



National Assembly for Wales
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 30 September 2005

Abstract

This paper provides a quarterly summary of the latest published NHS 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 NHS waiting times for England and Scotland.

November 2005



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, September 2005

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Members' Research Service: Research Paper
Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil



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NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, September 2005

Introduction

The following information for NHS waiting times is taken from the official statistics, published by the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government. Of all admissions to hospital more than half (58 per cent) are emergencies that are dealt with immediately. Just over a quarter of all admissions (28 per cent) are people who have been waiting on a waiting list. The remaining people have an admission date that has been booked ahead or are subject to a plan to be admitted after a period of time based on medical or social criteria.

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.

1.1 NHS Acute Hospitals

Unless otherwise stated the following waiting times targets contained in Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual priorities and planning guidance for the service and financial framework 2005-06*, set minimum standards to be achieved across Wales by 31 March 2006.¹ Two 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 Vascularisation, 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 4 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.^(c)

^(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. Interim targets based on current performance are due to be set by the Welsh Assembly Government by 1 September 2005.

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 under Section 3 of this paper.

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.

¹ Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual priorities and planning guidance for the service and financial framework 2005-06*, 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 31 December 2006. The latest information from the Welsh Assembly Government is that the first cancer figures monitored against the standards will be published on 1 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.*²

² 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

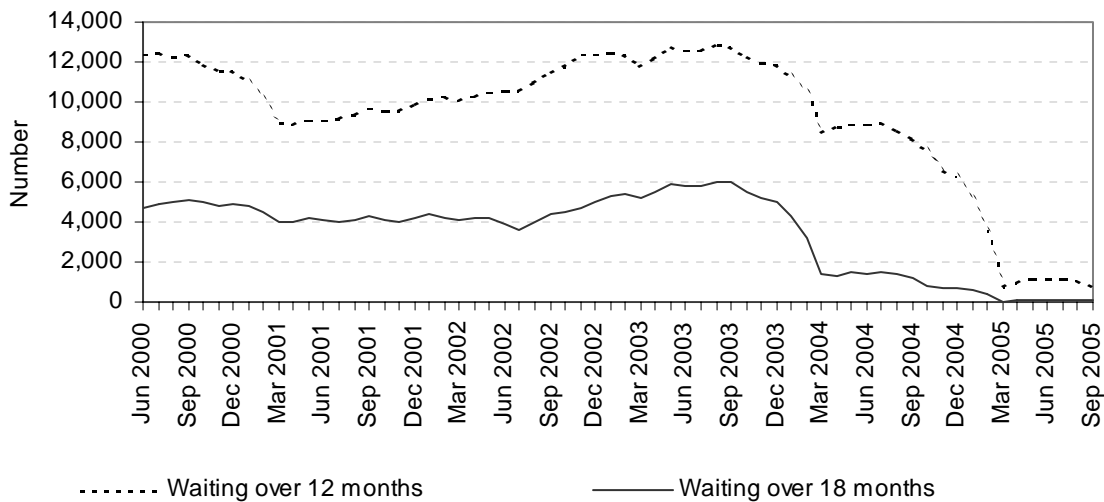
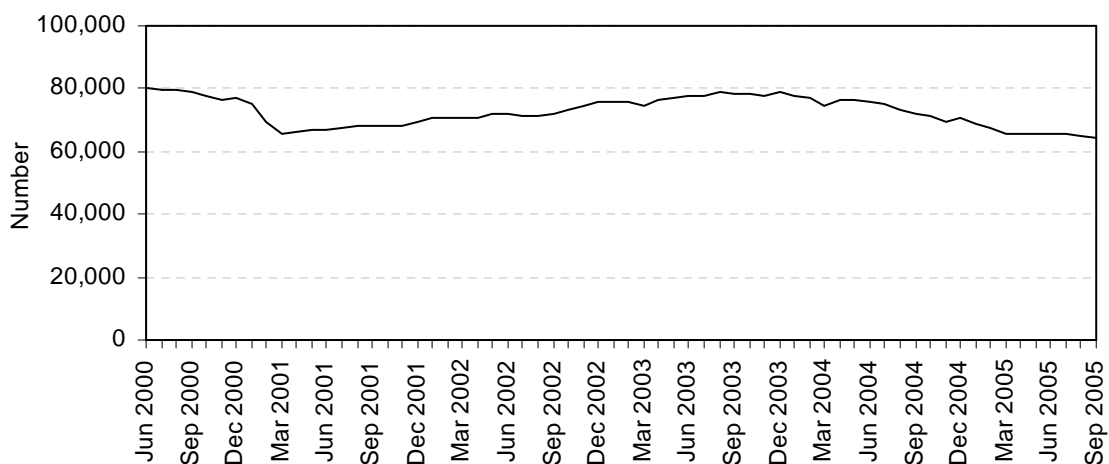


