



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

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 30 June 2006

Abstract

This paper provides a quarterly summary of the latest published NHS Wales waiting times statistics. It contains information from June 2001, and measures current performance against the 2006-07 Service and Financial Framework (SaFF) targets.

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

August 2006



NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 30 June 2006

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Cynulliad National
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NHS Hospital Waiting Times, 30 June 2006

1 NHS Waiting Times Targets

The 2006-07 targets and standards are set out in the Service and Financial framework (SaFF), the agreement 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 for the first time against the set of new targets. Key features of the new targets are:

- ◆ The reduction of both inpatient and day case and outpatient waiting times to 8 months by 31 March 2007;
- ◆ A set of targets aimed at reducing the number of delayed transfers of care;
- ◆ Changes to Second Offer Scheme participants (*see Section 6*);
- ◆ Other new targets for waiting times, although for some, items cannot currently be monitored since data collection methods are still undergoing development (*see paragraph 1.2*). Where this is the case, e.g. the new cardiology care targets (*see paragraph 1.2.2*), items will continue to be monitored according to previous targets. This is because at the moment, data are continuing to be collected in the same way as 2005-06.

1.1 NHS hospital waiting times

Unless otherwise stated the following waiting times targets from Welsh Health Circular (2005) 088: *Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance For The Service And Financial Framework 2006/2007*,² set minimum standards to be achieved across Wales by 31 March 2007.

2006-07 SaFF hospital waiting times targets for assessment, treatment and elective procedures:

- ◆ To reduce the maximum waiting time for inpatient or daycase treatment to 8 months, as part of a combined wait target of 16 months.
- ◆ To reduce the maximum waiting time for first outpatient appointment to 8 months, as part of a combined wait target of 16 months.
- ◆ To reduce the maximum waiting time for access to specified diagnostic or therapy services to 36 weeks, and, as part of the 36 week wait, to reduce the maximum waiting time from referral to receipt of echocardiography to 24 weeks.
- ◆ All patients subject to Care Programme Approach (CPA) who are assessed to require evidence based psychological therapies will commence therapy within 3 months of assessment.
- ◆ To achieve a sustained maximum waiting time for cataract surgery of 4 months.
- ◆ All Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients to be seen within 6 months for routine assessment and intervention.
- ◆ 95% of all new patients to spend less than 4 hours in a major A&E department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge. No one should wait longer than 8 hours for admission, transfer or discharge.

² Welsh Health Circular (2005) 088: *Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance For The Service And Financial Framework 2006/2007*, 16 December 2005: http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/WHC_2005_088.pdf

1.2 *Waiting times targets for specific conditions*

1.2.1 *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).

1.2.2 *Suspected Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), stable angina and valvular disease*

Data monitoring and collection methods are being developed for a new cardiology and coronary heart disease target with an achievement date of 31 March 2007 (see below). The new target will replace the 2005-06 SaFF targets for Cardiac Revascularisation, but at present, since data are still being collected and published in line with the 2005-06 SaFF targets, this publication will continue to do the same.

- ◆ Patients referred to secondary or tertiary cardiology care with suspected coronary heart disease, stable angina or valvular disease by a GP or other medical practitioner for further investigation, which may include angiography, should be assessed by a cardiologist and, where appropriate, should receive revascularisation or other definitive treatment within 16 months of receipt of the original referral by the receiving Trust.

1.2.3 *Cancer targets (standards)*

2006-07 SaFF Cancer Standards

- ◆ Patients referred by their GP with urgent suspected cancer and subsequently diagnosed as such by a Cancer Specialist should start definitive treatment within 2 months of receipt of referral.
- ◆ Patients not referred as urgent suspected cancer but subsequently diagnosed with cancer should start treatment within 1 month of diagnosis, regardless of the referral route.

Target date: 31 December 2006

1.2.4 *Delayed transfers of care targets*

In 2006-07 there are also delayed transfers of care targets:

- ◆ To reduce the number of delayed transfers of care, in mental health facilities per 10,000 population. All health communities will either:
 - Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile (based on all-Wales performance) or
 - Achieve sufficient improvement
- ◆ To reduce the number of delayed transfers of care, and number of days delayed, (excluding mental health) per 10,000 population. All health communities will either:
 - Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile (based on all-Wales performance) or
 - Achieve sufficient improvement



2 Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times

Target: To reduce the maximum waiting time for inpatient/day case treatment to 8 months, as part of the combined wait target of 16 months.

2.1 Inpatient and day case treatment, by length of wait

Chart 1: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment over 8 months, 11 months and over 12 months.

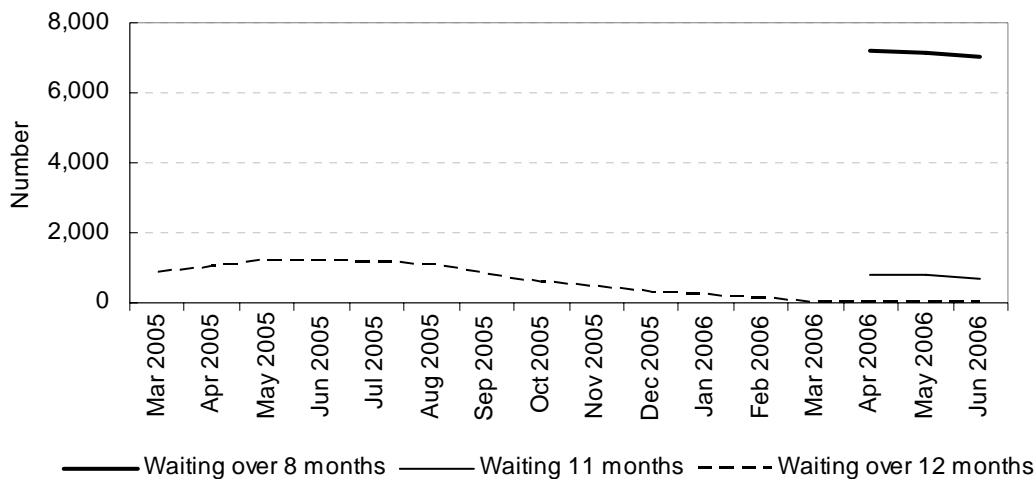
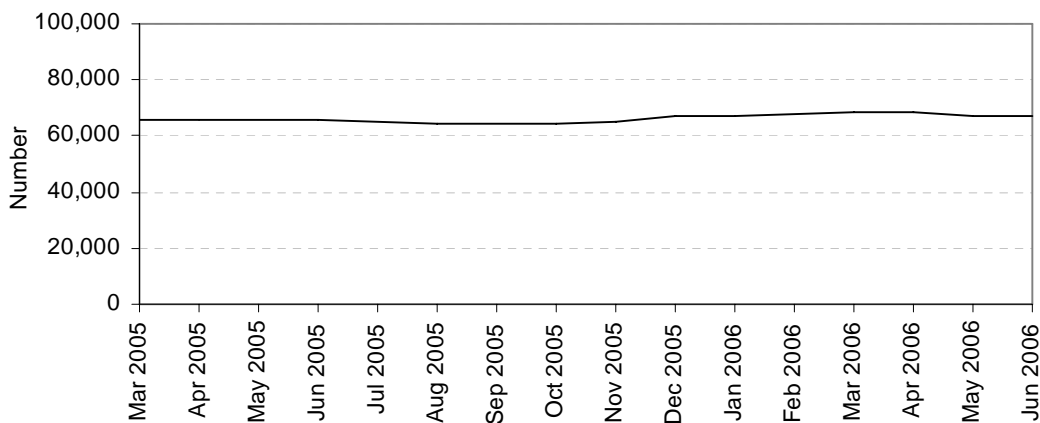


