



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

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 March 2005

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 2004-05 Service and Financial Framework (SaFF) targets and recently updated targets.

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

May 2005



NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, March 2005

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May 2005

Paper number: 05/022/caoe/sb/dps

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



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, March 2005

The following information on NHS waiting times is taken from the official statistics that are published by the Statistical Directorate of the National Assembly for Wales. Of all admissions to hospital more than half (58 per cent) are emergencies that are dealt with immediately. Just over a quarter of admissions (28 per cent) are people who have been waiting on a waiting list. The remaining people have a date of admission 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 2004-05 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

The 2004-05 targets for waiting times are effective until 31 March 2005, and therefore relate to the figures in this paper. New targets for 2005-2006 were published on 17 December and these will be included in the June 2005 Waiting Times paper.²

1.1 NHS Acute Hospitals

Unless otherwise stated the following waiting times targets took effect from 1 April 2004.

2004-2005 SaFF hospital waiting times targets for elective procedures:

- ◆ No-one to wait more than 18 months for inpatient/day case treatment*
- ◆ No-one to wait more than 18 months for a first outpatient appointment*
- ◆ No-one to wait more than 4 months for cataract treatment
- ◆ No-one to wait more than 8 months for routine cardiac surgery by March 2005
- ◆ No-one to wait more than 6 months for angiography
- ◆ No-one to wait more than 8 months for routine angioplasty by March 2005

**On 22 December 2004, the Minister for Health and Social Services announced new targets to replace two of the 2004-2005 targets with immediate effect. These are:*

- ◆ All patients to be seen within 12 months for inpatient/daycase treatment or to have received a second offer of treatment. To be sustained throughout 2005-2006.
- ◆ All patients to be seen within 12 months for a first outpatient appointment by 31 March 2006.

The SaFF guidance indicates that the above targets set minimum standards to be achieved across Wales.

¹Welsh Health Circular (2003) 127 *Annual priorities and planning guidance for the service and financial framework 2004-2005* available at: <http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2003/whc-2003-127-e.pdf>

²Welsh 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

1.2 Primary Care Targets

In 2003-2004, the SaFF target was to ensure access to a member of the primary care team within 24 hours by March 2004. In 2004-2005 this has been revised to indicate that 50 per cent of all practices should ensure access to a member of the primary care team within 24 hours.

1.3 Cancer Targets

During 2004-2005, there was no SaFF target set for a waiting times treatment for cancer. However, NHS Trusts were still required to submit quarterly returns relating to the previous SaFF target: '*urgent referrals with a suspected diagnosis of cancer should be seen within 10 working days of receipt by the hospital of the referral*'. This target related to waiting times for patients who were referred as urgent by their GP.

The 2004-2005 target for cancer services set out in Welsh Health Circular (2004) 067 was:³

By the end of September 2004, each Trust to have a system in place to report quarterly, thereafter to Regional Offices on how long cancer patients wait from:

- ◆ receipt of referral at the hospital to start of definitive treatment for newly diagnosed cancer patients that have been referred as urgent suspected cancer (USC) and confirmed as urgent by the specialist;
- ◆ diagnosis to start of definitive treatment for newly diagnosed cancer patients not included as USC referrals.

The SaFF target for 2005-2006 sets out the new waiting times for cancer, in line with the new Cancer Waiting Times Standards for Definitive Treatment (not yet published).⁴ The new target waiting times are as follows:

- ◆ 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 target date for NHS Trusts to comply with this SaFF target is 31 December 2006. From 1 April 2005, NHS Trusts will be required to collect and return monthly waiting times for cancer to the Welsh Assembly Government, and some figures should therefore be available in the June quarterly *Waiting Times* paper.