Chart 2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: total



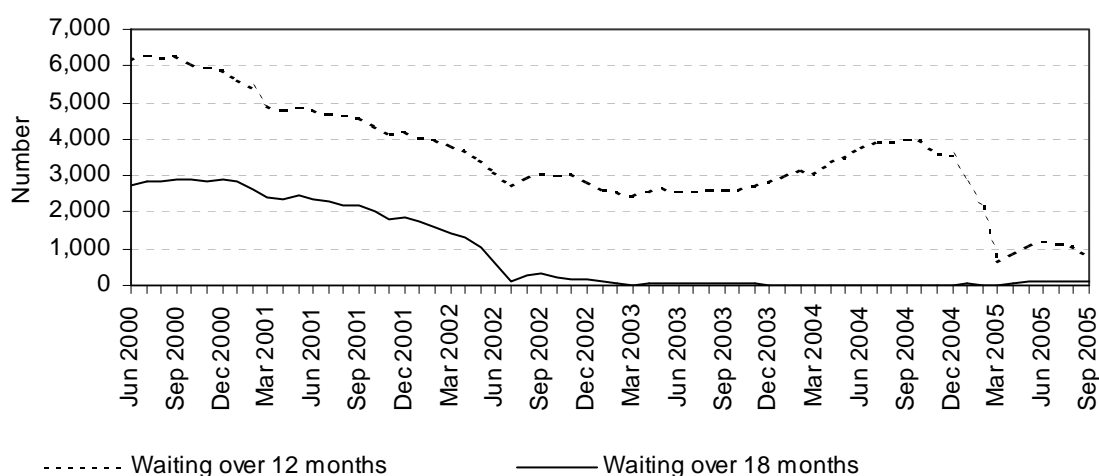
At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ 744 patients were waiting over 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment, down from 1,196, a decrease of 452, since the previous quarter, and representing 1.2 per cent of the 64,459 total number waiting.

- ◆ The number waiting over 18 months for inpatient or day case treatment also decreased to 91. This compared with 123 people who had been waiting over 18 months in June 2005.
- ◆ Of those patients on the inpatient or day case waiting list, 76 per cent were treated within 6 months.

2.2 Trauma and Orthopaedic inpatients and day case, by length of wait

Chart 3: Trauma and Orthopaedics. Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment over 12 and over 18 months



At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ 88 of the 91 patients waiting over 18 months for admission were waiting for Trauma and Orthopaedics (T & O) treatment, an increase of 22 patients since June 2005.
- ◆ The number waiting over 12 months for T & O treatment fell from 1,184 to 760 between June and September 2005, but still accounted for almost all (98 per cent) of those waiting that length of time.
- ◆ 65 per cent of T & O patients were treated within 6 months compared with an average of 76 per cent for all specialties.

2.3 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 June 2005 in the six specialties with the highest numbers waiting. The figures show that:

- ◆ The majority of specialties achieved the SaFF target of no patients waiting over 12 months. Those who had not were T & O (760), General Surgery (12), Anaesthetics (1) and Cardiology (1).
- ◆ 76 per cent of patients were treated within 6 months of being placed on the waiting list.
- ◆ Two specialties, T & O (88), General Surgery (3) had people waiting over 18 months for treatment.

2.4 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 total waiting times and for numbers waiting over 6, over 12 and over 18 months.

At September 2005:

- ◆ The number of NHS Trusts with patients waiting over 12 months has remained at five, but all have reduced the numbers of people waiting.
- ◆ The number of NHS Trusts with patients waiting over 18 months fell from 4 to 2. Cardiff and Vale had 67 patients waiting while Pontypridd and Rhondda had 23.

3 Outpatient Waiting Times

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

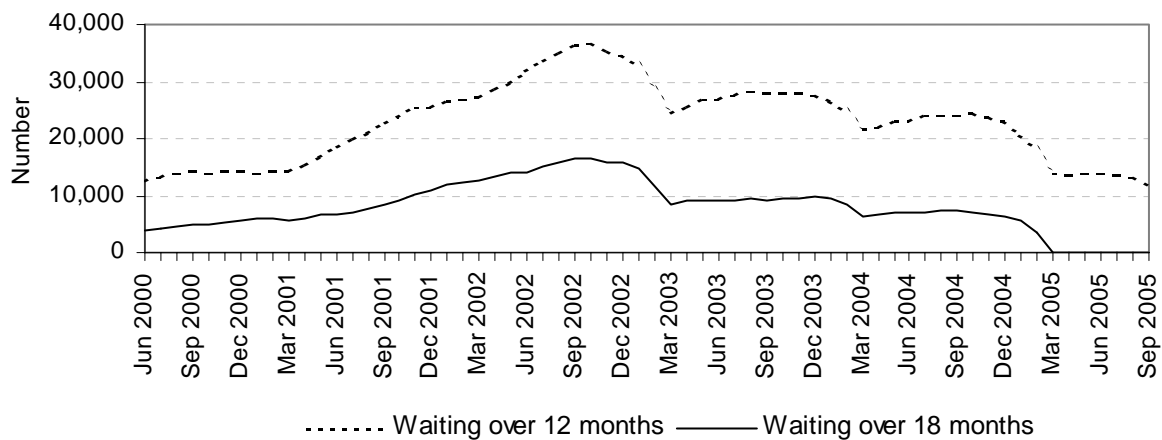
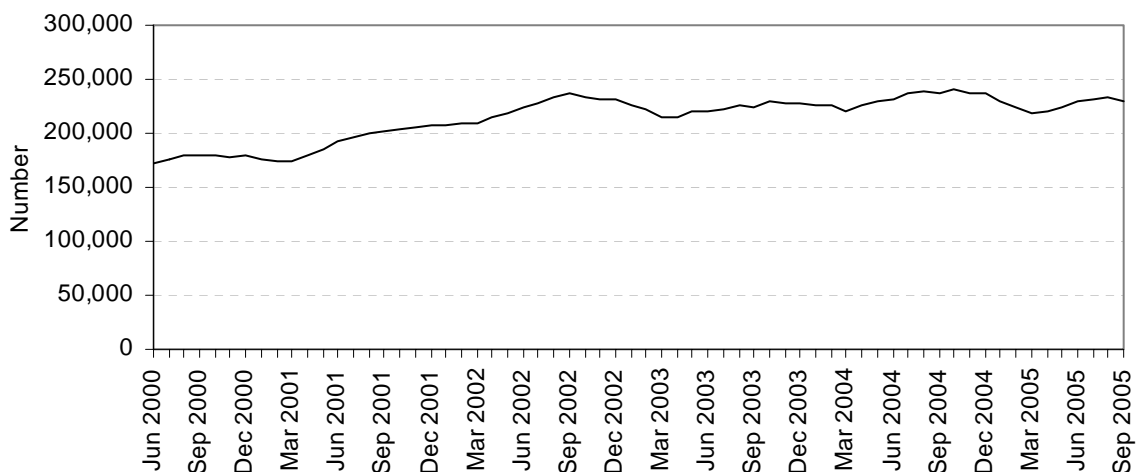


