



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 March 2006

Abstract

This paper provides a quarterly summary of the latest published NHS hospital waiting times statistics. It contains information from June 2000 when targets were introduced and measures current performance against the 2005-06 Service and Financial Framework (SaFF) targets.

Information is also provided on delayed transfers of care, the Second Offer Scheme, and comparative figures for NHS waiting times in England, Scotland and Wales.

May 2006



NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 March 2006

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Introduction

Information for NHS hospital waiting times is taken from a number of sources. They include official statistics published by the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate, the Department of Health and the Scottish Executive, and NHS Wales monitoring information provided by the Health and Social Care Department of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Health of Wales Information Site (HOWIS).

In 2003-04, the latest available figures, more than half (59 per cent) of all admissions to hospital were emergencies that were dealt with immediately. The proportion of admissions from waiting lists was a quarter of all admissions (25 per cent). The remainder (17 per cent) had an admission date that had been booked ahead or were subject to a planned admission after a period of time based on medical or social criteria.¹

New to this quarter are diagnostic and therapy services waiting times and tables for delayed transfers of care which show transfer delays for mental health separately (see Annex B).

¹ Welsh Assembly Government, *Health Statistics Wales 2005/2006*, Table 8.2 In-patient and day case admission, by method of admission.
http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2004/hsw2005/hsw2005-ch8/hsw2005-t8-2.xls

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NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 March 2006

1 NHS Waiting Times Targets

The 2005-06 targets are set out in the Service and Financial Framework (SaFF), the agreements between the Welsh Assembly Government and NHS organisations that form part of the performance management arrangements between these bodies. In this quarter's publication, performance will be measured against the 2005-06 targets. Waiting Times will be measured against the 2006-07 SaFF targets in the June 2006 publication.

1.1 NHS Acute Hospitals

Unless otherwise stated the following waiting times targets from Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance for the Service and Financial Framework 2005-06*,² set minimum standards to be achieved across Wales by 31 March 2006. A number of new waiting times targets are now included: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Accident and Emergency (A & E). A third new target, Cardiac Revascularisation, combines the former targets for Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty.

2005-06 SaFF hospital waiting times targets for assessment, treatment and elective procedures:

- ♦ All patients to be seen within 12 months for inpatient/day case treatment.^(a)
- ♦ All patients to be seen within 12 months for a first outpatient appointment.^(a)
- ♦ All cataract inpatient/day case treatment patients to be seen within 4 months.
- ♦ All patients to be seen within 6 months for cardiac revascularisation (angioplasty and surgery).
- ♦ All patients to be seen within 4 months for an angiogram.
- ♦ All Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients to be seen within 6 months for routine assessment and intervention.^(b)
- ♦ 95% of all patients to spend less than 4 hours in Accident and Emergency (A&E) from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge. No-one should wait longer than 8 hours for admission, discharge or transfer.

^(a) Where there are currently no patients waiting over 12 months, Trusts should maintain or improve on the March 2005 position.

^(b) Target date: 31 March 2007.

1.2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The target for CAMHS would appear to be relevant to both inpatients and outpatients. However, there are no children or adolescents waiting over six months for inpatient or day case treatment, so figures relate only to outpatients (see Section 3).

1.3 Cardiac Revascularisation

From April 2005 the new waiting times target, Cardiac Revascularisation, replaced Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty, and a new time series, starting from 30 April 2005, has been created to monitor the target.

² Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual priorities and planning guidance for the service and financial framework 2005-06*, 17 December 2004, available at http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2004/WHC_2004_083.pdf

1.4 Cancer Targets (Standards)

The target date for NHS Trusts to comply with this SaFF target is December 2006. The first figures for cancer waiting times monitored against the standards were published at the beginning of December 2005.

2005-2006 SaFF Cancer Standards

- ◆ Newly diagnosed cancer patients that have been referred as USC (urgent suspected cancer) and confirmed as urgent by the specialist to start definitive treatment within 2 months from receipt of referral at the hospital.
- ◆ Newly diagnosed cancer patients not included as USC referrals to start definitive treatment within 1 month of diagnosis.

The 2005-06 cancer standards relate both to particular cancers and Specialist Palliative Care related to cancer services.

Cancers covered by the 2005-06 Standards

Breast; Colorectal; Lung; Gynaecological; Upper Gastrointestinal; Urological; Haematological; Head and Neck; Thyroid; Skin.

Details of the cancer waiting times are set out in the Welsh Health Circular *Cancer Services in Wales – Publication of National Cancer Standards and the Implication for Commissioners and Providers, Through the Cancer Networks*.³

1.5 Diagnostic and Therapy Services

There are two targets for Diagnostic and Therapy Services, both of which are to be achieved by 31 March 2007:

- ◆ To reduce the maximum waiting time for access to specified diagnostic or therapy services to 36 weeks as part of the 36 week wait.
- ◆ Patients will wait a maximum of 24 weeks from referral to receipt of echocardiography.

³ Welsh Health Circular (2005) 051, *Cancer Services in Wales - Publication of National cancer Standards and the implication for Commissioners and Providers, through the Cancer Networks*, available at http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2005/WHC_2005_051%20ENGLISH.pdf.



2 Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times

*Target: All patients to be seen within 12 months for inpatient/day case treatment.
To be sustained throughout 2005-2006.*

2.1 Inpatient and day case treatment, by length of wait

Chart 1: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment over 12 months and over 18 months

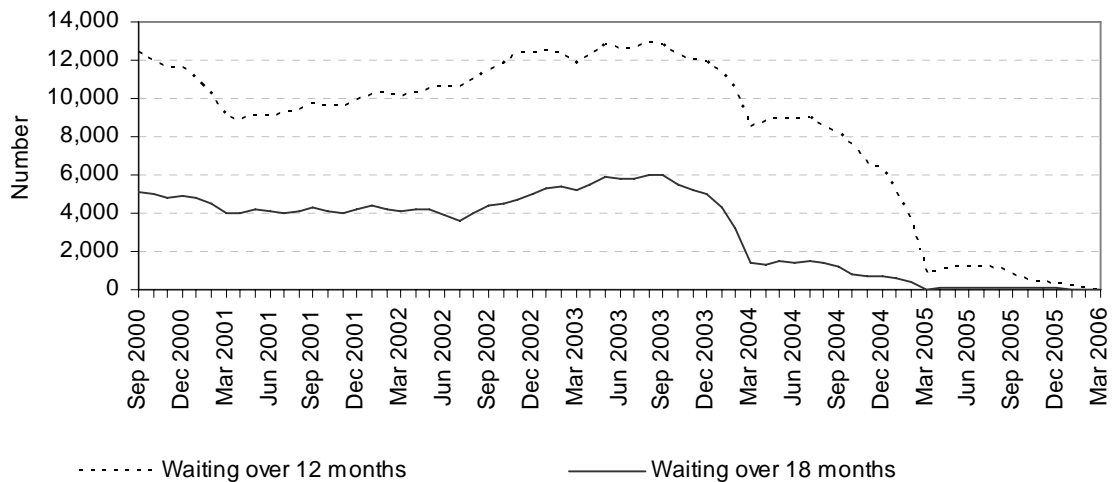
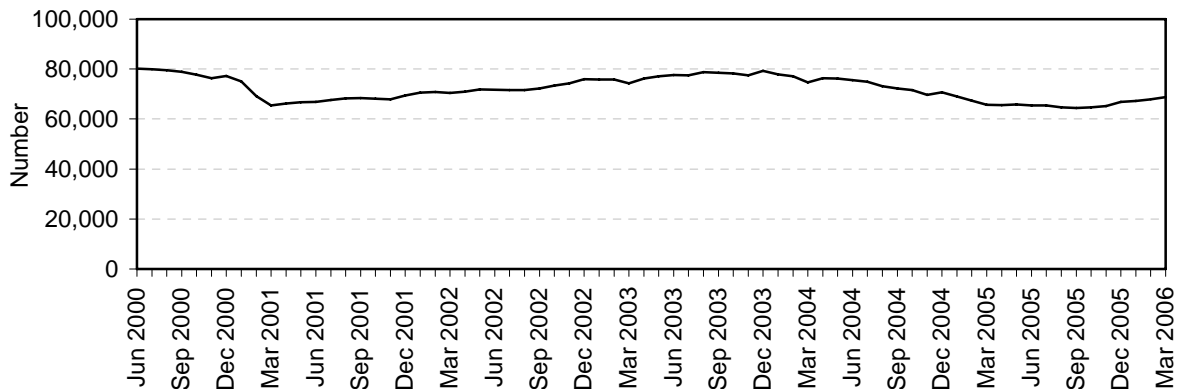