³ Welsh Health Circular (2004) 067, *Definitions to support the cancer waiting times SaFF target* <http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2004/whc-2004-067-e.pdf>

⁴ Welsh Health Circular (2005) 027, *Monthly data collection of cancer waiting times to start of definitive treatment*, available at http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2005/WHC_2005_027.pdf



2 Inpatient and day case waiting times

Target: All patients to be seen within 12 months or to have received a second offer of treatment. To be sustained throughout 2005-2006.

2.1 Inpatient and day case treatment, by length of wait

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

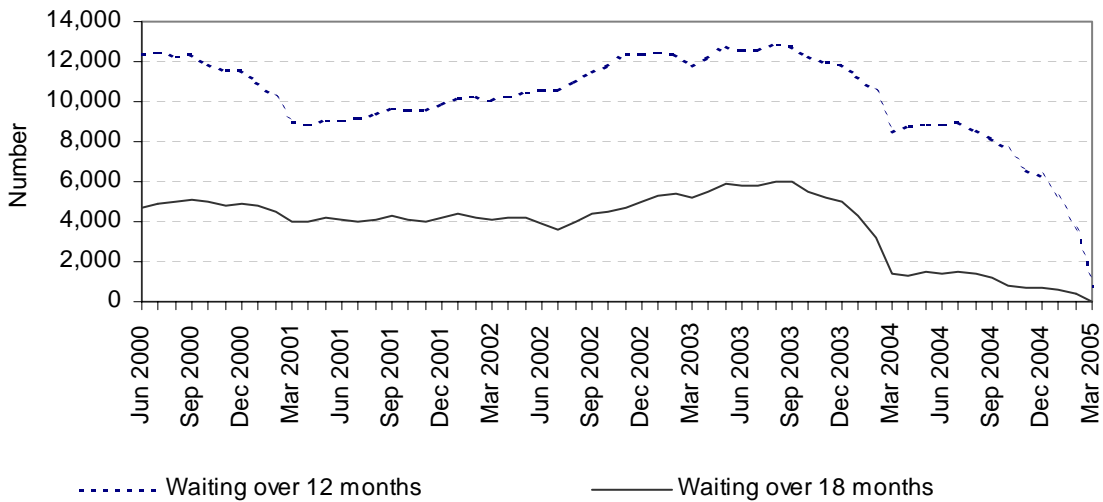
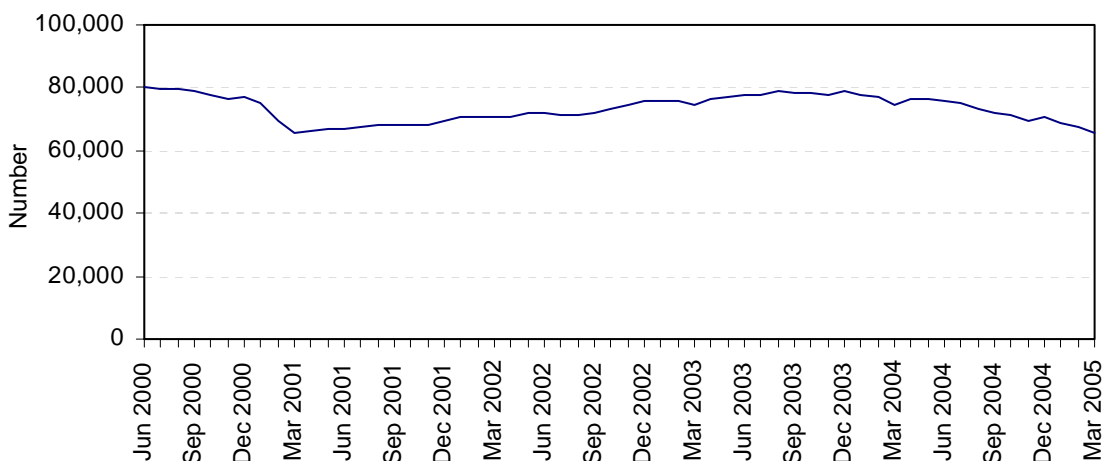


Chart 2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: total



At the end of March 2005:

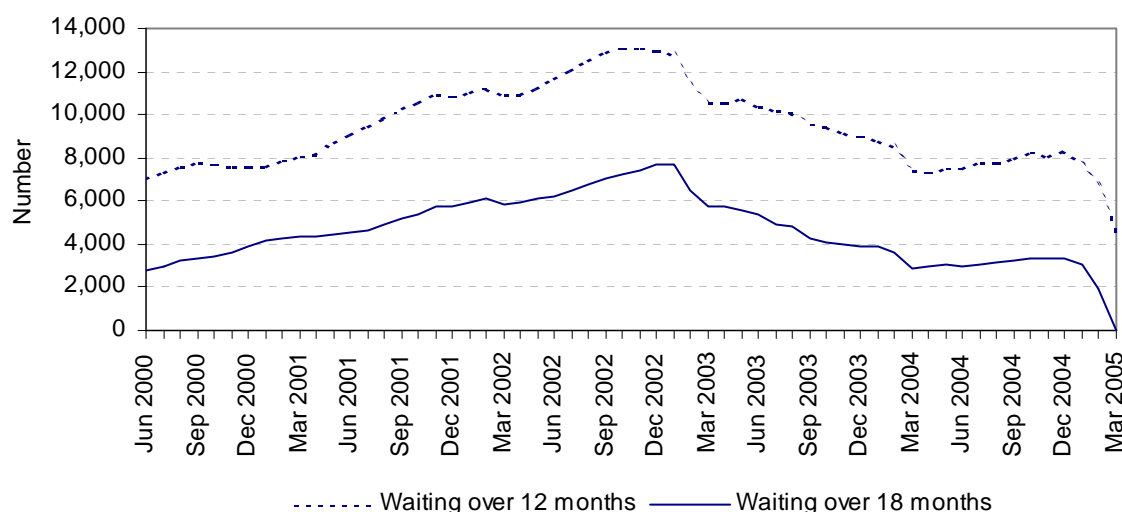
- ◆ There were 21 people who had been waiting over 18 months for inpatient or day case treatment; down from 1,401 in March 2004.



- ◆ There were 845 people who had been waiting over 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment, one per cent of the total number waiting (65,674), and 90 per cent fewer than in March 2004.
- ◆ Numbers of people waiting over 12 months and over 18 months for treatment have steadily declined since July 2004 and remain lower than at any time since June 2000.

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



- ◆ The Trauma and Orthopaedics (T & O) specialty accounts for 80 per cent of all those waiting over 12 months for treatment.
- ◆ Numbers waiting over 12 months for T & O treatment fell from 3,074 to 673 (from 13 to 3 per cent of the total number waiting) between March 2004 and March 2005.
- ◆ In the same period, numbers waiting more than 6 months fell from 10,914 to 7,971 (from 46 – 37 per cent of the total number waiting).
- ◆ Nine people were waiting over 18 months for admission to T & O by March 2005.

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 March 2005 in the seven specialties where previously more than 100 people were waiting over 12 months. The figures are sorted in descending order of those waiting over 12 months.

- ◆ Four specialties, T & O, Plastic Surgery, Urology and ENT had people (total 18) waiting over 18 months for treatment.



- ◆ Two specialties, T & O (673), and general surgery (116) had more than 100 patients waiting over 12 months by March 2005, accounting for 90 per cent of those waiting over 12 months for treatment.

In the three months to March 2005:

- ◆ The number of people waiting over 12 months for admission to T & O fell from 3,529 to 673 (by 81 per cent); in General Surgery the number waiting this long fell by 92 per cent. For ENT, the number waiting this long fell to one.
- ◆ Gynaecology has the third highest number of patients (30) waiting over 12 months for admission, a fall of 82 per cent from the December 2004 figure of 170.
- ◆ The number of people waiting over 6 months for admission to T & O fell by 31 per cent whilst the numbers waiting this long for General Surgery fell by 32 per cent, and for ENT, by 30 per cent.