Chart 5: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment: total

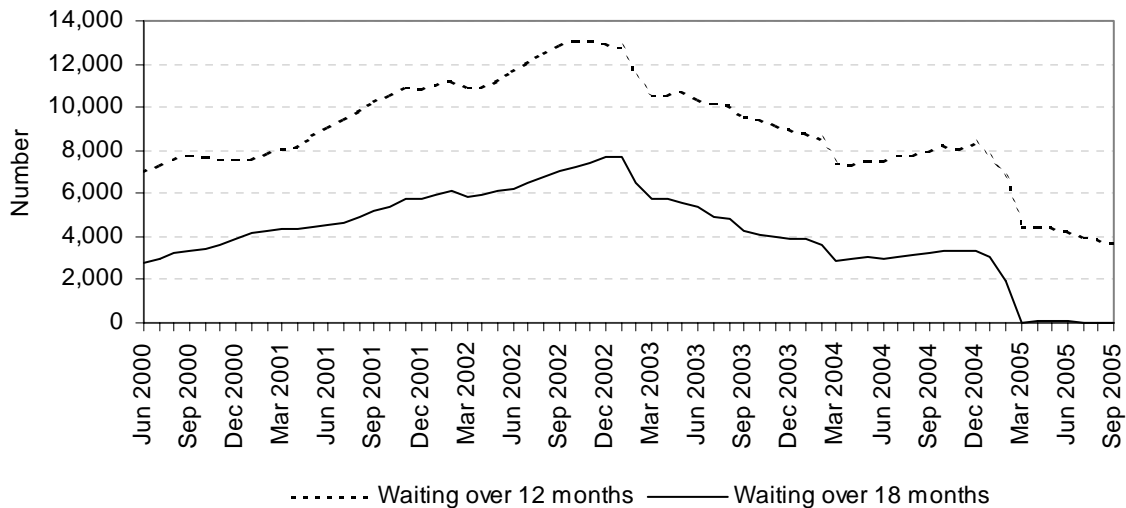


At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ 43 people had been waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment, a decrease of 40 since the previous quarter.
- ◆ The number waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment also fell from June 2005 from 14,136 to 11,786, (-17 per cent). Numbers waiting over 6 months also fell, from 62,966 to 58,996 increasing the percentage of those seen within 6 months from 73 per cent to 74 per cent.

3.2 Trauma and Orthopaedics outpatients, by length of wait

Chart 6: Trauma and Orthopaedics. Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment over 12 and over 18 months



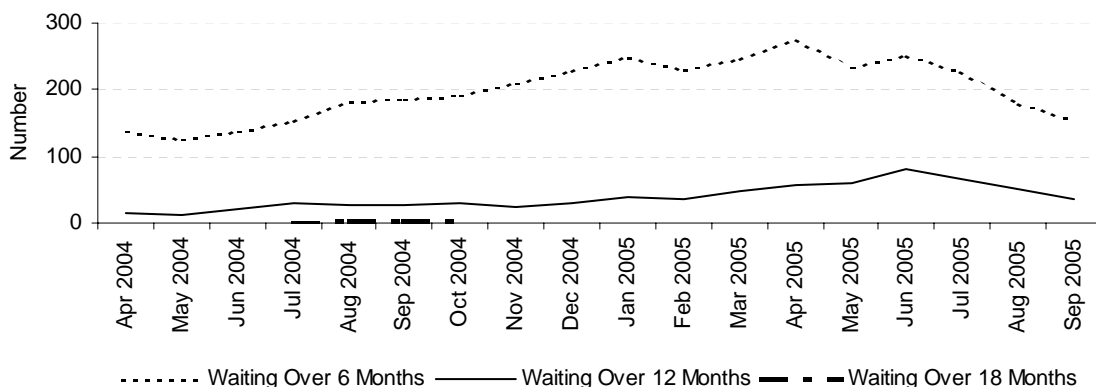
AS at September 2005:

- ◆ Only 1 person was waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment in T & O compared with 66 at the end of June 2005.
- ◆ 3,684 patients were waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment in T & O. This was 1,251 fewer than in June 2005, 8 per cent of all those waiting for their first appointment, and a reduction of 3 per cent since June 2005.
- ◆ Those waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment in T & O accounted for 31 per cent of all those waiting over 12 months, an increase of 1 percentage point since June 2005.

3.3 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 7: CAMHS. Welsh residents waiting over 6 and over 12 months for a routine assessment and intervention.



At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ There had been a reduction in the total number of children and adolescents waiting, and in the numbers waiting over 6 and over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment.
- ◆ There were 156 children and adolescents waiting over 6 months and 36 waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment, a reduction of 97 (38 per cent) and 46 (56 per cent) respectively.
- ◆ Of the 919 patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment, 391 were waiting over 3 months. This is the same percentage (43 per cent) as at the end of June 2005.