Chart 2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: total



At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ The 2005-06 SaFF target was achieved with no people waiting over 12 months by 31 March 2006.
- ◆ The total number of people waiting rose by 3 per cent, from around 67,000 in December 2005 to 69,000 in March 2006, the highest number since January 2005.

2.2 *Inpatient or day case treatment, by specialty*

Table A1 (see Annex A) shows the number of Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment at the end of March 2006 in the 6 specialties with the highest numbers waiting. The figures show that:

- ◆ Trauma and Orthopaedics continues to be the specialty with the highest number waiting (22,733).
- ◆ The percentage of those waiting over 6 months fell 2 percentage points, from 23 per cent in December 2005 to 21 per cent in March 2006. Four specialties had higher percentages waiting over 6 months than the average for all specialties (20 per cent): Plastic Surgery 30 per cent, Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) 29 per cent, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) 24 per cent and General Surgery 22 per cent.
- ◆ Urology had the lowest percentage of people waiting over 6 months (16 per cent).

2.3 *Inpatient or day case treatment, by NHS Trust*

Table A2 (see Annex A) shows waiting times figures for inpatient or day case treatment by NHS Trust. Columns show figures for the total number waiting and for the number waiting over 6, over 12 and over 18 months.

- ◆ Ceredigion and Mid-Wales NHS Trust had the highest percentage of people waiting over 6 months (29 per cent) while North West Wales NHS Trust had the lowest (12 per cent).
- ◆ Four other NHS Trusts had a higher percentage of people waiting over 6 months than the Wales average: Swansea 26 per cent, Cardiff and Vale 25 per cent, Gwent and North Glamorgan 22 per cent each.

2.4 *Inpatient or day case treatment, by Local Health Board (LHB)*

- ◆ Table A3 (see Annex A) shows waiting times figures for inpatient or day case treatment by LHB. Columns show figures for the total number waiting and for the number waiting over 6, over 12 and over 18 months.
- ◆ Three LHBs had more than 1,000 people waiting over 6 months, Cardiff (1,848), Swansea (1,528) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (1,144). However, these LHBs also had the highest total number of people waiting. Together they accounted for 31 per cent of those waiting.

3 Outpatient Waiting Times

*Target: All patients to be seen within 12 months for a first outpatient appointment.
To be sustained throughout 2005-2006.*

3.1 Outpatients, by length of wait

Chart 3: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment over 12 and 18 months

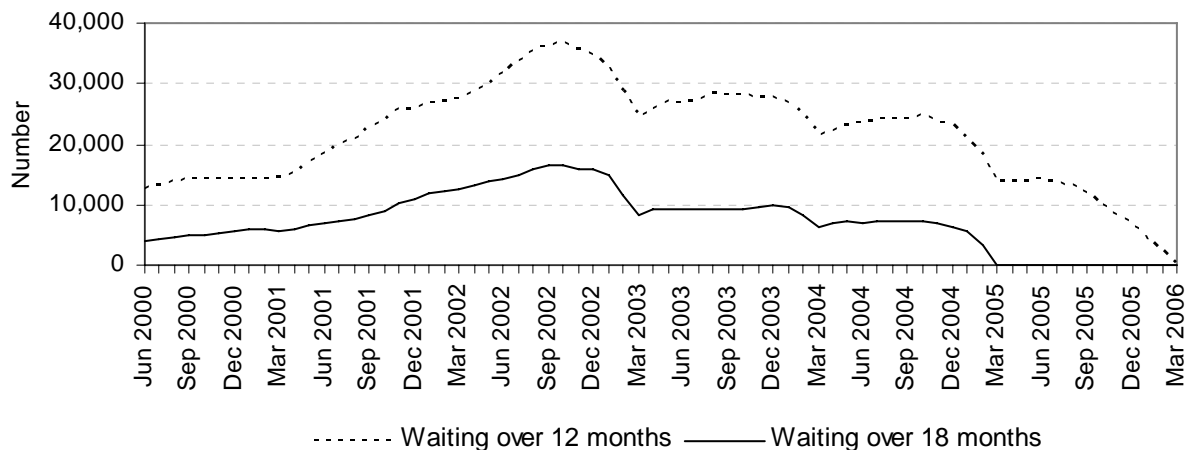
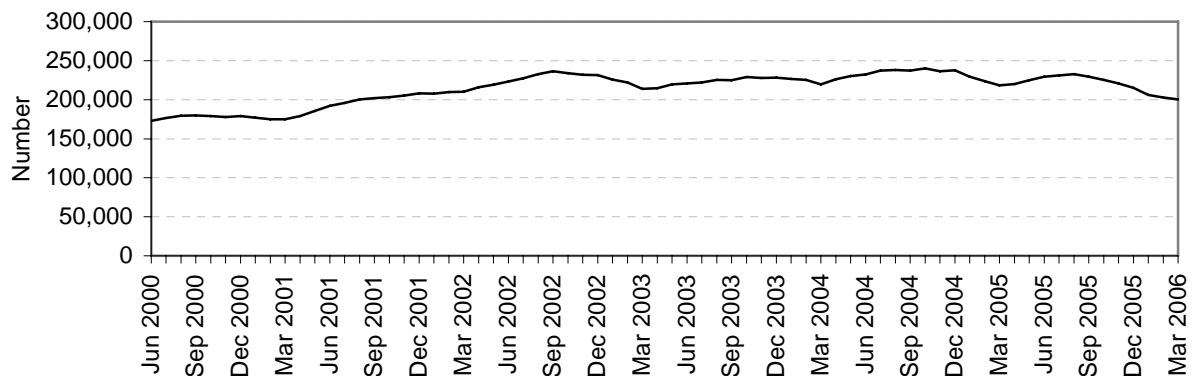


