

Information Services Division

Changes to the weekly update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Time Statistics

Since 3 March 2015, official statistics on Emergency Department (ED) activity and waiting times information have been released weekly for the EDs in Scotland, derived from aggregate information supplied by NHS Boards on the number of attendances and patients spending 4, 8, and 12 hours in an Emergency Department.

We are planning to amend how we source and publish this information. Changes we are planning implement are changes to the data source and the layout of the publication tables.

Data source

Figures contained in the weekly update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Time Statistics are currently sourced from a weekly aggregate return sent from NHS Boards to ISD. Since late 2015, there has also been an automated process available for NHS Boards to submit a summary of attendances and 4, 8 and 12 hour waits to a national data mart.

To reduce the burden of data collection on NHS Boards, ISD will source the data for the weekly update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Time Statistics from a weekly extract created from the automated submissions. To improve the accuracy of the trend in weekly attendances, historic figures will be refreshed monthly from ISD's validated A&E datamart, the same source as the monthly National Statistics [A&E Activity and Waiting Times](#) releases.

Change in definition

The A&E data in the automated submission is based on patients discharged from A&E on the previous day. The current weekly aggregate return is based on patients who arrived at A&E during the week. This has only a minor effect on the publication results.

Publication table

The change to the layout of the publication tables would bring it more in line with the [monthly publication tables](#). The new format will include sheets with a NHS Board comparison and ED comparison and a compliance sheet to look at the attendance and compliance with the 4 hour waiting time standard for individual NHS Boards and Emergency Departments.

Finally, to keep tables to a manageable size, we plan to limit the trend tables to the last 60 weeks. This will allow comparison with the same week a year before while also keeping the tables and graph from getting too cluttered.

If you would like to offer your support to or comment on these planned changes, you can:

- Email your feedback to: nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net;

Or contact:

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