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.

- ◆ Between December 2004 and March 2005 the numbers waiting for inpatient or day case treatment had fallen in all NHS Trusts with the exception of Powys Local Health Board.
- ◆ By March 2005 Gwent Healthcare was the only Welsh NHS Trust to have any people (9) who had been waiting over 18 months.
- ◆ Three NHS Trusts had more than 100 people waiting over 12 months (Cardiff, Gwent Healthcare and Swansea) with these figures accounting for 96 per cent of all those waiting over 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment.
- ◆ All Trusts reduced the numbers waiting over 12 months for treatment between December 2004 and March 2005. Cardiff, Gwent Healthcare and Swansea reduced their numbers by 68, 89 and 86 per cent respectively.

3 Outpatient waiting times

Target: All patients to be seen within 12 months for a first outpatient appointment by 31 March 2006

3.1 Outpatients, by length of wait

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

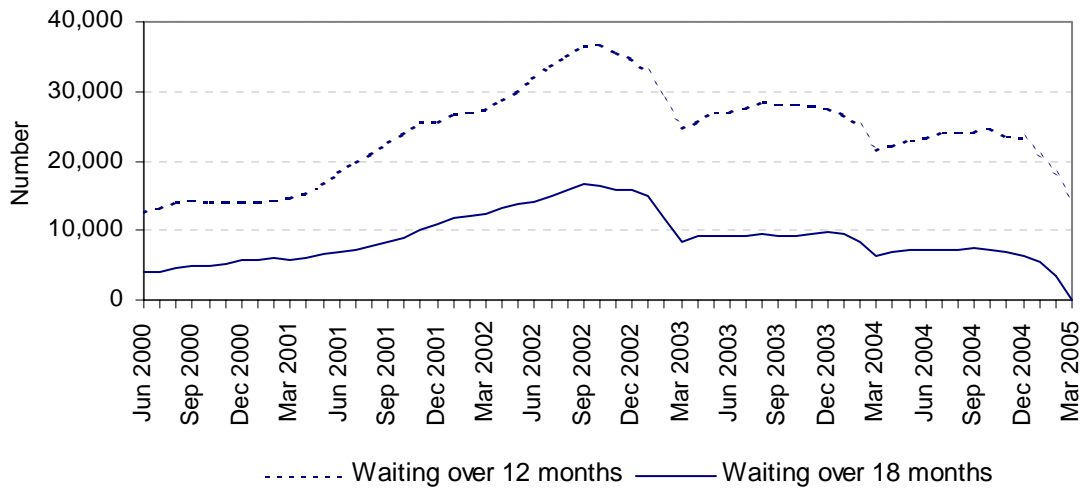
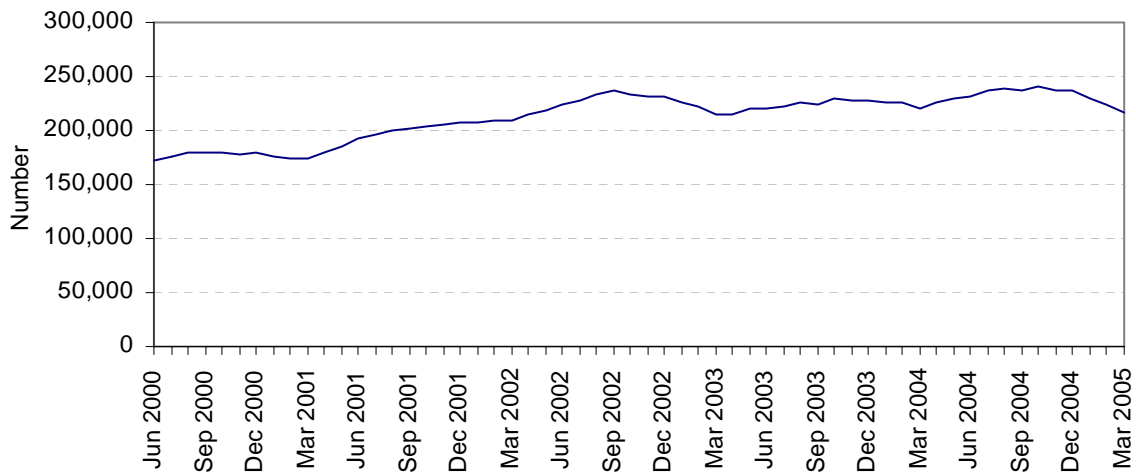