3.4 First outpatient appointment, by specialty

Table A3 (see Annex A) shows the 15 specialties with the highest numbers of Welsh residents waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of September 2005.

Between June and September 2005:

- ◆ Less than half (7) of the 15 specialties had more than 500 people waiting over 12 months. Of these, 4 specialties had patients waiting over 18 months, the highest being Orthodontics with 38.
- ◆ Three specialties, one less than at the end of June 2005, had more than 1,000 patients waiting over 12 months. These were T & O (3,684), Dermatology (1,175) and ENT (1,154). However, in all three specialties numbers had fallen.

3.5 First outpatient appointment, by NHS Trust

Table A4 (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.

Between March and June 2005:

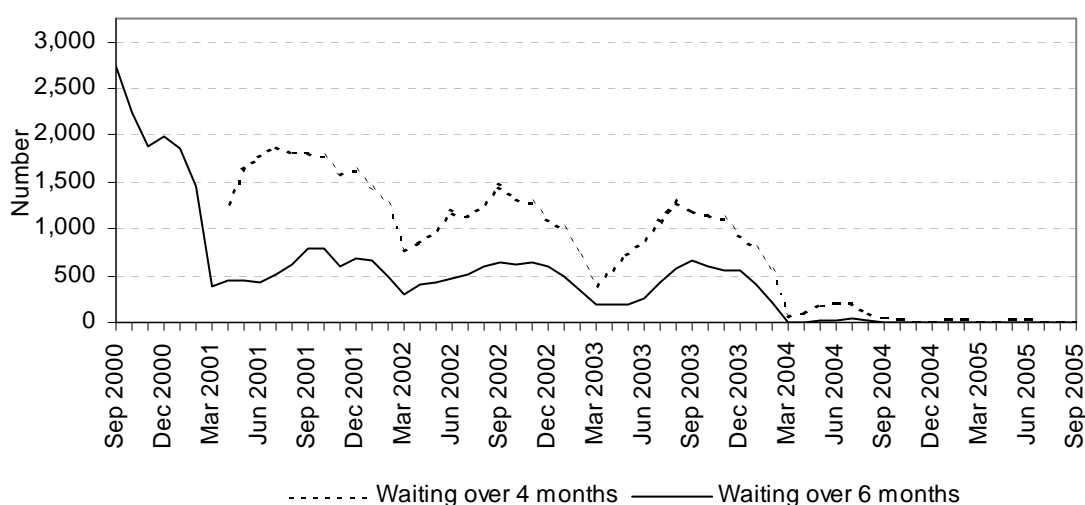
- ◆ The total number waiting for a first appointment increased in half (7) of the NHS Trusts compared with June 2005 when the total number waiting increased in 11 of the NHS Trusts.
- ◆ Only Powys Local Health Board had patients (38) waiting over 18 months although there were 5 patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment with a non-Welsh NHS Trust.
- ◆ Seven NHS Trusts had more than 500 people waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment, but only three of these, Cardiff and Vale (3,812), Gwent (2,364), and Swansea (1,383) had more than 1,000 people waiting, accounting for 64 per cent of the total number waiting.

4 Specific Targets: Cataracts, Cardiac Revascularisation (formerly Angioplasty and Cardiac Surgery), 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.

Chart 8: Cataract surgery. Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, waiting over 4 and over 6 months ^(a)



^(a) Collection of information on patients waiting over 4 months commenced from April 2001.

At the end of September 2005:

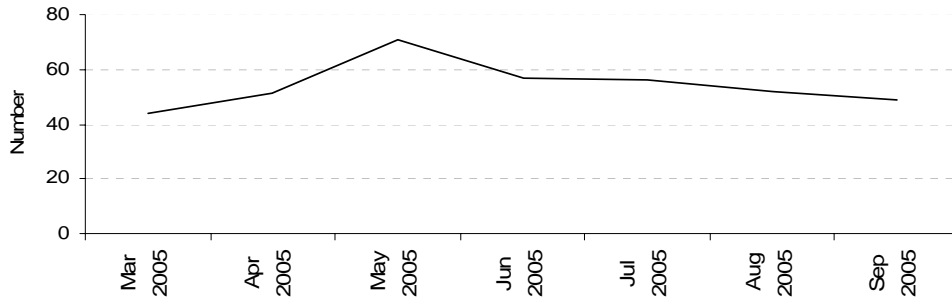
- ◆ 23 patients had been waiting over 4 months for cataract surgery, 19 fewer than at the end of the previous quarter.
- ◆ None had been waiting over 6 months.

4.2 Cardiac Revascularisation ³

Target: All patients to be seen within 4 months.

³ Cardiac Revascularisation has been defined by the Welsh Assembly Government as including Cardiac, Cardio-thoracic and Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, and Angioplasty

Chart 8: Cardiac Revascularisation. Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, waiting over 6 months



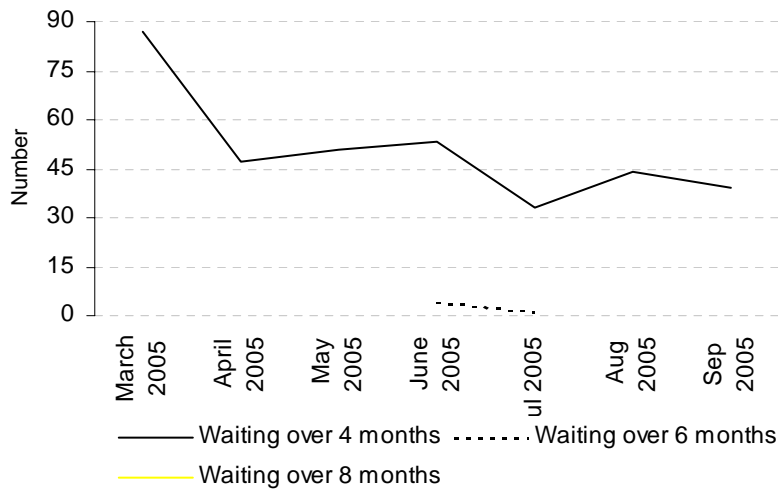
At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ No people were waiting over 8 months, but 38 people were waiting over 6 months for cardiac surgery.
- ◆ Of the 616 people on the waiting list, 49 were waiting over 6 months for cardiac revascularisation.