Chart 4: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment: total



At the end of March 2006:

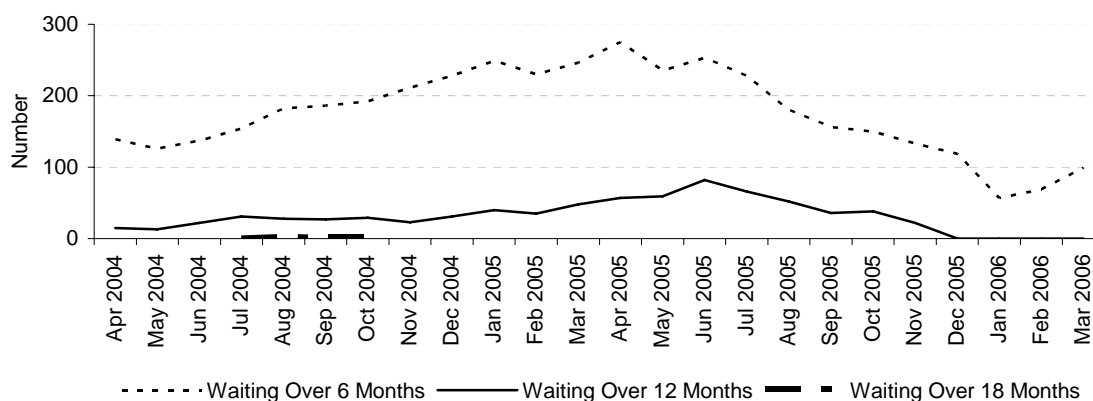
- ◆ 15 people were waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment, and of these, 10 were waiting over 18 months.
- ◆ 40,533 people were waiting over 6 months, around 16,000 fewer than the previous quarter.
- ◆ The percentage seen within 6 months rose to 80 per cent, 6 percentage points more than in December 2005.



3.2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Target: All Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients to be seen within 6 months for routine assessment and intervention.

Chart 5: CAMHS. Welsh children and adolescents waiting over 6 and over 12 months for a routine assessment and intervention



- ◆ The total numbers waiting rose to 996, but the number of children and adolescents waiting over 6 months for a first outpatient appointment was down from 119 December 2005 to 99 at the end of March 2006.
- ◆ The position of no children and adolescents waiting over 12 months was sustained throughout the quarter.

3.3 First outpatient appointment, by speciality

Table A4 (see Annex A) shows specialties with Welsh residents waiting over 12 and over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of March 2006. Also shown are the specialties with the highest total waiting.

At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ Seven specialties had people waiting over 12 months, but each of these was in single figures.
- ◆ All specialties reduced the numbers of people waiting over 6 months, and in Trauma and Orthopaedics the numbers waiting reduced by nearly a third, from 13,189 down to 8,910.

3.4 First outpatient appointment, by NHS Trust

Table A5 (see Annex A) shows the numbers of Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment by NHS Trust and includes the total number waiting, and those waiting over 6, 12, and 18 months.

At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ The 15 people waiting over 12 months were waiting for a first outpatient appointment with a non-Welsh Trust. All Welsh NHS Trusts had therefore achieved the target of no-one waiting over 12 months.



3.5 *First outpatient appointment, by Local Health Board (LHB)*

Table A6 (see Annex A) shows the number of Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment by LHB and includes the total number waiting, and those waiting over 6, 12 and 18 months.

At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ Six LHBs had people waiting over 12 months and 4 LHBs had people waiting over 18 months. All numbers were all single figures.
- ◆ Seven LHBs had fewer than 1,000 people waiting over 6 months, six more than the previous quarter.



4 Specific Targets: Cataracts, Cardiac Revascularisation, Angiography, Cancer and Accident and Emergency (A & E)

4.1 Cataract Surgery

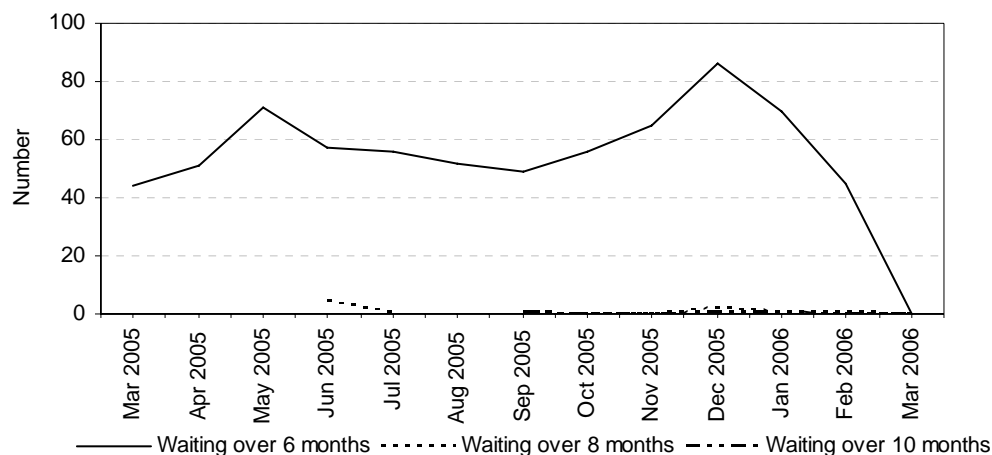
Target: All cataract inpatient/day case treatment patients to be seen within 4 months.

- ◆ The position of all patients being seen within 4 months for cataract surgery has been sustained since November 2005.

4.2 Cardiac Revascularisation ⁴

Target: All patients to be seen within 6 months.

Chart 6: Welsh residents waiting over 6, 8 and 10 months for Cardiac Revascularisation



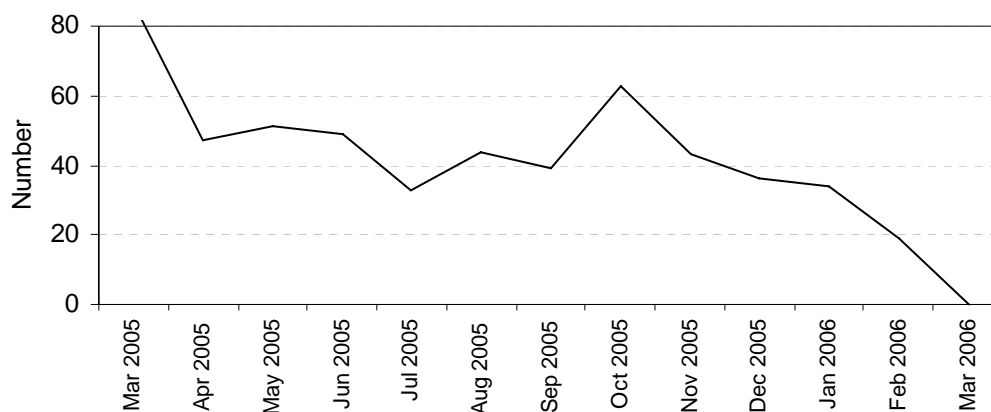
- ◆ With no people waiting over six months, the SaFF target for Cardiac revascularisation was met by 31 March 2006.
- ◆ There were no people waiting over 10 months at the end of January or other 8 months at the end of February 2006.