Chart 5: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment: total



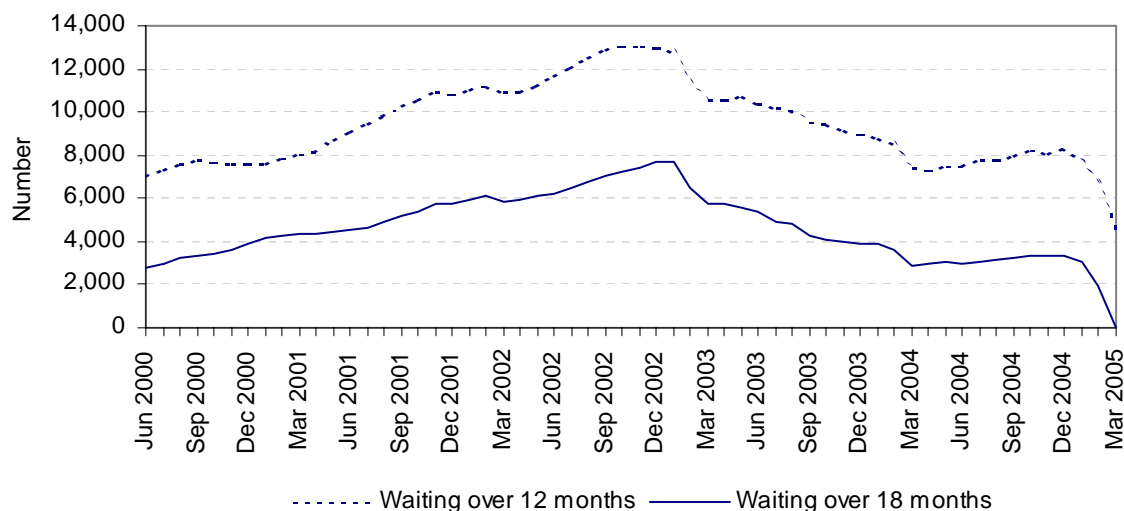
At the end of March 2005:

- ◆ 31 people had been waiting over 18 months for an outpatient appointment, and the lowest number since June 2000.
- ◆ 13,754 people had been waiting over 12 months for an outpatient appointment; 41 per cent less than December 2004, and 36 per cent less than March 2004.

- ◆ The total number waiting for first outpatient appointment was 216,980, 9 per cent lower than in December 2004, but 1 per cent higher than in March 2004.

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



- ◆ 15 people were waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment in T & O at the end of March 2005 compared with 3,379 in December 2004.
- ◆ 4,453 people were waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment in T & O, a fall of 46 per cent since December 2004.
- ◆ T & O accounted for a third (32 per cent) of all those waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment.

3.3 First outpatient appointment, by specialty

Table A3 (see Annex A) shows the numbers of Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment, for the 11 specialties where in December 2004 there were more than 500 people waiting over 12 months. Figures are sorted in descending order of those waiting over 12 months.

- ◆ Three of the 11 specialties (oral surgery, audiological medicine and plastic surgery) had fallen below 500 by March 2005 with the number of people waiting over 12 months being 288, 213 and 168 respectively.
- ◆ Four specialties, T & O, ENT, Dermatology and Ophthalmology had more than 1,000 people waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment in March 2005.
- ◆ Numbers waiting over 12 months fell for all specialties with one exception between December 2004 and March 2005. Numbers waiting for a first outpatient appointment in Ophthalmology (1,009) rose by 10 per cent.

