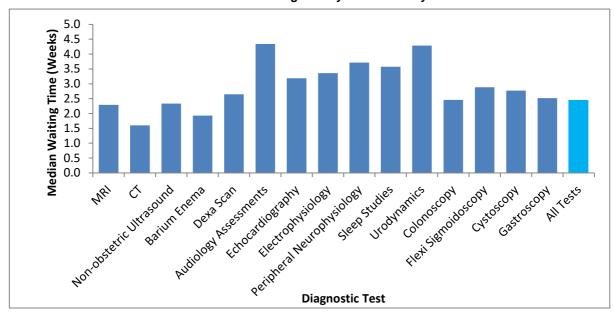


Chart 7: Median waiting time by test - January 2025

4.4 Total Activity

- 4.4.1. In total 2,512,400 of the 15 key diagnostic tests were performed during January 2025. This is an increase of 114,200 (4.8%) from January 2024, 4.8% when adjusted for working days (Table 6).
- 4.4.2. The test with the highest activity was Non-obstetric Ultrasound with 767,300 tests taking place. This accounted for 30.5% of all activity in January 2025. The test with the lowest activity was Electrophysiology with 300 tests taking place. This accounted for 0.01% of all activity this month.
- 4.4.3. The number of tests conducted over the last 12 months has increased by 6.8% from the same period last year, 6.4% when adjusted for working days.

Table 6: Total activity and growth, by test – January 2024 and January 2025

Note: Barium Enema is a test that should be replaced by Colonoscopy or CT Colonography, so the number of tests undertaken should be reducing.

	Jan-25	Jan-24	YTD 24/25	YTD 23/24	Growth Jan 25 vs Jan 24	Growth YTD 24/25 vs YTD 23/24	Adjusted Growth Jan 25 vs Jan 24	Adjusted Growth YTD 24/25 vs YTD 23/24
MRI	408,727	379,937	3,949,984	3,614,649	7.6%	9.3%	7.6%	7.2%
СТ	759,197	723,846	7,290,696	6,811,655	4.9%	7.0%	4.9%	5.0%
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	767,276	744,549	7,296,284	6,907,293	3.1%	5.6%	3.1%	3.6%
Barium Enema	4,278	4,016	43,540	33,254	6.5%	30.9%	6.5%	28.5%
Dexa Scan	48,970	47,602	483,254	448,465	2.9%	7.8%	2.9%	5.7%
Audiology Assessments	119,535	113,314	1,129,006	958,771	5.5%	17.8%	5.5%	15.5%
Echocardiography	180,788	168,699	1,665,924	1,518,165	7.2%	9.7%	7.2%	7.7%
Electrophysiology	272	659	6,660	5,995	-58.7%	11.1%	-58.7%	9.0%
Peripheral Neurophysiology	23,067	21,738	215,056	199,387	6.1%	7.9%	6.1%	5.8%
Sleep Studies	20,718	17,713	188,898	146,699	17.0%	28.8%	17.0%	26.3%
Urodynamics	6,584	6,277	62,748	55,484	4.9%	13.1%	4.9%	11.0%
Colonoscopy	57,743	57,646	559,726	552,663	0.2%	1.3%	0.2%	-0.6%
Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	16,882	17,504	165,034	169,685	-3.6%	-2.7%	-3.6%	-4.6%
Cystoscopy	31,539	30,925	307,112	282,800	2.0%	8.6%	2.0%	6.6%
Gastroscopy	66,809	63,784	648,314	608,312	4.7%	6.6%	4.7%	4.6%
All Tests	2,512,385	2,398,209	24,012,236	22,313,277	4.8%	7.6%	4.8%	5.6%

5 Community Diagnostic Centre January 2025 Data

This section analyses the January 2025 activity data for Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) and includes comparisons with the main January 2025 activity data. Activity data for CDCs includes all the activity they have performed in the month for 15 diagnostic tests (which comprise around half of the diagnostic tests they provide); no waiting list data is collected for CDCs. The CDC activity is also included in the main activity report, since that covers diagnostic tests in all settings, but is only identified as CDC activity in the separate tables.

5.1 CDC activity

5.1.1. In January 2025, CDCs performed 299,500 diagnostic tests, 11.9% of the total. The most common were imaging tests and the highest percentage of imaging tests by CDCs was for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (17.1%), see Table 7.