Chart 2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: total



At the end of June 2006:

- ◆ There were 7,038 people waiting over 8 months for inpatient or day case treatment, 10.5 per cent of total number waiting. Although no-one was waiting for 12 months or more, 695 people were waiting 11 months.
- ◆ The total number of people waiting was around 67,000, 2,000 fewer than in March 2006.
- ◆ The percentage of those waiting over 6 months rose 1 percentage point since the last quarter, from 21 per cent in March to 22 per cent in June 2006.

2.2 Inpatient or day case treatment, by specialty

Table A1 (see Annex A) shows the specialties where more than 40 people are waiting over 8 months for inpatient or day case treatment at the end of March. The figures show that:

- ◆ Trauma and Orthopaedics continues to be the specialty with the highest number waiting (22,521) of which a proportionately higher percentage (14 per cent) than the average of 10.5 per cent for Wales are waiting over 8 months.
- ◆ Other specialties with higher than average percentages waiting over 8 months are Plastic Surgery (16 per cent), Pain Management (14 per cent), Neurosurgery (13 per cent) and General Surgery (12 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 8 and over 12 months.

- ◆ Cardiff & Vale (12,634), Gwent Healthcare (11,305) and Swansea (9,633) NHS Trusts continue to have the highest numbers waiting.
- ◆ All NHS Trusts, excluding Velindre, had people waiting over 8 months with Swansea (16 per cent), Ceredigion and Mid-Wales (15 per cent) and Cardiff and Vale (13 per cent) NHS Trusts having the highest above average percentages.
- ◆ 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 8 and over 12 months.

- ◆ The Isle of Anglesey was the only LHB to have fewer than 100 people (85) waiting over 8 months.
- ◆ Three LHBs had more than 500 people waiting over 8 months, Swansea (954), Cardiff (949) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (561). Caerphilly had the next highest with 496 people waiting that length of time. The four LHBs together accounted for 42 per cent of people waiting over 8 months.

3 Outpatient Waiting Times

Target: To reduce the maximum wait for a first outpatient appointment to 8 months as part of a combined wait target of 16 months.

3.1 Outpatients, by length of wait

Chart 3: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment over 8 months, 11 months and over 12 months.

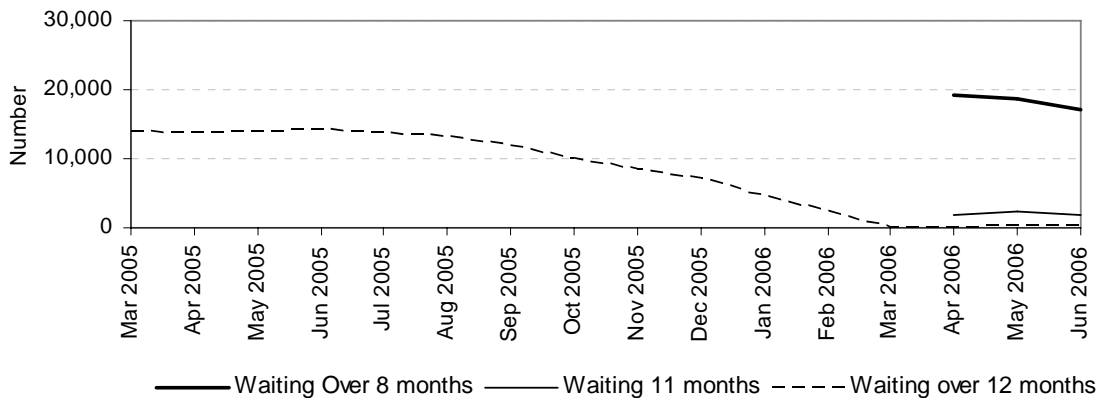
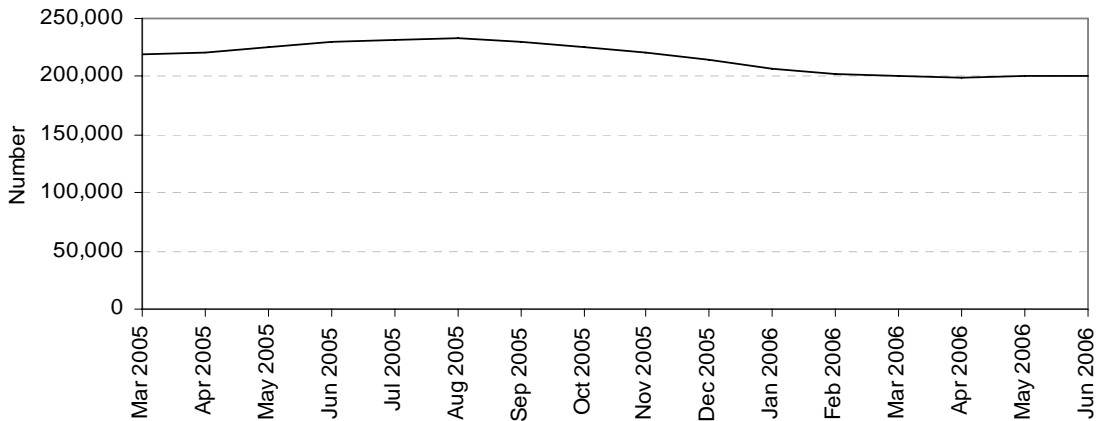