4.3 Angiography

Target: All patients to be seen within 4 months for angiography

⁴ Cardiac Revascularisation has been defined by the Welsh Assembly Government as including Cardiac, Cardio-thoracic and Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, and Angioplasty

Chart 7: Welsh residents waiting over 4 months for Angiography



- ◆ The target for Angiography was met with no patients waiting over 4 months was met by 31 March 2006.

4.4 Cancer

Standards:

- Newly diagnosed cancer patients that have been referred as USC (urgent suspected cancer) and confirmed as urgent by the specialist to start definitive treatment within 2 months from receipt of referral at the hospital.*
- Newly diagnosed cancer patients not included as USC referrals to start definitive treatment within 1 month of diagnosis.*

Figures for the end of December include additional cancer sites for which there are cancer standards, Gynaecological, Urological and Skin cancer.

Table 1: Welsh residents with urgent suspected cancer (USC), as at end of December 2005

Region	USC Patients starting treatment within 31 days of diagnosis											
	Breast		Lung		Gynaecological		Upper Gastrointestinal		Urological		Skin	
North Wales	49	91%	24	60%	5	42%	7	70%	37	38%	10	83%
Mid and West Wales	63	91%	6	40%	5	63%	8	73%	13	36%	9	75%
South East Wales	65	86%	38	61%	4	80%	10	83%	39	43%	14	70%
Wales	177	89%	68	58%	14	56%	25	76%	89	40%	33	75%

Table 2: Welsh residents not referred via the urgent suspected cancer (non-USC), as at end of December 2005

Region	Non-USC Patients starting treatment within 31 days of diagnosis											
	Breast		Lung		Gynaecological		Upper Gastrointestinal		Urological		Skin	
North Wales	79	99%	39	93%	16	80%	48	92%	57	85%	34	92%
Mid and West Wales	81	93%	43	90%	28	90%	33	87%	73	82%	45	78%
South East Wales	127	93%	85	94%	37	95%	59	94%	63	68%	39	89%
Wales	287	94%	167	93%	81	90%	140	92%	193	78%	118	85%

4.5 Accident and Emergency (A & E) waiting times

Targets:

95 per cent of all patients to spend less than 4 hours in Accident and Emergency (A&E) from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge.

No-one should wait longer than 8 hours for admission, discharge or transfer.

The Health of Wales Information Site (HOWIS) gives percentages for each A & E department, by NHS Trust and region (Table A7, Annex A) measured against the 95 per cent target of all patients spending less than 4 hours in A & E from arrival until resolution.

At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ The all-Wales average against the target had fallen by 1.8 percentage points from 92.4 per cent to 90.6 per cent.
- ◆ Two NHS Trusts improved on their December position, Gwent Healthcare (+0.9), and North West Wales (+0.1). All other NHS Trusts lost ground with those down the most being Bro Morgannwg and Carmarthenshire. Both were down 4.4 percentage points on the previous quarter.

5 Diagnostic and Therapy Services

Targets: To reduce the maximum waiting time for access to specified diagnostic or therapy services to 36 weeks as part of the 36 week wait.

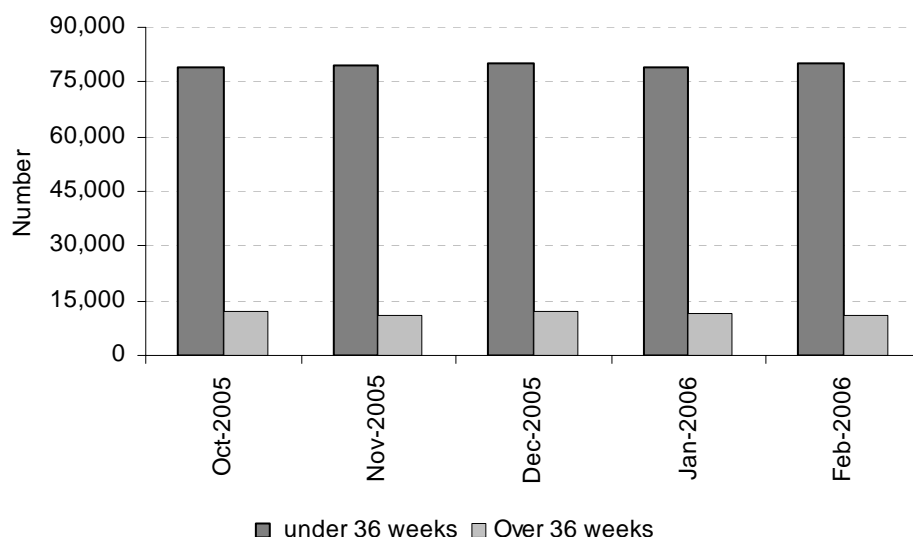
Patients will wait a maximum of 24 weeks from referral to receipt of echocardiography. To be achieved by 31 March 2007.

Charts 8 and 9 below show respectively numbers waiting for specified Diagnostic and Therapy Services (DTS) and for echocardiograms against the targets.

There are 9 main DT services for which numbers waiting are published. Some of these have subsets, e.g. Echocardiogram is a subset of Cardiology (see Annex C, para.1 for StatsWales access details). The Welsh Assembly Government has also published a Diagnostic and Therapy Services Bulletin and this lists numbers waiting for each specific service by waiting time categories.⁵

There are 8 categories of DTS waiting times with the longest wait category being 'over 72 weeks'. For the purpose of monitoring the target, categories have been combined to show numbers waiting under and over 36 weeks.

Chart 8: Welsh residents waiting under and over 36 weeks for access to specified diagnostic or therapy services.

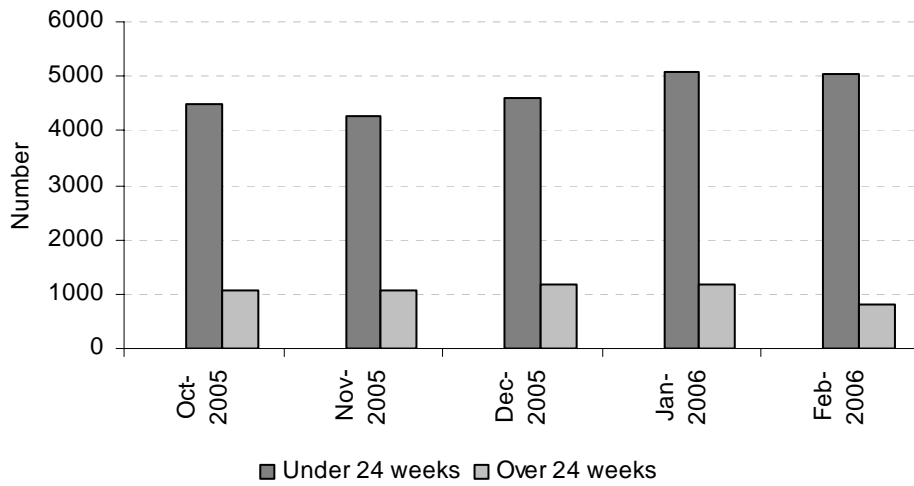


- ◆ The number of people waiting over 36 weeks reduced by around 500 between December 2005 and February 2006.
- ◆ 87 per cent of people waiting accessed diagnostic and therapy services within the target time of 36 weeks.