3.4 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 December 2004 and March 2005:

- ◆ The total number waiting for an outpatient appointment decreased in all but 2 NHS Trusts (North East Wales and Pembrokeshire and Derwen).
- ◆ Swansea NHS Trust has 16 people waiting over 18 months for an outpatient appointment.
- ◆ Eight of the 14 NHS Trusts had fewer than 500 people waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment.
- ◆ Four NHS Trusts (Cardiff and Vale, Gwent Healthcare, Swansea and Bro Morgannwg) had more than 1,000 people waiting over 12 months, accounting for 76 per cent of all those waiting over 12 months.
- ◆ However, the number waiting over 12 months in these four Trusts fell from 18,107 to 10,426, a decrease of 42 per cent.

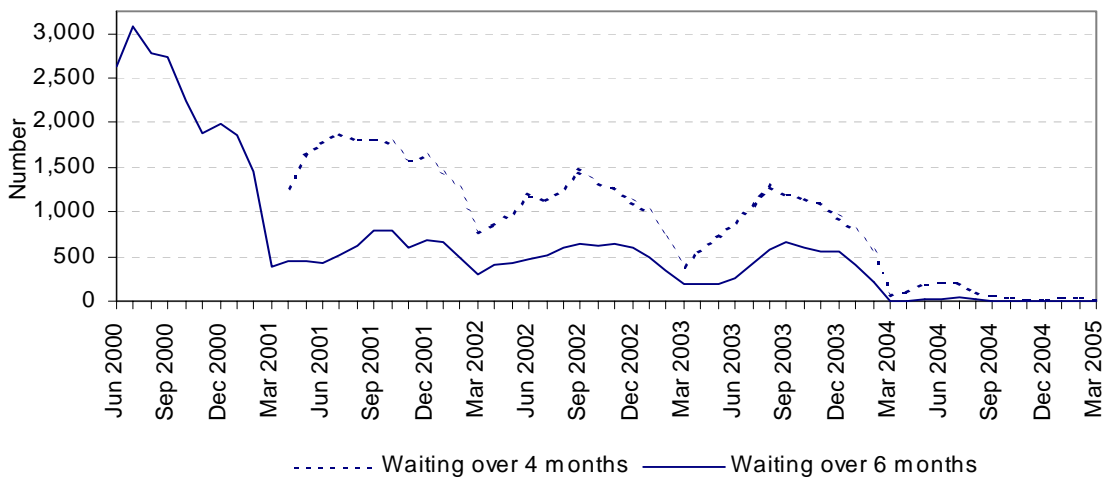


4 Specific Targets: Cataracts, Cardiac Surgery, Angiography, Angioplasty, Primary Care and Cancer

4.1 Cataract Surgery

Target: No-one to wait more than 4 months for cataract surgery

Chart 7: Cataract surgery. Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, waiting over 4^(a) and over 6 months