4.3 Angiography

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

Angiography: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, waiting over 4 months



At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ Of the total of 1,028 patients waiting for an angiogram, 39 were waiting over 4 months, 12 fewer than at the end of June 2005.
- ◆ One patient was waiting over 6 months and one, over 8 months.

4.4 Cancer

Targets:

- a) *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.*
- b) *Newly diagnosed cancer patients not included as USC referrals to start definitive treatment within 1 month of diagnosis.*

Since 1 April 2005, NHS Trusts have been collecting and making monthly returns for cancer waiting times to the Welsh Assembly Government. The first figures from these returns are due to be published on 1 December 2005.

4.5 Accident and Emergency (A & E) waiting times

Targets:

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

The Welsh Assembly Government has provided monthly percentages for each A & E department, by NHS Trust and region (Table A5, Annex A) measured against the 95 per cent target of all patients spending less than 4 hours in A & E from arrival until resolution.

Between June and September 2005:

- ◆ The all-Wales average against the target was 91.9 per cent, up 2.5 percentage points from June 2005.
- ◆ Six of the 11 hospitals that had not yet reached the target improved their performance. Those that did not improve remained close to their June performance.
- ◆ The number of hospitals achieving the 95 per cent target remained at 4, Royal Glamorgan (Pontypridd & Rhondda) 96.5 per cent, Withybush (Pembrokeshire & Derwen) 95.1 per cent, Wrexham Maelor (North East Wales) 95.1 per cent and Princess of Wales (Bro Morgannwg) 95.0 per cent.
- ◆ The number of hospitals that were 5 percentage points or less away from target rose from 3 to 5, and all hospitals were within 10 percentage points of the target. Furthest from target was Royal Gwent (85.7 per cent).
- ◆ The highest improvement was within Swansea NHS Trust where singleton hospital improved by 7.7 and Morriston, by 6.7 percentage points. University Hospital of Wales had the next highest improvement increasing their performance by 6.2 percentage points.

5 Second Offer Scheme

The figures in the tables that follow are for the current accounting year, 2005-06. Figures for 2004-05 are available from the March 2005 Quarterly Waiting Times paper.⁴ Tables 1 – 4 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 - 30 September 2005 are:

- ◆ Of the 5,229 patients who were made a second offer of treatment, 2,934 (56 per cent) have accepted. This represents an increase of 2 per cent in acceptance since the June 2005 quarter.
- ◆ North East Wales NHS Trust (81 per cent) had the highest rate of uptake of the offer although the number of offers made was significantly lower than the three NHS Trusts who have made more than 1,000 offers each. These NHS Trusts are Gwent (58 per cent), Swansea (57 per cent) and Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust (46 per cent).
- ◆ While Cardiff and Vale had the highest percentage of those declining (43 per cent), this percentage was 20 points lower than in the previous quarter. Swansea had a decline rate of 41 per cent and Gwent, 7 per cent.
- ◆ 4,388 patients have received treatment through Second Offer Scheme money, more than double the 1,927 reported in June 2005. 3,158 (72 per cent) were treated through in-house solutions and the remainder, by an alternative provider. The percentage of those treated through in-house solutions compared with those referred to an alternative provider fell by 5 percentage points from June 2005.
- ◆ Cardiff BUPA (431) and the Nuffield Hospital Group (105), with 84 patients treated in Hereford, continue to be the most often used alternative providers of treatment. These providers were followed by Weston-super-Mare BUPA (192), St Josephs, Newport (133) and Wrexham BUPA (113).
- ◆ 517 (42 per cent) of the patients treated by an alternative provider were treated in England, a fall of 8 percentage points over the previous year.
- ◆ The reasons why the majority (1,168) of patients declined a Second Offer are unknown. Of the rest, 282 have been recorded as refusing through patient choice. No reasons for declining offers have been recorded by Swansea NHS Trust.

⁴ NHS Waiting Times 05/022, published in May 2005: <http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2005/index.htm>

Table 1: Patients to whom a second offer has been made, responses and referrals to an alternative provider, April 2005 to September 2005

NHS Trust	Patients to whom a 2 nd offer has been made ⁽¹⁾	Patients who have accepted an offer	Patients who have declined an offer	Patients who are undecided	Patients who were non-contactable ⁽²⁾	Patients accepted but ineligible	Patients referred to an alternative provider ⁽³⁾
Cardiff & Vale	1,701	785	737	8	145	26	1,247
Gwent	1,680	980	125	0	41	534	735
North East Wales	169	137	29	0	0	3	140
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Pontypridd & Rhondda	414	313	85	43	-92	65	174
Powys	24	13	4		2	5	13
Swansea	1,241	706	510	0	0	25	90
All Wales	5,229	2,934	1,490	51	96	658	2,415

⁽¹⁾ Patients made a 2nd offer comprise: accepted + declined + undecided + non-contactable + ineligible

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Patients referred to an alternative provider in any one period may include patients from previous periods who have, for example, been undecided.