⁵Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 45/2006. *NHS diagnostic and therapy waiting times: as at end February 2006*. 12 April 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/4038213/sdr45-2006.pdf?lang=en>
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/4038213/sdr45-2006.pdf?lang=en>



Chart 9: Welsh residents waiting under and over 24 weeks for an Echocardiogram.



- ◆ Since November 2005, the proportion of people seen within the target time of 24 weeks rose to 86 per cent by the end of February 2006.

6 Second Offer Scheme

The figures in the tables that follow are the current accounting year, 2005-06 and have been provided by the Health and Social Care Department of the Welsh Assembly Government. Figures for 2004-05 are available from *NHS Hospital Waiting Times, March 2005*.⁶ Tables 3-6 provide information on the numbers of patients who have:

- ◆ Been made an offer on the Scheme, and the breakdown of their responses
- ◆ Been treated in-house or by an alternative provider (this table includes patients from some Trusts with no patients waiting more than 18 months, and which have therefore used Second Offer Scheme money to treat patients in-house)
- ◆ Been referred to an alternative provider, and a breakdown of the providers used
- ◆ Given reasons for declining a second offer of treatment

Key figures from the period 1 April - 31 March 2006 are:

- ◆ Of the 6,936 people who were made a second offer of treatment, 4,283 (62 per cent) have accepted, one percentage point higher than the December 2005 quarter.
- ◆ Swansea remains the NHS Trust with the highest percentage of decline (41 per cent) while Gwent remains the lowest (7 per cent). Cardiff and Vale again reduced the percentage declining an offer, down from 33 per cent in December 2005 to 31 per cent.
- ◆ 9,995 people have received treatment through Second Offer Scheme money, an increase of 2,504 since December 2005. 7,258 people (73 per cent) were treated through in-house solutions, an increase of 2 percentage points since December; the remainder were treated by an alternative provider.
- ◆ Of the alternative providers, Cardiff BUPA (1,180) continued to treat the most people. St. Joseph's Hospital, Newport (427) and Weston super Mare NHS Trust (375) replaced the Nuffield group as the next most often used alternative providers of treatment.
- ◆ The percentage of patients treated by an alternative provider in England fell 4 percentage points to 33 per cent (n=892) since the last quarter.
- ◆ The reasons why the majority of patients declined a Second Offer are unknown (1,236). Of the rest, 332 have been recorded as refusing through patient choice. No reasons have been recorded by Swansea NHS Trust for the 510 people who have declined an offer.

Comparisons between 2004-05 and 2005-06 are:

⁶ Assembly Parliamentary Service, Members Research Service. NHS Hospital Waiting Times, March 2005. May 2005
<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2005/CBE050883R%20NHS%20Wales%20Hospital%20Waiting%20Times,%20March%202005.doc>



- ◆ 1,528 fewer people were treated using Second Offer Scheme money in 2005-06 than in 2004-05.
- ◆ The percentage treated through in-house solutions rose from 62 per cent in 2004-05 to 73 per cent in 2005-06.
- ◆ The percentage of those treated by an alternative provider in England rose one percentage point, from 32 per cent in 2004-05 to 33 per cent in 2005-06.

Table 3: Patients treated through the Second Offer Scheme to whom an offer has been made, responses and referrals to an alternative provider, April 2005 to March 2006.

NHS Trust	Number of patients						
	Made a 2nd offer	Accepted an offer	Declined an offer	Undecided	Non-contactable (a)	Accepted but ineligible/declined after assessment	Referred to an alternative provider (b)
Bro Morgannwg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff & Vale	2,613	1,609	802	10	166	81	1,896
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy & Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	2,472	1,502	177	0	61	732	1,155
North East Wales	172	140	29	0	0	6	143
North Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Pontypridd & Rhondda	414	313	85	43	-92	68	176
Powys	24	13	4	0	2	5	13
Swansea	1,241	706	510	0	0	25	307
All Wales	6,936	4,283	1,607	53	137	917	3,706

(a) The Welsh Assembly Government has stated that this can be a negative number because the numbers who are non-contactable is a transitional category and patients must be taken off this once they move into one of the other categories upon being contacted (i.e. they are contacted in one month and reply back to the Trust the following month). This is to avoid double counting.

(b) Patients referred to an alternative provider in any one period may include patients from previous periods who have, for example, been undecided.



Table 4: Patients treated through the Second Offer Scheme, April 2005 to March 2006.

NHS Trust			<i>Number</i>
	Treated through in-house solutions	Treated by an alternative provider	Total
Bro Morgannwg	306	0	306
Cardiff and Vale	1,803	1,339	3,142
Carmarthenshire	457	0	457
Ceredigion	357	0	357
Conwy & Denbighshire	846	0	846
Gwent	2,108	1,016	3,124
North East Wales	220	136	356
North Glamorgan	306	0	306
North West Wales	43	0	43
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	513	0	513
Pontypridd & Rhondda	227	108	335
Powys	0	0	0
Swansea	72	138	210
All Wales	7,258	2,737	9,995

This table includes patients from NHS Trusts where no second offers have been made because there has been no-one waiting more than 18 months. In these cases, Second Offer Scheme money has been used to provide in-house treatment towards meeting the new 12 month targets.



Table 5: Alternative providers and treatment undertaken, by NHS Trust, April 2005 to March 2006.

Hospital						<i>number</i>
	Cardiff & Vale	Gwent	North East Wales	Pontypridd & Rhondda	Swansea	Alternative provider totals
Cardiff BUPA	834	235	0	83	28	1,180
Birmingham (a)	50	0	0	0	0	50
Bristol (a)	32	45	0	0	8	85
Cheltenham (a)	1	42	0	0	0	43
Hereford (a)	0	156	0	0	0	156
Taunton (a)	0	32	0	0	0	32
Weston-super-Mare NHS Trust	364	11	0	0	0	375
Worcester BUPA	55	63	0	0	0	118
Bristol BUPA	3	5	0	25	0	33
Newport, St. Joseph's	0	427	0	0	0	427
Swansea, Sancta Maria	0	0	0	0	102	102
Wrexham BUPA	0	0	136	0	0	136
NHS Trust totals	1,339	1,016	136	108	138	2,737

(a) Nuffield Group hospitals

Table 6: Reasons given for declining a Second Offer, by NHS Trust, April 2005 to March 2006.

NHS Trust						Declined after assessment	Total
	Social reasons	Patient choice	Wishes to remain with Trust	Other	Reason unknown		
Cardiff & Vale	0	134	0	0	668	55	857
Gwent	27	147	0	3	0	0	177
North East Wales	0	27	2	0		3	32
Pontypridd & Rhondda	0	24	9	1	54	0	88
Powys	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Swansea	0	0	0	0	510	0	510
Total	27	332	11	4	1,236	58	1,668

7 Delayed Transfers of Care

The tables in Annex B present a summary of the latest statistical information published on delayed transfers of care in Wales.⁷

In March 2006:

- ◆ The total number of people experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 618. Of these 175 were delayed in mental health facilities and 443 were in other acute and community hospitals.
- ◆ The number of people experiencing delays was 10.75 per cent more than in December 2005, but 8.5 per cent less than in March 2005.
- ◆ The number of beds occupied by people experiencing delays represented 4.3 per cent of all available beds; down from 4.4 per cent in December 2005.
- ◆ The category containing the highest percentage of reasons for delay continues to be Patient/carer/family related reasons (45.4 per cent). This contrasts with Social Care (30.3 per cent) and Healthcare (21.3 per cent) reasons.