Chart 4: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment: total



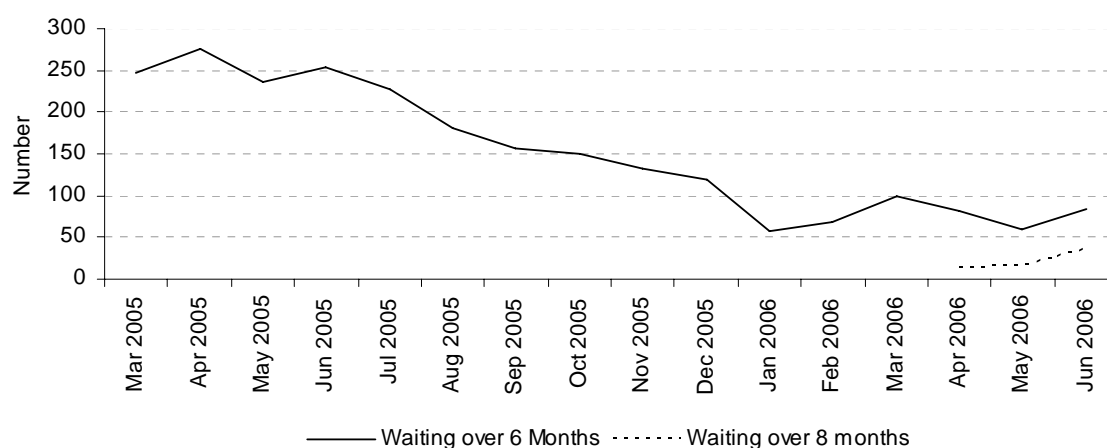
At the end of June 2006:

- ◆ 17,068 people were waiting over 8 months for a first outpatient appointment, 9 per cent of the total number waiting (200,550).
- ◆ The number waiting over 6 months fell for the second consecutive quarter, from 40,533 to 35,247 people, a fall of 13 percentage points since the previous quarter.
- ◆ However, 305 people were waiting over 12 months, an increase of 295 over the previous quarter.

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: CAHMS. Welsh children and adolescents waiting over 6 and over 8 months for a routine assessment and intervention



- ◆ The number of children and adolescents waiting over 8 months rose between April and June 2006 from 13 to 36.
- ◆ There were 84 children and adolescents waiting over 6 months in June 2006, fewer than at the end of the previous quarter when there were 99 waiting.
- ◆ The total number of child and adolescent patients waiting at the end of June 2006 was 995 compared with 996 in March 2006.

3.3 First outpatient appointment, by specialty

Table A4 (see Annex A) shows specialties with Welsh residents waiting over 6, over 8 and over 12 months. Also shown are specialties with higher total numbers waiting.

At the end of March 2006:

- ◆ Four specialties had more than 1,000 people waiting for a first outpatient appointment, T&O (4,091), Dermatology (2,189), ENT (1,574) and Ophthalmology (1,448).
- ◆ Of the four specialties above, only T&O (3) and Dermatology (245) had people waiting over 12 months, while Rheumatology had 46 people waiting that long. The remaining 11 people waiting over 12 months were split between 5 specialties.
- ◆ The trend of all specialties reducing the number of people waiting over 6 months continued over the June 2006 quarter.

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, 8, and 12 months.

At the end of June 2006:

- ◆ Four NHS Trusts had more than 1,000 people waiting over 8 months, Cardiff and Vale (4,620), Gwent Healthcare (3,602), Swansea (2,523) and Carmarthenshire (1,160), accounting for 70 per cent of the people waiting over 8 months.
- ◆ Two NHS bodies had people waiting over 12 months, Cardiff and Vale (291) and Powys Local Health Board (2). The remaining 12 people were waiting that long for appointments with non-Welsh NHS Trusts.

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, 8 and 12 months.

At the end of June 2006:

- ◆ Seven LHBs had more than 1,000 people waiting over 8 months for a first outpatient appointment, Cardiff (2,797), Swansea (1,672), Caerphilly (1,527), Rhondda Cynon Taff (1,159), Carmarthenshire (1,101), Vale of Glamorgan (1,090) and Newport (1,040).
- ◆ Eleven LHBs had people waiting over 12 months. Of these, only two, Cardiff (198) and Vale of Glamorgan (82) had more than single figures and accounted for the majority of those waiting over 12 months.

4 Diagnostic and Therapy Services³

Targets:

- ◆ *To reduce the maximum waiting time for access to specified diagnostic and therapy services to 36 weeks.*
- ◆ *Patients will wait a maximum of 24 weeks from referral to receipt of echocardiography. To be achieved by 31 March 2007.*
- ◆ *All patients subject to Care Programme Approach (CPA) who are assessed to require evidence based psychological therapies will commence therapy within 3 months of assessment.*

4.1 Diagnostic and therapy services

Table 1: Diagnostic and Therapy waiting times, total numbers waiting and those waiting over 36 weeks, March – May 2006

Service	Mar-2006			Apr-2006			May-2006		
	Total Waiting	Waiting over 36 weeks	Waiting over 36 weeks as % of Total	Total Waiting	Waiting over 36 weeks	Waiting over 36 weeks as % of Total	Total Waiting	Waiting over 36 weeks	Waiting over 36 weeks as % of Total
Art	21	5	24%	22	1	5%	15	1	7%
Audiology	4,123	252	6%	4,076	342	8%	4,084	330	8%
Cardiology	7,527	421	6%	7,259	527	7%	7,697	458	6%
Dietetics	3,907	71	2%	3,750	65	2%	3,890	59	2%
Occupational Therapy	2,485	581	23%	2,319	549	24%	2,184	505	23%
Physiotherapy	20,160	1,740	9%	20,720	1,797	9%	18,859	1,754	9%
Podiatry	10,364	3,721	36%	9,909	3,544	36%	9,599	3,201	33%
Radiology - Consultant referral	26,958	1,700	6%	27,935	1,856	7%	28,070	1,801	6%
Radiology - GP referral	12,129	906	7%	13,016	898	7%	12,955	854	7%
Speech Language	7,363	2,049	28%	7,402	2,184	30%	7,711	2,132	28%
Wales	95,037	11,446	12%	96,408	11,763	12%	95,064	11,095	12%

Table 1 shows that the three diagnostic and therapy services with the highest percentage of people waiting over 36 weeks were Podiatry (33 per cent), Speech Language (28 per cent) and Occupational Therapy (23 per cent). For all other services, the percentages waiting that long were fewer than the Wales average of 12 per cent.