Table 2: Patients treated through the Second Offer Scheme, April 2005 to September 2005

NHS Trust	Treated through in-house solutions	Treated by an alternative provider	Total
Bro Morgannwg	152	0	152
Cardiff & Vale	684	463	1,147
Ceredigion	183	0	183
Conwy & Denbighshire	357	0	357
Gwent	1,130	495	1,625
North East Wales	70	113	183
North Glamorgan	100	0	100
North West Wales	21	0	21
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	238	0	238
Pontypridd & Rhondda	151	106	257
Swansea	72	53	125
All Wales	3,158	1,230	4,388

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 3: Alternative providers and treatment undertaken, by NHS Trust, April to September 2005

NHS Trust	Cardiff & Vale	Cardiff Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Gwent	North East Wales	Pontypridd & Rhondda	Swansea	All Wales
Cardiff BUPA	228	0	0	114	0	81	8	431
Nuffield - Birmingham	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Nuffield - Bristol	1	0	0	42	0	0	7	50
Nuffield – Cheltenham	1	0	0	33	0	0	0	34
Nuffield – Hereford	0	0	0	84	0	0	0	84
Nuffield – Taunton	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	30
Weston super Mare	181	0	0	11	0	0	0	192
Worcester BUPA	24	0	0	43	0	0	0	67
Bristol BUPA	3	0	0	5	0	25	2	35
St Josephs Newport	0	0	0	133	0	0	0	133
Sancta Maria, Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	36
Wrexham BUPA	0	0	0	0	113	0	0	113
Total	463	0	0	495	113	106	53	1,230

Table 4: Reasons given for declining a second offer of treatment, by NHS Trust, April 2005 to September 2005

NHS Trust	Social reasons	Patient choice	Wishes to remain with Trust	Other	Reason unknown	Total
Cardiff & Vale	0	134	0	0	603	737
Gwent	25	97	0	3	0	125
North East Wales	0	27	2	0	0	29
Pontypridd & Rhondda	0	24	9	1	51	85
Powys		0	0	0	4	4
Swansea	0	0	0	0	510	510
All Wales	25	282	11	4	1,168	1,490

6 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.⁵

At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ The total number of patients experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 717. Of these 235 were delayed in mental health facilities and 482 were in other acute and community hospitals.
- ◆ The number of patients experiencing delays was 6 per cent more than in June 2005, but 9 per cent less than in September 2004.
- ◆ The beds occupied by people experiencing delays represented 5 per cent of all available beds.
- ◆ 49 per cent of delays were categorised as being for Patient/carer/family related reasons. This contrasts with Healthcare (26 per cent) and Social care (23 per cent) reasons.

⁵ The Statistical Release SDR 69/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: June 2005
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/health/2005/hdw20050726-e.htm>

7 Waiting Times in England and Scotland

7.1 England

The Department of Health (DH) normally updates waiting times figures on a quarterly basis.⁶ However, the DH has said that due to data issues they have been unable yet to release figures for the first quarter of 2005-06 (April to June 2005). Figures relating to March 2005, provided in NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 30 June 2005, are reproduced below.

Tables 5 and 6 present figures for Welsh and English residents waiting for in-patient or day case treatment and a first outpatient appointment at the end of March 2005.

Inpatient or day case waiting times

In Table 5, caution should be exercised when comparing information from two different collection systems. This is because definitions that may be applied broadly may not be interpreted and presented in exactly the same way.

Table 5: Residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: March 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^(a)	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	65,538	223.1	808,773	162.2
Waiting over 6 months	16,363	55.7	40,806	8.2
Waiting over 9 months	..	..	41	0.0
Waiting over 12 months	840	2.9	24	0.0
Waiting over 18 months	16	0.1	..	..

Sources: Department of Health, StatsWales, and Office for National Statistics (ONS) websites

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

At the end of March 2005:

- ◆ Both England and Wales experienced falls between the December and March quarters in the rates per 10,000 waiting for inpatient or day case treatment.
- ◆ 840 people in Wales were recorded as having waited more than 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment compared to 24 in England.

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

⁶ <http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/index.htm>

- ◆ In England the number 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 6 are 13 weeks and 21 weeks .
- ◆ 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 6 shows the numbers 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 March 2005.

Table 6: Residents waiting for first outpatient appointment: March 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^(a)	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^(c)
Total	218,443	743.5	3,486,984 ^(b)	699.4
Waiting over 3 months	113,958	387.9	30,074 ^(c)	6.0
Waiting over 5 months	..	..	112 ^(c)	0.0
Waiting over 6 months	63,057	214.6	..	..

Sources: Department of Health, StatsWales, and Office for National Statistics (ONS) websites

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

(b) Total figure for England includes both GP written referrals (2,321,021) and referrals from other sources (1,165,963).

(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.