⁷ Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 46/2006. *Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006*. 25.04.06.
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/4038213/sdr46-2006.pdf?lang=en>

8 Waiting Times in England and Scotland

8.1 England

Tables 7 and 8 present figures for Welsh and English residents waiting for in-patient or day case treatment and a first outpatient appointment at the end of December 2005.

The latest information on waiting lists in England, relating to December 2005, can be accessed on the Department of Health website.⁸

Inpatient or day case waiting times

In Table 7, caution should be exercised in comparing information from two different collection systems as definitions may not be interpreted in exactly the same way, even though the same definitions are broadly applied.

Table 7: Residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: as at 31 December 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	67,063	227.1	769,824	153.7
Waiting over 6 months	15,429	52.3	48	0.0
Waiting over 9 months	..	..	13	0.0
Waiting over 12 months	314	1.1	2	0.0
Waiting over 18 months	55	0.2	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales internet sites

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 314 people in Wales were recorded as having waited more than 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment compared to 2 in England.
- ◆ In Wales the rate per 10,000 head of population of people waiting over 6 months increased from 51.6 in September 2005 to 52.3 in December 2005, but in England fell from 6.7 to 0.0 in the same period.
- ◆ In Wales, the rate per 10,000 head of population of people waiting over 12 months fell from 2.6 in September 2005 to 1.1 in December 2005. In England the rate for people waiting over 12 months was sustained at 0.0.

First outpatient appointment waiting times

Figures relating to people waiting for a first outpatient appointment are not collected in the same form in England and in Wales. The following should be noted:

- ◆ The total figures of those waiting in England are divided into two categories, i.e. those related to written referral requests from GPs and those from other sources.

⁸ <http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/index.htm>



Department of Health figures suggest that GP written referrals represent around 67 per cent of all referrals.

- ◆ In England the numbers of people still waiting at a given time relate only to those for whom a written referral request has been made by a GP.
- ◆ The English length of wait is reported differently from Welsh lengths of wait, and the lengths reported in Table 8 are 13 weeks (3 months) and 21 weeks (approximately 5 months).
- ◆ The number of people waiting more than 6 months (26 weeks) for an outpatient appointment is no longer collected in England.
- ◆ No comparative figures are available for the total waiting for first outpatient appointment at any one time or for those waiting over 6, 12 or 18 months.

Table 8 shows the numbers of residents in Wales waiting over 3 months or over 6 months and the numbers in England waiting over 3 months or over 5 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of December 2005.

Table 8: Residents waiting for first outpatient appointment: as at 31 December 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^(a)	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^{(a) (c)}
Total	215,048	728.4	3,453,110	689.3
Waiting over 3 months	110,012	372.6	171	0.0
Waiting over 5 months	..	..	37	0.0
Waiting over 6 months	56,225	190.4	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales internet sites

(a) Rates are based on latest ONS Mid-Year Population estimates

(b) Total figure for England includes both GP written referrals (2,265,939) and referrals from other sources (1,187,171).

(c) Figures for those waiting over 3 and over 5 months relate only to written referrals from GPs, which represent about 67% of all recorded referral requests.

8.2 Scotland

Targets: No-one to wait over 6 months for inpatient/day case treatment or a first outpatient appointment. To be achieved by end December 2005.

Scotland has achieved the above targets and as from January 2006, will be measuring progress against a target of no-one waiting over 18 weeks, to be achieved by end of 2007.

Inpatient and day case waiting times

Table 9 below presents waiting times for inpatient and day cases treatment in Scotland from December 2004 to December 2005 (the latest available figures).

Figures collected on the number waiting for inpatient and day case treatment in Scotland are not on a comparable basis to those for England and Wales in Table 7. A major change in the way in which waiting list information is collected was introduced in Scotland from 1 April 2003. An explanation of the changes was provided in an earlier Members' Research Service quarterly bulletin.⁹ Latest figures for Scotland are available from the website of the Information Services Division of NHS Scotland (ISD Scotland), which also

⁹NHS Wales Waiting Times: targets, time trends and comparisons with waiting times in England and Scotland : September 2003 <http://assembly/presidingoffice/mrs/committeeresearchpapers/health/health-e.htm>

includes an explanation of the categories of the Availability Status Code (ASC) used in Table 9 below.¹⁰

Table 9: Scottish residents on waiting lists for inpatient and day case treatment^(a): as at 31 December 2004 - 2005

	December 2004	March 2005	June 2005	September 2005	December 2005
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	114,052	112,639	112,052	109,992	108,548
of which: number waiting with an ASC ^(b)	33,099	35,471	35,910	35,048	34,977
Waiting over 6 months ^(c)	6,005	1,596	1,118	1,249	2
Waiting over 9 months ^(c)	1	0	0	0	0
Waiting over 12 months ^(d)	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Rate per 10,000 population^(d)</i>					
On waiting list	225.5	222.7	221.6	216.6	213.7
of which: number waiting with an ASC ^(b)	65.4	70.1	71.0	69.0	68.9
Waiting over 6 months ^(c)	11.9	3.2	2.2	2.5	0.0
Waiting over 9 months ^(c)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 12 months ^(c)	..	..	..	..	..

Source: Scottish Executive

(a) Includes those not currently able to accept a date for admission for medical or social reasons

(b) Excludes those who are unable to accept treatment for medical or social reasons

(c) Rates are based on latest ONS Key Population and Vital Statistics, available at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=6>

(d) Some historic data has been updated since previous Research Papers.

Outpatient waiting times

Until March 2004, the numbers of people in Scotland waiting for a first outpatient appointment were not collected centrally. However, during 2004, the development of a monitoring and reporting system to enable performance to be measured against a new target of a maximum 6 month wait at 31 December 2005 for a new outpatient appointment means that some figures are now available. Table 10 contains figures for the total numbers of patients together with those waiting more than 6 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of September and December 2005. The following should be noted:

- ◆ These figures are provisional only and may change as the monitoring system continues to develop.
- ◆ Figures are for outpatients waiting to be seen at a clinic, referred by a GP/GDP, for all specialties excluding Mental Health and obstetrics and therefore do not provide a comparison with England and Wales.

