Alternative sources of the additional appointments data are published elsewhere. For some of the activity types these are not defined exactly the same, but are close proxies. An explanation of the alternatives, how the definitions compare and where they can be found is given below:

Operations and appointments

Figures for both *operations* and *outpatient attendances* are published monthly as official statistics in the [Hospital Episode Statistics Monthly Activity Report dashboard](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiZDdiMjMxMmEtNjE1Ny00NDUyLWI3ODAtNWE0Y2NkZTEzNGI3IiwidCI6IjM3YzM1NGIyLTg1YjAtNDdmNS1iMjIyLTA3YjQ4ZDc3NGVlMyJ9).

In using the dashboard the ‘activity type’ should be set to “Specific Acute”, which most closely matches the definition used for the additional appointments, as it reflects the consultant-led specialties covered by the Referral-to-Treatment standard. The additional appointments metric also covered some non-consultant specialties in outpatients such as physiotherapy, but not specialties like maternity, mental health or learning disabilities.

The figures for *operations* are contained on page 3 (admitted patient care – national). The relevant figures are those for both ordinary electives and day case electives. Non-electives should be disregarded as they relate to emergency cases rather than planned care.

The figures for *outpatient appointments* are contained on page 4 (first appointments) and page 5 (subsequent appointments). The additional appointments metric excluded subsequent (follow-up) appointments where a procedure was not carried out. The dashboard does not include a split between subsequent appointments with and without a procedure. As 82% of subsequent appointments do not involve a procedure, the closest proxy to the additional appointments metric is obtained by excluding subsequent appointments and only including first appointments. The relevant figure is for the number of appointments where the patient was seen (that is, excluding those where the patient did not attend).

A time series for the above information can be downloaded (as csv files) back to 2018/19 [here](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/provisional-monthly-hospital-episode-statistics-for-admitted-patient-care-outpatient-and-accident-and-emergency-data/april-2025---june-2025), under the two links to “Hospital Episode Statistics Monthly Activity Report”. The relevant column headings are “Specific acute specialties: Ordinary Elective” (column I), “Specific acute specialties: Daycase Elective” (column J) and “Specific acute specialties: First attendances seen total” (column O).

Diagnostic Tests

The figures for diagnostic tests are published monthly as official statistics within the [diagnostic waiting times and activity series](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/monthly-diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/).

The totals reported in the additional appointments publication is the total of all waiting list (“Waiting List Tests”) and planned activity for all tests except colonoscopy, gastroscopy, flexi-sigmoidoscopy and cystoscopy. These tests are excluded because they are already counted within the operations activity described above.