7.2 Scotland

Inpatient and day case waiting times

Table 7 below presents waiting times for inpatient and day cases treatment in Scotland from June 2004 to June 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 5. 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 is available from the Information Services Division of NHS Scotland (ISD Scotland) website.⁷ Latest figures for Scotland are also available from ISD Scotland,⁸ and there is also an explanation of the categories of the Availability Status Code (ASC).⁹

⁷ http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/files/change_notification.pdf

⁸ http://www2.isdscotland.org/acute_activity/quarterly.asp

⁹ The criteria in which ASC are used are detailed at:

http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=672&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

Table 7: Scottish residents on waiting lists for inpatient and day case treatment

	June 2004	September 2004	December 2004	March 2005	June 2005
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	112,375	112,538	114,052	112,639	112,052
of which: number waiting with an ASC(b)	30,228	31,398	33,099	35,471	35,910
Waiting over 6 months (c)	6,161	7,513	6,005	1,600	1,121
Waiting over 9 months (c)	0	1	1	0	0
Waiting over 12 months (d)	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Rate per 10,000 population (d)</i>					
On waiting list	222.2	222.5	225.5	222.7	221.6
of which: number waiting with an ASC (b)	59.8	62.1	65.4	70.1	71.0
Waiting over 6 months (c)	12.2	14.9	11.9	3.2	2.2
Waiting over 9 months (c)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 12 months (c)	..	..	..	..	..

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

(b) Excludes those who have an ASC code

(c) Rates are based on latest ONS Mid Term population estimates.

Outpatient waiting times

Until March 2004, the number of people in Scotland waiting for a first outpatient appointment was 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 8 contains figures for the total number of patients together with those waiting more than 6 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of March 2005 and June 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.

Table 8: Scottish residents on waiting lists for a first outpatient appointment¹⁰

	31 March 2005		30 June 2005	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	206,037	407.4	211,007	417.2
Waiting over 6 months	22,138	43.8	15,432	30.5

Source: ISD Scotland

Sources: StatsWales
 Welsh Assembly Government, Health and Social Care, Performance Directorate
 NHS Wales HOWIS
 Department of Health
 NHS Scotland, Information Services Department

¹⁰http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/collect2.jsp?pContentID=1272&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

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 30 September 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	21,996	7,717	760	88
General Surgery	12,102	2,461	12	3
Ear, Nose and Throat	6,314	1,753	0	0
Ophthalmology	5,411	119	0	0
Gynaecology	5,191	841	0	0
Urology	4,710	884	0	0
All other specialties	8,735	1,464	2	0
All specialties	64,459	15,239	774	91

Table A2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by Trust as at 30 September 2005

NHS Trust	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,447	967	5	1
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	4,753	699	0	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	12,151	3,961	561	67
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	4,623	1,113	0	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	1,416	345	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	4,445	1,013	0	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	10,248	2,536	110	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	3,444	619	0	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	1,912	457	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	3,213	498	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	1,759	463	0	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	3,506	805	69	23
Powys Local Health Board	583	155	28	0
Swansea NHS Trust	7,947	1,608	1	0
Velindre NHS Trust	12	0	0	0
Total	64,459	15,239	774	91

Table A3: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by specialty, as at 30 September 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	40,937	14,141	3,684	1
Dermatology	22,595	5,708	1,175	0
Ear, Nose and Throat	23,864	6,044	1,154	0
Ophthalmology	23,129	5,720	906	0
Orthodontics	4,663	2,075	791	38
General Medicine	18,980	4,312	658	3
General Surgery	21,242	3,245	575	0
Rheumatology	5,688	1,589	465	0
Oral Surgery	10,248	3,099	369	0
Pain Management	2,434	963	284	0
Urology	8,911	2,045	266	0
Other Neurology	4,056	1,393	225	0
Neurology	2,335	957	193	0
All other specialties	40,499	7,705	1,041	1
All specialties	229,581	58,996	11,786	43

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

Table A4: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by Trust as at 30 September 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	7,221	1,518	409	5
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	19,755	4,488	889	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	45,105	15,199	3,812	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	14,228	3,273	600	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	3,792	672	16	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	13,825	2,224	426	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	45,618	13,149	2,364	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	12,696	3,069	603	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	9,649	2,077	246	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	7,993	928	23	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	7,795	2,281	401	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	12,400	2,715	503	0
Powys Local Health Board	3,432	492	111	38
Swansea NHS Trust	25,916	6,911	1,383	0
Velindre NHS Trust	156	0	0	0
Total	229,581	58,996	11,786	43

Table A5: NHS Trust performance against the 4 hour A&E wait target (95 per cent)

NHS Trust	A & E Hospital	June 2005 (%)	September 2005 (%)	Change (%)
South East Region				
Cardiff & Vale	University Hospital of Wales (UHW)	82.7	88.9	6.2
	Royal Gwent	79.8	85.7	5.9
Gwent Healthcare	Nevill Hall	91.8	90.7	-1.1
	Total average	84.7	87.7	3.0
North Glamorgan Pontypridd & Rhondda	Prince Charles	93.6	90.0	-3.6
	Royal Glamorgan	97.0	96.5	-0.5
Mid and West Region				
Bro Morgannwg	Princess of Wales	89.7	95.0	5.3
	West Wales	89.7	89.2	-0.5
Carmarthenshire	Prince Phillip	92.6	89.6	3.0
	Total average	91.2	91.5	0.3
Ceredigion & Mid Wales	Bronglais	96.2	94.7	-1.5
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	Withybush	95.8	95.1	-0.7
	Morrison	81.4	88.1	6.7
Swansea	Singleton	82.1	89.8	7.7
	Total Average	81.6	88.7	7.1
North Wales Region				
Conwy and Denbigh	Glan Clwyd	92.1	94.7	2.6
North East Wales	Wrexham Maelor	95.2	95.1	-0.1
North West Wales	Ysbyty Gwynedd	89.4	90.0	0.6
All Wales Average		89.4	91.9	2.5

Annex B: Delayed transfers of care: Statistical tables

Table B1: Delayed transfers of care, by Region and NHS Trust, September 2004 - September 2005