Table 7: Total and CDC activity, by test - January 2025

Test	All providers	CDCs	% by CDC
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	408,727	69,837	17.1%
Computed Tomography	759,197	92,629	12.2%
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	767,276	97,250	12.7%
Barium Enema	4,278	19	0.4%
DEXA Scan	48,970	7,655	15.6%
Audiology - Audiology Assessments	119,535	2,410	2.0%
Cardiology - Echocardiography	180,788	16,962	9.4%
Cardiology - Electrophysiology	272	351	129.0%
Neurophysiology - Peripheral Neurophysiology	23,067	277	1.2%
Respiratory physiology - Sleep Studies	20,718	3,178	15.3%
Urodynamics - Pressures & Flows	6,584	269	4.1%
Colonoscopy	57,743	3,685	6.4%
Flexi Sigmoidoscopy	16,882	1,006	6.0%
Cystoscopy	31,539	479	1.5%
Gastroscopy	66,809	3,455	5.2%
All tests	2,512,385	299,462	11.9%

CDC Electrophysiology activity erroneously includes other physiology test types

5.1.2. In January 2025, the region with the highest diagnostic activity in CDCs was the Midlands, with 59,900 tests (12.7% of their total). The region with the highest percentage of tests by CDCs, was the South West, with 35,800 tests (14.6% of their total), see Table 8.

Table 8: Total and CDC activity, by commissioning region – January 2025

Test	All providers	CDCs	% by CDC
London	423,850	44,835	10.6%
South West	244,902	35,779	14.6%
South East	380,897	50,943	13.4%
Midlands	473,109	59,914	12.7%
East of England	286,074	27,628	9.7%
North West	325,051	42,494	13.1%
North East and Yorkshire	368,971	37,119	10.1%
England	2,512,385	299,462	11.9%

5.2 CDC data completeness

5.2.1. In January 2025, 165 CDC sites were invited to submit activity data and 162 are included in the activity counts (98% response rate). The activity is CDCfunded and should exclude services that have moved to the CDC from existing sites, making it additional activity.

6 Annex

6.1 Methodology

- 5.1.1. NHS England compiles diagnostic waiting time and activity data through a central return. Data collected includes:
 - The number of patients waiting at the month end, split by test and week.
 - Total activity classified as either Waiting List tests (excluding planned), Planned tests, or Unscheduled tests.
- 5.1.2. Providers submit data to NHS England via SDCS where it is checked and signed off by commissioners. For further details on how the data is collected and the SDCS system, please refer to the NHSE Collection Guidance.

6.2 Data Revisions

5.2.1. Revisions to published figures are released on a six-monthly basis and in accordance with the NHS England's revision policy. For more information on the revision policy please refer to the SDCS Revisions Policy Document. Revisions were last published in January 2024 for the months January 2022 through to April 2023.

6.3 Data Availability

5.3.1. Monthly diagnostic waiting time and activity data is published on a monthly timetable. A full calendar of all statistical publications can be found here.

6.4 Glossary

Community Diagnostic Centre

Community diagnostic centres (CDCs) provide a broad range of elective diagnostics (including checks, scans and tests) away from acute facilities, so reducing pressure on hospitals, providing quicker access to tests and greater convenience to patients. The earliest CDCs were started in 2021 and the list of sites and their services continues to expand. CDCs may use a range of spoke sites and submit aggregated activity data for them. They are hosted by acute Trusts but may receive patients from other Trusts.

Endoscopy

A categorisation of diagnostic tests that include: Colonoscopy; Flexi Sigmoidoscopy; Cystoscopy and Gastroscopy.

Imaging

A categorisation of diagnostic tests that include: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI); Computed Tomography (CT); Non-obstetric Ultrasound; Barium Enema and DEXA Scan.

Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Integrated care boards (ICBs) replaced clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in the NHS in England from 1 April 2023. ICBs oversee partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services.

Median Waiting Time

A measurement of the average time patients have been waiting for a diagnostic test. The median is the middle value when waiting times are put in numerical order. 50% of patients have been waiting less than the median. The median is the preferred measurement of average waiting time as it is less susceptible to extreme values than the mean.

Physiological Measurement

A categorisation of diagnostic tests that include: Audiology Assessments; Echocardiology; Electrophysiology: Peripheral Neurophysiology; Sleep Studies and Urodynamics.

Provider

An organisation that provides NHS treatment or care, for example, an NHS Acute Trust, Mental Health Trust, Community provider, or an Independent Sector organisation.

Region

One of seven geographical areas of NHS England responsible for the quality, financial and operational performance of all NHS organisations in their region.

6.5 Feedback Welcomed

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of statistics within this report and those published on the NHS England website.

If you have any comments on this, or any other issues regarding these statistics, then please email england.diagnosticsdata@nhs.net

6.6 Consultation

Between 8 February 2018 and 5 April 2018, NHS England consulted on the future of the Quarterly Diagnostics Census and Monthly Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity Returns. The outcome document for the consultation was published 30 March 2020 and confirmed the decision to stop collecting the Quarterly Diagnostics Census on a permanent basis and to continue the monthly diagnostics waiting times and activity return (DM01) in its current form. Find out more at: https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/diagnostics-census-waiting-timesactivity-return

6.7 Additional Information

Full details of diagnostics data for individual organisations are available here.

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959. Email enquiries should be directed to nhsengland.media@nhs.net

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