³ Diagnostic and therapy (D & T) waiting times have been published monthly since February 2006. The 9 D & T services for which waiting times are currently being monitored are available electronically from StatsWales. Some of the specific D & T categories have further subsets e.g. Echocardiogram is a subset of Cardiology (see Annex C, para.1 for access details). The Welsh Assembly Government also publishes a Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Bulletin and this contains details of waiting times for each specific service (see Annex C for electronic link).

DTS waiting times are published in 8 categories, each containing the discrete number of people who have had to wait that long before being seen. The longest wait category is 'over 72 weeks'.

4.2 Echocardiography

Table 2: Waiting times for an echocardiogram, total numbers waiting and those waiting over 24 weeks, March – May 2006

Month	Total waiting	Waiting over 24 weeks	Waiting over 24 weeks as % of Total
March	6,004	1,035	17%
April	5,975	1,344	22%
May	6,355	1,197	19%

4.3 Evidence-based psychological therapies

The monitoring of waiting times for patients subject to a Care Programme Approach (CPA) for those assessed as requiring evidence-based psychological therapies is new for 2006-07. At present, data collection and presentation methods are still being developed.

More information for Diagnostic and Therapy waiting times is available electronically from a Statistical Directorate bulletin.⁴

⁴ Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government. *NHS Wales diagnostic and therapy waiting times: end May 2006*. SDR 81/2006. 12 July 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr81-20061.pdf?lang=en>

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

5.1 Cataract Surgery

Target: To achieve a sustained maximum waiting time for cataract surgery of 4 months.

- ◆ All patients continued to be treated within 4 months during the April-June 2006 quarter. The meeting of this target has been sustained since November 2005.

5.2 Cardiac Revascularisation

Target: All patients to be seen within 6 months (2005-06 target)

- ◆ The waiting times target for cardiac revascularisation, which was met at the end of 2005-06, has been sustained throughout the first quarter of 2006-07 although there was one person waiting longer than six months in June 2006.

5.3 Angiography

Target: All patients to be seen within 4 months (2005-06 target)

- ◆ The waiting times target for Angiography have been sustained with the exception of May when 3 people were waiting over 4 months.

5.4 Cancer

Standards:

- 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.*

There are now 9 cancer sites being monitored for waiting times and Tables 3 and 4 give the number and percentage of residents who have been seen within the target time.

Further information on the cancer standards and data is available from a Statistical Directorate Bulletin⁵.

⁵ Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. *NHS Wales Cancer Waiting Times: Quarter Ending 31 March 2006*. SDR 62/2006. 7 June 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr62-20061.pdf?lang=en>



Table 3: Number and percentage of Welsh residents with urgent suspected cancer (USC) starting treatment within 62 days of referral, as at 31 March 2006

Cancer Site	Region							
	North Wales		Mid & West Wales		South East Wales		Wales	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Breast	55	92%	56	90%	69	86%	180	89%
Lung	49	88%	13	52%	42	55%	104	66%
Gynaecological	12	75%	2	29%	5	83%	19	66%
Haematological	11	100%	4	50%	5	63%	20	74%
Head and Neck	6	67%	4	57%	4	57%	14	61%
Lower Gastro-intestinal	12	46%	21	58%	17	63%	50	56%
Upper Gastro-intestinal	6	50%	4	50%	5	83%	15	58%
Skin	6	86%	13	68%	14	88%	33	79%
Urological	9	18%	13	26%	48	47%	70	34%

Table 4: Number and percentage of Welsh residents not referred via the urgent suspected cancer (non-USC) starting treatment within 31 days of diagnosis, as at 31 March 2006

Cancer Site	Region							
	North Wales		Mid & West Wales		South East Wales		Wales	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Breast	70	97%	77	91%	147	96%	294	95%
Lung	33	87%	43	78%	84	93%	160	87%
Gynaecological	24	93%	22	67%	40	89%	86	83%
Haematologica	40	100%	27	93%	22	100%	89	98%
Head and Neck	23	85%	13	52%	16	89%	52	74%
Lower Gastro-intestinal	77	84%	78	77%	92	93%	247	85%
Upper Gastro-intestinal	51	93%	31	78%	74	97%	156	91%



Skin	49	96%	48	64%	41	66%	138	73%
Urological	67	81%	97	84%	72	85%	236	83%

5.5 A & E

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 (see 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 June 2006:

- ◆ For the second consecutive quarter, no A&E department in Wales met the 95 per cent target and the all-Wales average fell by 0.3 percentage points from 90.6 in March 2006 to 90.3 per cent.
- ◆ There were regional variations in terms of changes in distance from target. In the South East Wales region, all A&E departments increased their distance from target with only Royal Glamorgan (92.9 per cent) and Nevill Hall (92.3 per cent) achieving over 90 per cent towards target.
- ◆ In the Mid and West region, all A&E departments decreased their distance from target by between 0.6 and 3.0 percentage points. All departments in the region, except Morrision (88.2 per cent), achieved over 90 per cent.
- ◆ In the North Wales region, all A&E departments remained at over 90 per cent towards target. Glan Clwyd (92.4 per cent) moved 2.4 percentage points nearer to target while Wrexham Maelor (92.4 per cent) moved 3.1 percentage points further away.
- ◆ The three A&E departments closest to target were Princess of Wales and West Wales (93.5 each) and Ysbyty Gwynedd (93.4).

6 Second Offer Scheme

The Welsh Assembly Government has stated that during the financial year, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, only two NHS Trusts, Cardiff and Vale and Gwent Healthcare NHS Trusts, are referring Welsh residents externally through the Second Offer Scheme. Numbers treated in-house, which were previously collected, are no longer being monitored through the Scheme.