NHS Trust	Sep 2004	Dec 2004	Mar 2005	Jun 2005	Sep 2005
Mid and West Wales	250	205	186	185	221
Bro Morgannwg	36	40	37	37	48
Carmarthenshire	24	19	19	21	30
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	17	15	16	10	8
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	69	42	37	48	62
Powys Healthcare	21	16	11	12	15
Swansea	83	73	66	57	58
North Wales	110	124	147	116	121
Conwy and Denbighshire	22	20	28	27	25
North East Wales	58	69	77	46	51
North West Wales	30	35	42	43	45
South East Wales	425	409	367	373	375
Cardiff and Vale	163	200	184	207	209
Gwent	178	118	104	88	89
North Glamorgan	30	44	45	33	28
Pontypridd and Rhondda	54	46	33	40	46
Velindre	0	1	1	5	3
Total	785	738	700	674	717

Source: SDR 104/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: September 2005 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

Table B2: Delayed transfers of care, by Region, NHS Trusts and reason for delay, September 2005

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						
Bro Morgannwg	10	17	20	1	48	3.8
Carmarthenshire	12	7	11	0	30	4.2
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	1	0	7	0	8	3.6
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	25	13	24	0	62	10.8
Powys Healthcare	4	2	9	0	15	3.7
Swansea	12	28	17	1	58	3.5
North Wales						
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	1	24	0	25	2.5
North East Wales	11	15	25	0	51	5.3
North West Wales	5	14	26	0	45	3.8
South East Wales						
Cardiff and Vale	36	61	106	6	209	9.4
Gwent	39	12	38	0	89	3.8
North Glamorgan	2	3	23	0	28	3.9
Pontypridd and Rhondda	5	14	23	4	46	5.1
Velindre	0	2	1	0	3	4.6
Total	162	189	354	12	717	5.0

Source: SDR 104/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: September 2005 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

Table B3: Delayed transfers of care, by reason for delay, September 2005(a)

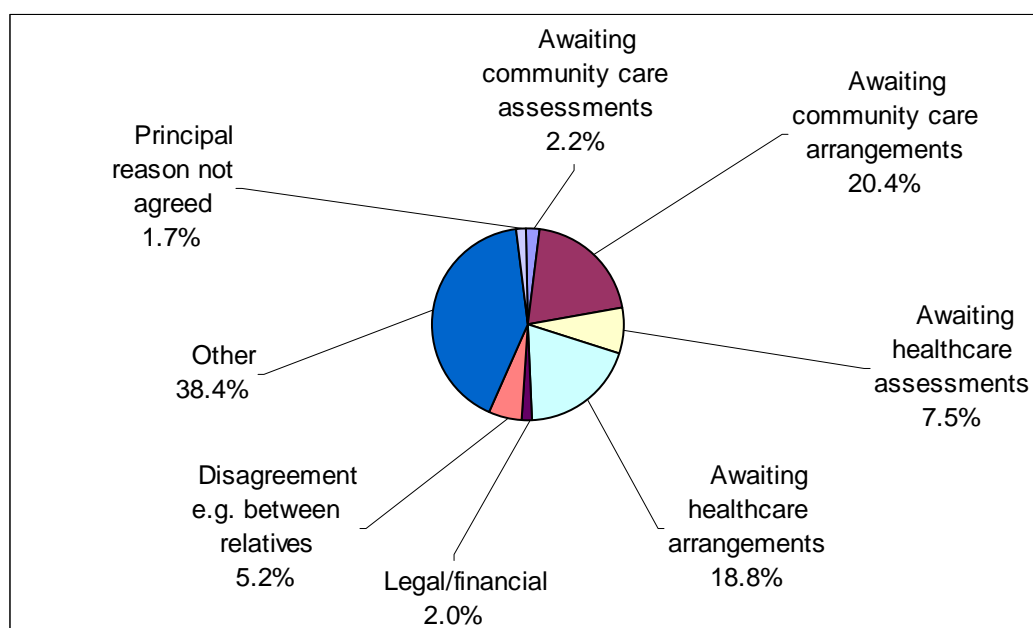
Reason for delay	Number	Per cent
Social Care reasons	162	22.6
Awaiting community care assessments	16	2.2
Awaiting community care arrangements	146	20.4
Health Care reasons	189	26.4
Awaiting healthcare assessments	54	7.5
Awaiting healthcare arrangements	135	18.8
Patient/carer/family-related reasons	354	49.4
Legal/financial	14	2.0
Disagreement e.g. between relatives	37	5.2
Other (b)	303	42.3
Other		
Principal reason not agreed	12	1.7
Total	717	100

Source: SDR 104/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: September 2005, 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.

Chart B1: Delayed transfers of care, by reason for delay, September 2005



Annex C: Notes on the publication of statistical information on waiting times

1. StatsWales

The Welsh Assembly Government's statistical database 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.¹¹

The latest quarterly statistical release, SDR 68/2005, *NHS Wales Waiting Times: at end June 2005*, was published on 27 July 2005.¹²

2. Relationships between waiting times and other statistics

◆ *Hospital activity*

Waiting times information 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 now has some activity figures on bed availability and occupancy rates, and for outpatient attendance and non-attendance by region, Trust and specialty for 2003-04. 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 electronically and in hardback copy from the Members' Library.¹³ *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 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

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

¹² <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/sdr68-2005/sdr68-2005.pdf>

¹³ Health Statistics Wales, 2005

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2004/hsw2005/hsw2005-e.htm>



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.¹⁴

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 6 for further clarification of statistics in England and Scotland.*)

¹⁴ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=6>