¹⁰NHS Scotland, Information Services Division:

http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?p_service=Content.show&pContentID=670&p_applic=CCC&



Table 10: Scottish residents on waiting lists for a first outpatient appointment: September and December 2005

	30 September 2005		31 December 2005	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	210,586	414.7	178,605	351.7
Waiting over 6 months	11,854	23.3	2	0

Source: Scottish Executive



Annex A

Waiting times for inpatients/day cases, outpatients and accident and emergency (A & E): statistical tables

Table A1: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by specialty, as at 31 March 2006

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	22,733	6,632	0	0
General Surgery	13,364	2,985	0	0
Ear, Nose and Throat	7,347	1,770	0	0
Gynaecology	5,610	1,031	0	0
Urology	4,755	741	0	0
Plastic Surgery	1,966	585	0	0
All other specialties	12,379	1,521	0	0
All specialties	68,817	14,705	0	0

Source: StatsWales internet site

Numbers have been sorted in descending order of those waiting over 6 months

Table A2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by NHS Trust as at 31 March 2006

NHS Trust	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,006	751	0	0
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	4,547	654	0	0
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	12,594	3,173	0	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	4,948	934	0	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	1,567	449	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	4,462	888	0	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	11,587	2,522	0	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	3,584	612	0	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	1,871	412	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	3,235	392	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	1,890	403	0	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	3,745	777	0	0
Powys LHB	512	92	0	0
Swansea NHS Trust	10,258	2,646	0	0
Velindre NHS Trust	11	0	0	0
Total	68,817	14,705	0	0

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A3: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by Local Health Board, as at 31 March 2006

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Blaenau Gwent	1,897	473	0	0
Bridgend	3,020	505	0	0
Caerphilly	4,282	969	0	0
Cardiff	7,289	1,848	0	0
Carmarthenshire	4,394	898	0	0
Ceredigion	1,968	507	0	0
Conwy	2,397	433	0	0
Denbighshire	2,068	426	0	0
Flintshire	2,643	385	0	0
Gwynedd	2,353	359	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	1,307	171	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1,093	236	0	0
Monmouthshire	2,063	389	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	2,988	565	0	0
Newport	3,411	703	0	0
Pembrokeshire	3,115	636	0	0
Powys	2,707	720	0	0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	5,353	1,144	0	0
Swansea	5,804	1,528	0	0
Torfaen	2,456	511	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	3,245	838	0	0
Wrexham	2,831	461	0	0
LHB Unknown (North Wales)	133	0	0	0
Total	68,817	14,705	0	0

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A4: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by specialty, as at 31 March 2006

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Other Neurology	3,588	923	4	2
Trauma and Orthopaedic	33,822	8,910	3	3
Cardiology	5,308	1,091	2	1
Mental Illness	1,444	51	2	2
Burns and Plastic Surgery	127	43	2	0
General Surgery	17,571	2,357	1	1
Plastic Surgery	2,754	1,189	1	1
Ear, Nose and Throat	22,699	4,549	0	0
Ophthalmology	20,370	4,167	0	0
Dermatology	18,041	4,391	0	0
General Medicine	15,712	2,220	0	0
Gynaecology	9,905	913	0	0
Oral Surgery	9,607	2,272	0	0
Urology	8,564	1,736	0	0
All other specialties	38,767	7,927	9	5
All specialties	200,366	40,533	15	10

Source: StatsWales internet site

Numbers have been sorted in descending order of those waiting over 12 months

Table A5: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by NHS Trust as at 31 March 2006

NHS Trust	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	6,398	936	15	10
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	18,373	2,697	0	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	36,632	9,657	0	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	13,972	2,990	0	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	3,600	582	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	12,388	1,686	0	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	35,863	8,495	0	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	11,272	1,970	0	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	9,647	1,961	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	8,459	1,204	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	7,213	1,247	0	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	10,167	1,528	0	0
Powys LHB	3,384	380	0	0
Swansea NHS Trust	22,820	5,200	0	0
Velindre NHS Trust	178	0	0	0
Total	200,366	40,533	15	10

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A6: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by Local Health Board, as at 31 March 2006

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Blaenau Gwent	5,508	1,449	0	0
Bridgend	10,966	1,693	0	0
Caerphilly	14,470	3,530	0	0
Cardiff	21,653	5,783	1	0
Carmarthenshire	12,947	2,746	0	0
Ceredigion	5,037	918	0	0
Conwy	6,108	818	0	0
Denbighshire	5,713	768	2	0
Flintshire	7,033	848	0	0
Gwynedd	5,700	884	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	3,381	620	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	4,394	948	0	0
Monmouthshire	5,538	1,246	6	6
Neath Port Talbot	8,692	1,509	0	0
Newport	10,159	2,369	2	1
Pembrokeshire	8,503	1,575	0	0
Powys	7,320	1,200	0	0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	15,833	2,881	2	2
Swansea	16,676	3,350	0	0
Torfaen	7,104	1,647	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	9,653	2,376	2	1
Wrexham	7,960	1,375	0	0
LHB Unknown (North Wales)	18	0	0	0
Wales	200,366	40,533	15	10

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A7: NHS Trust performance against the 4 hour A&E wait target (95 per cent), as at 31 March 2006

NHS Trust	A & E Hospital	December 2005 (%)	March 2006 (%)	Change (%)
South East Region				
Cardiff & Vale	University Hospital of Wales (UHW)	89.8	89.5	-0.3
Gwent Healthcare	Royal Gwent	87.0	87.8	0.7
	Nevill Hall	92.4	93.3	0.9
	Trust average	89.1	90.0	0.9
North Glamorgan	Prince Charles	92.4	89.5	-2.9
Pontypridd & Rhondda	Royal Glamorgan	96.1	93.4	-2.7
Mid and West Region				
Bro Morgannwg	Princess of Wales	96.3	91.9	-4.4
Carmarthenshire	West Wales	92.8	90.5	-2.3
	Prince Phillip	94.3	88.0	-6.3
	Trust average	93.6	89.2	-4.4
Ceredigion & Mid Wales	Bronglais	93.7	92.7	-1.0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	Withybush	95.0	91.5	-3.5
Swansea	Morrison	90.1	87.5	-2.6
	Singleton	88.8	89.0	0.2
	Trust average	89.7	88.0	-1.7
North Wales Region				
Conwy and Denbigh	Glan Clwyd	94.2	90.0	-4.2
North East Wales	Wrexham Maelor	95.5	94.5	-1.0
North West Wales	Ysbyty Gwynedd	93.5	93.6	0.1
All Wales Average		92.4	90.6	-1.8

Source: Health Of Wales Information Service (HOWIS)



Annex B

Delayed transfers of care: statistical tables

Table B1: Delayed transfers of care, by region and NHS Trust, March 2005 - March 2006

NHS Trust	Mar 2005	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006
Mid and West Wales	186	185	221	209	200
Bro Morgannwg	37	37	48	33	35
Carmarthenshire	19	21	30	40	45
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	16	10	8	2	15
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	37	48	62	56	38
Powys Healthcare	11	12	15	28	15
Swansea	66	57	58	50	52
North Wales	147	116	121	93	94
Conwy and Denbighshire	28	27	25	15	19
North East Wales	77	46	51	41	37
North West Wales	42	43	45	37	38
South East Wales	367	373	375	319	324
Cardiff and Vale	184	207	209	192	170
Gwent	104	88	89	70	77
North Glamorgan	45	33	28	27	30
Pontypridd and Rhondda	33	40	46	26	45
Velindre	1	5	3	4	2
Total	700	674	717	621	618

Source: SDR 46/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

Table B2: Delayed transfers of care (mental health only), by region and NHS Trust, March 2005 - March 2006