It would appear that reasons for declining an offer are no longer being collected by Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust and the majority of those declining an offer through Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust were categorised as doing so through patient choice.

Tables 3 and 4 below show respectively breakdowns of figures between April and June 2006 for i) the number of patients to whom offers were made and the outcomes of those offers, and ii) the number of patients treated and by which provider.

Table 5: Number of patients to whom a Second Offer has been made, by outcome category

NHS Trust	Number of patients						Accepted but ineligible/ declined after assessment	Referred to an alternative provider
	Made a 2nd offer	Accepted an offer	Declined an offer	Undecided	Non- contactable			
Cardiff & Vale	955	602	353	19	68	30	524	
Gwent	730	650	80	0	0	0	169	
Total	1,685	1,252	433	19	68	30	693	

Table 6: Breakdown of alternative providers used, by NHS Trust

NHS Trust	Alternative providers of treatment					Total number treated
	Cardiff BUPA	Nuffield Hospitals	Weston NHS Trust	Worcester BUPA	St Josephs (Newport)	
Cardiff & Vale	238	33	64	1	0	336
Gwent	21	21	0	0	110	152
Total	259	54	64	1	110	488

7 Delayed Transfers of Care

The tables in Annex B present a summary of the latest statistical information published on the Stats Wales internet site on delayed transfers of care in Wales.⁶ Information on Delayed transfers of care is also contained in the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Release SDR 85/2006 *Delayed Transfers of Care: June 2006*.⁷

In June 2006:

- ◆ The total number of people experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 612. Of these, 196 were delayed in mental health facilities and 416 were in acute or community hospitals.
- ◆ The number of people experiencing delays in mental health facilities rose from 175 in March to 196 in June 2006, an increase of 12 percentage points. However, there were 28 fewer people than in June 2005 (224).
- ◆ The number of people experiencing delays in acute and community hospitals fell between March and June 2006, from 443 to 416, a decrease of 6.1 percentage points. In June 2006 there were 34 fewer people than in June 2005 (450).
- ◆ The percentage of all available beds occupied by people experiencing delays was 4.3 per cent, 0.4 percentage points fewer than in June 2005.
- ◆ North Wales (2.7 per cent) remains the region with the lowest percentage of beds occupied by people experiencing delays while Mid and West Wales has 3.7 per cent and South-East Wales has 4.5 per cent of available beds occupied by people with delays in their transfer of care.
- ◆ The category containing the highest percentage of reasons for delay continues to be Patient/carer/family related reasons (52.1 per cent). This contrasts with Social Care (30.2 per cent) and Healthcare (16.7 per cent) reasons.

⁶At <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

⁷Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate. SDR 85/2006. *Delayed Transfers of Care: June 2006*. 25.07.06: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health-2006/hdw20060725/?lang=en>

8 Waiting Times in Wales, England and Scotland

Caution should be exercised when comparing information from the three different collection systems as definitions may not be interpreted in exactly the same way, even though the same definitions are broadly applied. Data for Wales and Scotland are published in terms of months, whilst data for England are published in terms of weeks. For this reason tables for the three countries are now presented separately.

8.1 Wales

Targets: From April 2006, no patient to wait more than 8 months for either inpatient or outpatient treatment

Table 7 presents figures for Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment from June 2005 to June 2006. Table 8 presents figures for Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment in the same time period.

Table 7: Residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: as at 30 June 2006

	June 2005	Septembe r 2005	Decembe r 2005	March 2006	June 2006
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	65,458	64,459	67,063	68,817	67,163
Waiting over 6 months	15,493	15,239	15,429	32,631	14,530
Waiting over 8 months	..	..	..	..	7,038
Waiting over 12 months	1,196	774	314	0	0
<i>per 10,000 population</i>					
On waiting list	221.7	218.3	227.1	233.1	227.5
Waiting over 6 months (a)	52.5	51.6	52.3	110.5	49.2
Waiting over 8 months (a)	..	..	..	..	23.8
Waiting over 12 months (a)	4.1	2.6	1.1	0.0	0.0

Source: StatsWales internet site

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

Table 8: Residents waiting for first outpatient appointment: as at 30 June 2006

	June 2005	Septembe r 2005	Decembe r 2005	March 2006	June 2006
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	229,187	229,581	215,048	200,366	200,550
Waiting over 6 months	62,956	58,996	56,225	40,533	35,247
Waiting over 8 months	..	..	..	..	17,068
Waiting over 12 months	14,136	11,786	6,981	15	305
<i>per 10,000 population</i>					
On waiting list	776.2	777.6	728.4	678.6	679.3
Waiting over 6 months (b)	213.2	199.8	190.4	137.3	119.4
Waiting over 8 months (b)	..	..	..	..	57.8
Waiting over 12 months (b)	47.9	39.9	23.6	0.1	1.0

Source: StatsWales internet site

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

8.2 England

Targets: Maximum waits of:

- ◆ 3 months for in-patient and day case treatment
- ◆ 6 months for outpatient treatment

The England target by the end of 2008 is a maximum wait of 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment.⁸

Further information on waiting times in England for June 2006 can be accessed on the Department of Health website.⁹

Up to March 2006, waiting times data have been published in terms of weeks and months, but from June 2006 the inpatient and day case data is presented in terms of weeks. Outpatient waiting times data for June 2006 will be made available from 1 September 2006 in the new format.

Inpatient or day case waiting times

Table 9 present figures for English residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment from June 2005 to March 2006, and Table 10 presents the data relating to June 2006 in the new format. The categories in Table 10 of 0-13 weeks, 13-26 weeks, and over 26 weeks equate approximately to 3 months, 3-6 months and over 6 months respectively.

Table 9: English residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: June 2005 to March 2006

Number	June 2005	September 2005	December 2005	March 2006
On waiting list	807,069	794,894	769,824	771,100
Waiting over 6 months	43,305	33,505	48	199
Waiting over 9 months	31	72	13	23
Waiting over 12 months	5	10	2	11
<i>per 10,000 population (a)</i>				
on waiting list	161.1	158.7	153.7	153.9
Waiting over 6 months	8.6	6.7	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 9 months	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 12 months	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Department of Health

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

⁸Department of Health, *National Standards, Local Action. Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005/06–2007/08*, July 2004: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/60/58/04086058.pdf>

⁹<http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/index.htm>

Table 10: English residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: June 2006

Number	June 2006
On waiting list	768,484
0-13 weeks	574,479
13-26 weeks	193,963
waiting over 26 weeks	42
<i>per 10,000 population (a)</i>	
on waiting list	153.4
0-13 weeks	114.7
13-26 weeks	38.7
waiting over 26 weeks	0.0

Source: Department of Health

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

At the end of June 2006:

- ◆ 42 people in England were recorded as having waited more than 26 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment.
- ◆ In England the rate per 10,000 head of population of people waiting over 6 months (26 weeks) 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. 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 the Welsh lengths of wait, and the lengths reported in Table 11 are 13-17 weeks, 17-21 weeks and over 21 weeks.

Table 11 shows the number of residents in England waiting 13-17 weeks, 17-21 weeks and over 21 weeks for a first outpatient appointment from June 2005 to March 2006.



Table 11: English residents waiting for outpatient treatment: June 2005 to March 2006

Number	June 2005	September 2005	December 2005	March 2006
On waiting list	3,730,778	3,636,211	3,453,110	3,641,090
Waiting 13 to 17 weeks (b)	34,832	39,534	32	30
Waiting 17 to 21 weeks (b)	33	151	37	24
Waiting over 21 weeks (b)	87	109	102	72
<i>per 10,000 population (c)</i>				
On waiting list	744.8	725.9	689.3	726.9
Waiting 13 to 17 weeks (b)	7.0	7.9	0.0	0.0
Waiting 17 to 21 weeks (b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 21 weeks (b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Department of Health

(a) Total figures for England includes both GP written referrals (2,381,713 at March 2006) and referrals from other sources (1,259,377 at March 2006).

(b) Figures for those waiting over 13 and over 21 weeks relate only to written referrals from GPs, which represent about 67% of all recorded referral requests.

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

8.3 Scotland

Inpatient and day case waiting times

Target: No patient (to whom the waiting time guarantee applies) will be required to wait more than 6 months by the end of 2005 (and reduced to 18 weeks by the end of 2007) for inpatient care.

Table 12 presents waiting times for inpatient and day case treatment in Scotland from March 2005 to March 2006 (the latest figures available).

Figures collected on the number waiting for inpatient and day case treatment in Scotland are not comparable with those for England or Wales. 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.¹⁰

Latest figures for Scotland are available from the website of the Information Service Division of NHS National Services Scotland (ISD Scotland), which also includes an explanation of the categories of the Availability Status Code (ASC) used in Table 9 below.¹¹

¹⁰ NHS Wales Waiting Times: targets, times, trends and comparisons with waiting times in England and Scotland: September 2003: <http://assembly/presidingoffice/mrs/committeeresearchpapers/health/health-e.htm>

¹¹ NHS National Services Scotland, Information Services Division: http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?service=Content.show&pContentID=670&p_aplic=CCC&

Table 12: Scottish Residents on waiting lists for inpatient and day case treatment^(a): as at 31 March 2005 – 2006

	March 2005	June 2005	September 2005	December 2005	March 2006
Number					
On waiting list	112,639	112,052	109,992	108,548	106,497
ASC (a)	35,471	35,910	35,048	34,977	33,858
Waiting over 6 months (c)	1,596	1,118	1,249	2	0
Waiting over 9 months (d)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rate per 10,000 population (d)</i>					
on waiting list	221.8	220.6	216.6	213.7	209.7
with an ASC (a)	69.8	70.7	69.0	68.9	66.7
Waiting over 6 months (c)	3.1	2.2	2.5	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 9 months (c)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Scottish Executive

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

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

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

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

Outpatient waiting times

No patient (to whom the waiting time standard applies) should wait longer than six months for a new outpatient appointment by the end of 2005 (and no longer than 18 weeks by the end of 2007).

Table 13 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 December 2005 and March 2006. It should be noted that figures 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 13: Scottish residents on waiting lists for a first outpatient: December 2005 and March 2006^(a)

	30 December 2005		31 March 2006	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	178,019	350.5	177,973	350.5
Waiting over 6 months	2	0	0	0

Source: Scottish Executive

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



Annex A

Waiting times for inpatient/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 June 2006

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	22,521	6,655	3,242	0
General Surgery	12,688	2,898	1,473	0
Ear, Nose and Throat	7,477	1,976	940	0
Gynaecology	5,310	973	466	0
Urology	4,841	645	264	0
Plastic Surgery	1,465	391	233	0
Oral Surgery	1,921	239	91	0
Ophthalmology	5,469	191	73	0
Neurosurgery	453	123	59	0
Pain Management	398	97	55	0
Paediatric Surgery	434	82	43	0
All other specialities	4,186	260	99	0
All specialities	67,163	14,530	7,038	0

Source: StatsWales internet site

Numbers have been sorted in descending order of those waiting over 8 months

Table A2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by NHS Trust, as at 30 June 2006

NHS Trust	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,132	791	378	0
Bro Morgannwg	4,494	676	252	0
	12,63			
Cardiff and Vale	4	3,343	1,638	0
Carmarthenshire	4,726	739	280	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	1,461	377	223	0
Conwy and Denbighshire	4,342	615	244	0
	11,30			
Gwent Healthcare	5	2,671	1,289	0
North East Wales	3,471	530	238	0
North Glamorgan	2,026	378	156	0
North West Wales	3,261	486	213	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	1,365	288	156	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda	3,800	809	412	0
Powys Local Health Board	508	97	45	0
Swansea	9,633	2,730	1,514	0
Velindre	5	0	0	0
	67,16			
All NHS Trusts	3	14,530	7,038	0

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A3: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by Local Health Board, as at 30 June 2006