NHS Trust	Mar 2005	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006
Mid and West Wales	57	59	68	66	45
Bro Morgannwg	15	11	14	8	9
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	1
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	0	0	0	0	1
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	31	33	40	41	21
Powys Healthcare	2	3	2	7	4
Swansea	9	12	12	10	9
North Wales	36	38	34	31	25
Conwy and Denbighshire	11	12	9	5	3
North East Wales	10	10	12	11	9
North West Wales	15	16	13	15	13
South East Wales	123	127	133	124	105
Cardiff and Vale	72	94	96	81	66
Gwent	26	13	16	17	20
North Glamorgan	17	14	10	13	8
Pontypridd and Rhondda	8	6	11	13	11
Velindre	0	0	0	0	0
Total	216	224	235	221	175

Source: SDR 46/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government



Table B3: Delayed transfers of care (excluding mental health), by region and NHS Trust, March 2005 - March 2006

NHS Trust	Mar 2005	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006
Mid and West Wales	129	126	153	143	155
Bro Morgannwg	22	26	34	25	26
Carmarthenshire	19	21	30	40	44
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	16	10	8	2	14
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	6	15	22	15	17
Powys Healthcare	9	9	13	21	11
Swansea	57	45	46	40	43
North Wales	111	78	87	62	69
Conwy and Denbighshire	17	15	16	10	16
North East Wales	67	36	39	30	28
North West Wales	27	27	32	22	25
South East Wales	244	246	242	195	219
Cardiff and Vale	112	113	113	111	104
Gwent	78	75	73	53	57
North Glamorgan	28	19	18	14	22
Pontypridd and Rhondda	25	34	35	13	34
Velindre	1	5	3	4	2
Total	484	450	482	400	443

Source: SDR 46/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

Table B4: Delayed transfers of care, by region, NHS Trust and reason for delay, March 2006

NHS Trust	Social Care reasons	Health Care reasons	Patient/Carer/Family-related reasons	Other	Total	Percentage of all available NHS beds
Mid and West Wales	59	42	97	2	200	
Bro Morgannwg	11	4	19	1	35	2.8
Carmarthenshire	11	3	31	0	45	6.3
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	2	0	13	0	15	6.7
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	14	8	15	1	38	6.6
Powys Healthcare	8	3	4	0	15	3.7
Swansea	13	24	15	0	52	3.1
North Wales	21	21	45	7	94	
Conwy and Denbighshire	5	2	10	2	19	1.9
North East Wales	10	10	17	0	37	3.9
North West Wales	6	9	18	5	38	3.2
South East Wales	107	69	139	9	324	
Cardiff and Vale	49	28	89	4	170	7.7
Gwent	41	10	26	0	77	3.3
North Glamorgan	3	13	13	1	30	4.2
Pontypridd and Rhondda	14	16	11	4	45	5.0
Velindre	0	2	0	0	2	3.1
Total	187	132	281	18	618	4.3

Source: SDR 46/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government



Table B5: Delayed transfers of care, breakdown of reason for delay, March 2006^(a)

Reason for delay	Number	Per cent
Social Care reasons	187	30.3
Awaiting community care assessments	17	2.8
Awaiting community care arrangements	170	27.5
Health Care reasons	132	21.3
Awaiting healthcare assessments	44	7.1
Awaiting healthcare arrangements	88	14.2
Patient/carer/family-related reasons	281	45.5
Legal/financial	6	1.0
Disagreement e.g. between relatives	33	5.3
Other (b)	242	39.2
Other		
Principal reason not agreed	18	2.9
Total	618	..

Source: SDR 46/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2006, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figure for acute and mental health services

(b) includes delays due to patients waiting for a place to become available in the care home of their choice.

Annex C

Notes on the publication of statistical information on waiting times

1 StatsWales

The Welsh Assembly Government's statistical database, StatsWales,¹¹ provides monthly updates of waiting times, and details of the latest monthly figures are available as time trends and by trust, local health board and specialty. During 2005-06, StatsWales has increased the scope of published waiting times information and now includes diagnostic, therapy and cancer waiting times as well as waiting times for specific surgical procedures. Within tables, some procedures have subsets of statistics which can be accessed by clicking on the procedure in the first column labelled 'service'. An example of this can be seen in the Diagnostic and Therapy Services folder. By clicking on the service 'cardiology' in the waiting times table, subsets of statistics for echocardiograms and stress tests can be viewed.

The latest quarterly statistical release published by the Statistical Directorate, SDR 48/2006, *NHS Hospital Waiting Times: at end March 2006*, was published on 26 April 2006.¹²

There is also a new Diagnostic and Therapy Services publication and this provides details of waiting times for specific services.¹³

2 Relationships between waiting times and other statistics

◆ *Hospital activity*

Information on waiting times should not be interpreted in isolation from other information that may affect waiting lists such as changes in hospital activity or delayed transfers of care.

StatsWales has some activity figures on bed availability and occupancy rates, and for outpatient attendance and non-attendance by region, Trust and specialty from 1989-90 to 2004-05. Other activity statistics for 2003-04, such as morbidity and details of emergency admissions, are in the 2005 edition of the annual *Health Statistics Wales*, which is available in hardback copy from the Members' Library. This publication is currently being updated for 2006 and the electronic version carries some revised chapters with 2004-05 statistics.¹⁴ *Health Statistics Wales* also contains some statistics, for example, on registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer by site, which are compared over time.

◆ *Delayed transfers of care*

Data relating to delayed transfers of care is collected by means of a monthly census. The approach taken is to try and record all cases where delays occur in the system; that is

¹¹ StatsWales public reports <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

¹² Waiting Times Statistical Bulletin <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/4038213/sdr48-20061.pdf?lang=en>

¹⁴ Health Statistics Wales, 2006
http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/hsw2006/hsw2006-e.htm

delays within the NHS (e.g. from acute to non-acute care) as well as delays between the NHS and other care settings.

The figures relate to:

- ◆ delays where responsibility lies with social care (e.g. social care assessment not completed or arrangements not in place)
- ◆ where responsibility lies with the health service, or
- ◆ where it is the responsibility of the patient, carer or family (e.g. family choosing a care home or patients waiting for a place to become available in a care home of their choice).

Recent delayed transfers of care data in Wales are not comparable with that in England as English figures do not generally include delays within the NHS. An improved collection system was introduced in Wales in April 2002 which enabled the identification of a wider range of reasons for delay, but this also means that the information available for the period after April 2002 is not directly comparable to that available previously.

3 Waiting times statistics for England and Scotland

Waiting times figures for England and Scotland are available but are not directly comparable since they are not as up to date as Wales and are collected and published in a different form. Where it is reasonable to compare the information from other countries rates per 10,000 of the population have been shown. Population figures are based on the latest mid-year estimates available from the National Statistics website.¹⁵ The rate per 10,000 for each quarter is based on the mid-year population estimate at that time.

In England, the published outpatient waiting time statistics relate to only about 68 per cent of those referred and therefore do not cover all those actually waiting for a first outpatient appointment. This is because the figures published only relate to written referrals from general practitioners. (See Section 7 for further clarification of statistics in England and Scotland.)

¹⁵National Statistics. Population estimates. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=6>