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Blaenau Gwent	1,856	415	194	0
Bridgend	2,975	510	197	0
Caerphilly	4,153	967	496	0
Cardiff	7,194	1,914	949	0
Carmarthenshire	4,230	818	371	0
Ceredigion	1,877	414	209	0
Conwy	2,422	389	161	0
Denbighshire	1,973	273	113	0
Flintshire	2,608	334	126	0
Gwynedd	2,245	339	156	0
Isle of Anglesey	1,375	202	85	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1,149	224	101	0
Monmouthshire	2,017	432	201	0
Neath Port Talbot	3,102	612	290	0
Newport	3,216	757	369	0
Pembrokeshire	2,549	487	242	0
Powys	2,734	766	424	0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	5,316	1,124	561	0
Swansea	5,861	1,717	954	0
Torfaen	2,314	542	254	0
Vale of Glamorgan	3,088	884	422	0
Wrexham	2,799	410	163	0
LHB Unknown (North Wales)	110	0	0	0
All Local Health Boards	67,163	14,530	7,038	0

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A4: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by specialty, as at 30 June 2006

Speciality	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	35,363	8,382	4,091	3
Dermatology	18,929	3,834	2,189	245
Ear, Nose and Throat	22,087	3,726	1,574	0
Ophthalmology	20,142	3,201	1,448	0
General Surgery	16,949	1,999	970	0
General Medicine	14,835	1,881	892	0
Oral Surgery	9,429	1,846	847	0
Urology	8,287	1,628	775	0
Orthodontics	3,519	1,086	601	2
Rheumatology	4,942	941	516	46
Plastic Surgery	2,035	696	457	2
Cardiology	5,331	1,046	450	2
Other Neurology	3,374	777	377	2
Mental Illness	1,394	60	11	3
All other specialities	33,934	4,144	1,870	0
All specialities	200,550	35,247	17,068	305

Source: StatsWales internet site

Numbers have been sorted in descending order of those waiting 8 months

Table A5: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by NHS Trust, as at 30 June 2006

NHS Trust	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	7,036	915	427	12
Bro Morgannwg	18,719	2,506	583	0
Cardiff and Vale	37,074	8,258	4,620	291
Carmarthenshire	13,338	2,420	1,160	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	3,548	608	310	0
Conwy and Denbighshire	12,932	1,303	452	0
Gwent Healthcare	35,260	6,609	3,602	0
North East Wales	11,100	1,762	675	0
North Glamorgan	9,822	1,802	859	0
North West Wales	8,798	1,175	578	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	7,426	1,339	506	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda	10,554	1,444	605	0
Powys Local Health Board	3,544	443	168	2
Swansea	21,192	4,663	2,523	0
Velindre	207	0	0	0
	200,550			
All NHS Trusts	0	35,247	17,068	305

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A6: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by Local Health Board, as at 30 June 2006

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 8 months	Waiting over 12 months
Blaenau Gwent	5,151	953	518	0
Bridgend	11,649	1,733	460	1
Caerphilly	14,458	2,915	1,527	7
Cardiff	22,016	4,958	2,797	198
Carmarthenshire	12,612	2,281	1,101	0
Ceredigion	4,905	905	455	0
Conwy	6,390	702	275	0
Denbighshire	5,806	552	176	0
Flintshire	7,568	804	263	1
Gwynedd	5,818	838	400	0
Isle of Anglesey	3,491	523	276	0
Merthyr Tydfil	4,201	817	390	1
Monmouthshire	5,430	875	482	6
Neath Port Talbot	8,444	1,243	513	0
Newport	9,740	1,914	1,040	2
Pembrokeshire	8,621	1,641	673	0
Powys	7,462	1,122	546	3
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	16,218	2,529	1,159	3
Swansea	15,761	3,236	1,672	0
Torfaen	7,094	1,350	752	0
Vale of Glamorgan	9,726	2,046	1,090	82
Wrexham	7,981	1,310	503	1
LHB Unknown (North Wales)	8	0	0	0
	200,55			
All Local Health Boards	0	35,247	17,068	305

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table A7: NHS Trust performance against the 4 hour A&E wait target (95 per cent), as at 30 June 2006

NHS Trust	A&E Hospital	March 2006 (%)	June 2006 (%)	Change (%)
South East Region				
Cardiff & Vale	University Hospital of Wales (UHW)	89.5	83.9	-5.6
Gwent Healthcare	Royal Gwent	87.8	85.2	-2.6
	Nevill Hall	93.3	92.3	-1.0
	Trust average	90.0	88.0	-2.0
North Glamorgan	Prince Charles	89.5	89.0	-0.5
Pontypridd & Rhondda	Royal Glamorgan	93.4	92.9	-0.6
Mid and West Region				
Bro Morgannwg	Princess of Wales	91.9	93.5	1.6
Carmarthenshire	West Wales	90.5	93.5	3.0
	Prince Phillip	88.0	91.0	3.0
	Trust average	89.2	92.2	3.0
Ceredigion & Mid Wales	Bronglais	92.7	93.3	0.6
Pembrokeshire and Derwen				0.0
	Withybush	91.5	92.3	0.8
Swansea	Morrison	87.5	88.2	0.7
	Singleton	89.0	91.6	2.6
	Trust average	88.0	89.4	1.4
North Wales Region				
Conwy and Denbigh	Glan Clwyd	90.0	92.4	2.4
North East Wales	Wrexham Maelor	94.5	91.4	-3.1
North West Wales	Ysbyty Gwynedd	93.6	93.4	-0.2
All Wales Average		90.6	90.3	-0.3

Source: Health of Wales Information Service (HOWIS)



Annex B

Delayed transfers of care: statistical tables

Table B1: Delayed transfers of care (mental health), by region and NHS Trust, June 2005 – June 2006

NHS Trust	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006	Jun 2006
Mid and West Wales	59	68	66	45	37
Bro Morgannwg	11	14	8	9	11
Carmarthenshire Trust	0	0	0	1	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	0	0	0	1	0
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	33	40	41	21	15
Powys Healthcare	3	2	7	4	1
Swansea Trust	12	12	10	9	10
North Wales	38	34	31	25	24
Conwy & Denbighshire	12	9	5	3	7
North East Wales	10	12	11	9	8
North West Wales	16	13	15	13	9
South-East Wales	127	133	124	105	135
Cardiff & Vale	94	96	81	66	73
Gwent Healthcare	13	16	17	20	27
North Glamorgan	14	10	13	8	11
Pontypridd & Rhondda	6	11	13	11	24
Velindre	0	0	0	0	0
Total	224	235	221	175	196

Source: StatsWales internet site

Table B2: Delayed transfers of care (excluding mental health), by region and NHS Trust, June 2005 – June 2006

NHS Trust	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006	Jun 2006
Mid and West Wales	126	153	143	155	144
Bro Morgannwg	26	34	25	26	33
Carmarthenshire	21	30	40	44	37
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	10	8	2	14	7
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	15	22	15	17	15
Powys Healthcare	9	13	21	11	16
Swansea	45	46	40	43	36
North Wales	78	87	62	69	60
Conwy and Denbighshire	15	16	10	16	9
North East Wales	36	39	30	28	33
North West Wales	27	32	22	25	18
South East Wales	246	242	195	219	212
Cardiff and Vale	113	113	111	104	103
Gwent	75	73	53	57	74
North Glamorgan	19	18	14	22	14
Pontypridd and Rhondda	34	35	13	34	21
Velindre	5	3	4	2	0
Total	450	482	400	443	416

Source: StatsWales internet site



Table B3: Delayed transfers of care, by region and percentage of all available NHS beds

NHS Trust	Jun 05	Sept 05	Dec 05	Mar 06	Jun 06
Mid and West Wales	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.1	3.7
Bro Morgannwg	2.9	3.8	2.6	2.8	3.5
Carmarthenshire Trust	3.0	4.2	5.9	6.3	5.2
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	4.5	3.6	0.9	6.7	3.1
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	8.3	10.8	10.3	6.6	5.2
Powys Healthcare	3.0	3.7	7.8	3.7	4.2
Swansea Trust	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.1	2.8
North Wales	3.7	3.9	3.0	3.0	2.7
Conwy & Denbighshire	2.7	2.5	1.5	1.9	1.6
North East Wales	4.8	5.3	4.3	3.9	4.3
North West Wales	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.2	2.3
South-East Wales	6.0	6.0	5.1	5.2	4.5
Cardiff & Vale	9.3	9.4	8.6	7.7	7.9
Gwent Healthcare	3.8	3.8	3.0	3.3	4.3
North Glamorgan	4.6	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.5
Pontypridd & Rhondda	4.5	5.1	2.9	5.0	5.0
Velindre	7.7	4.6	6.3	3.1	na
All NHS Trusts	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.3

Source: StatsWales internet site

Table B4: Delayed transfers of care, by region and reason for delay, June 2006

NHS Trust	Social Care reasons	Health Care reasons	Patient/Carer/Family-related reasons	Other	Total
Mid and West Wales	66	31	82	2	181
Bro Morgannwg	13	10	20	1	44
Carmarthenshire	16	2	19	0	37
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	0	0	6	1	7
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	17	4	9	0	30
Powys Healthcare	12	1	4	0	17
Swansea	8	14	24	0	46
North Wales	25	10	46	3	84
Conwy and Denbighshire	1	3	11	1	16
North East Wales	17	3	21	0	41
North West Wales	7	4	14	2	27
South East Wales	94	61	191	1	347
Cardiff and Vale	39	30	107	0	176
Gwent	49	12	40	0	101
North Glamorgan	3	8	14	0	25
Pontypridd and Rhondda	3	11	30	1	45
Velindre	0	0	0	0	0
Total	185	102	319	6	612

Source: StatsWales internet site



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

Reason for delay	Number	Per cent
Social Care reasons	185	30.2
Awaiting community care assessments	13	2.1
Awaiting community care arrangements	172	28.1
Health Care reasons	102	16.7
Awaiting healthcare assessments	31	5.1
Awaiting healthcare arrangements	71	11.6
Patient/carer/family-related reasons	319	52.1
Legal/financial	10	1.6
Disagreement e.g. between relatives	46	7.5
Other ^(b)	263	43.0
Other		
Principal reason not agreed	6	1.0
Total	612	..

Source: StatsWales internet site

(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

2 StatsWales

The Welsh Assembly Government's statistical database, StatsWales,¹² provides monthly figures for waiting times by trust, local health board, specialty and time categories. Since 2005-06, StatsWales has been increasing the scope of published waiting times information in line with changes in SaFF targets, to include diagnostic and therapy services and cancer waiting times as well as waiting times for specific surgical procedures. In the case of diagnostic and therapy services waiting times 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 waiting times table, subsets of statistics for echocardiograms and stress tests can be viewed.

The Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate has changed the way it now publishes inpatient and day case and outpatient waiting times information, giving a more detailed breakdown of the time people wait.

2 Waiting times statistical publications

The Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate publishes a quarterly waiting times bulletin, the latest of which, SDR 87/2006 *NHS Hospital Waiting Times: at end June 2006*, was published on 26 July 2006.¹³

Diagnostic and Therapy Services waiting times are published monthly. Latest figures, published on 12 July 2006 are for May 2006.¹⁴

3 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.

A new series of monthly statistics, GP referrals for first outpatient appointments is now available starting from January 2006. Tables are shown by number of referrals to each NHS Trust and number of referrals from each LHB to relevant NHS Trusts. Monthly bulletins, *NHS Wales GP Referrals for First Out-patient Appointments*, commenced in June, with the latest release published on 2 August 2006 giving figures for June 2006.¹⁵

¹² StatsWales public reports <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

¹³ Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 87/2006. *NHS Hospital Waiting Times: at end June 2006*. 29 July 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr87-2006.pdf?lang=en>

¹⁴ Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 81/2006. *NHS Wales Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times: at end May 2006*. 12 July 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr81-20061.pdf?lang=en>

¹⁵ Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 90/2006. *NHS Wales GP Referrals for First Out-patient Appointments: end June 2006*. 2 August 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr90-2006.pdf?lang=en>

Other activity statistics for 2004-05, such as morbidity and details of emergency admissions, are available from the 2006 edition of the annual *Health Statistics Wales*,¹⁶ also available in hardback copy from the Members' Library. *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 are collected by means of a monthly census. Figures are available from StatsWales and a bulletin is published monthly by the Statistical Directorate.¹⁷ 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 of 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.¹⁸ 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 8 for further clarification of statistics in England and Scotland*).

¹⁶Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. *Health Statistics Wales 2006*. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en>

¹⁷Welsh Assembly Government, Statistical Directorate. SDR 85/2006. *Delayed Transfers of Care: June 2006*. 25 July 2006. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/health/health-2006/sdr85-20061.pdf?lang=en>

¹⁸National Statistics, *Population Estimates – Mid-year 2004*: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=6>