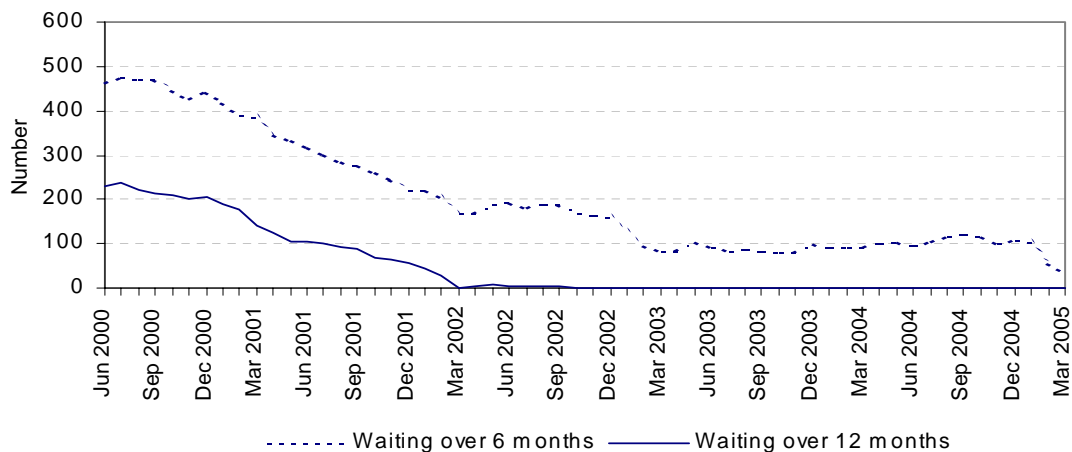
^(a) Collection of information on patients waiting over 4 months commenced from April 2001.

- ◆ 18 people had been waiting over 4 months for cataract surgery at the end of March 2005 and one person waiting over 6 months.

4.2 Cardiac Surgery

Target: No-one to wait more than 8 months for cardiac surgery by March 2005

Chart 8: Cardiac surgery specialty^(a). Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, waiting over 6 and over 12 months



^(a) Figures include cardio-thoracic and paediatric cardiac surgery as well as adult cardiac surgery

Figures for the number of patients waiting over 8 months for cardiac surgery have only been collated since June 2004 and are therefore not included in the chart.

At the end of March 2005:

- ◆ No-one was waiting over 8 months for cardiac surgery
- ◆ 33 people were waiting over 6 months for cardiac surgery, 70 per cent less than the December 2004 total of 109.

4.3 Angiography

Target: No one to wait more than 6 months for angiography

At the end of March 2005, there was one patient waiting longer than 6 months for an angiogram.

4.4 Angioplasty

Target: No-one to wait more than 8 months for routine angioplasty

At the end of March 2005, there were 0 patients who had been waiting longer than 8 months for angioplasty.

4.5 Primary Care

Target: 50 per cent of all practices to ensure access to a member of the primary care team within 24 hours.

At present data are not available from all GP practices in Wales to allow performance against this measure to be monitored at an all-Wales level.

4.6 Cancer

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

NHS Trusts began monitoring these targets on 1 April 2005 and will be making monthly returns to the Welsh Assembly Government from the beginning of May (see page 2 for further details).

5 Second Offer Scheme

The Second Offer Scheme Team has provided the Welsh Assembly Government with figures for the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, and these are presented in Tables 1 – 4. These tables 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 Second Offer Scheme to the end of March 2005 are:

- ◆ As a result of second offers of treatment being extended to those who would potentially have waited more than 12 months, 18,633 patients have been made an offer, and 7,722 (41 per cent) have accepted.
- ◆ 11,523 patients have received treatment through Second Offer Scheme money, 7,142 (62 per cent) through in-house solutions, and 4,381 (38 per cent) from an alternative provider.
- ◆ The difference between the percentage of patients who have accepted the offer made to them is wide-ranging: from 84 per cent (North East Wales), through 56 per cent (Pontypridd and Rhondda) and 53 per cent (Gwent) to 17 per cent (Carmarthenshire).
- ◆ Most Trusts with higher percentages of patients who accept an offer make more use of in-house or local alternative providers than those Trusts with lower uptake percentages.
- ◆ The highest percentage of those who have declined an offer (61 per cent) is of patients from Ceredigion. The Trust with the next highest percentage (51 per cent) is Cardiff and Vale.
- ◆ Cardiff BUPA and the Nuffield Hospital Group were the two most often used alternative providers of treatment. Of the 4,381 patients treated by an alternative provider, 1,631 received their treatment from Cardiff BUPA and 503 from the Nuffield Hospital Group.
- ◆ At least 1,420 (32 per cent) of the patients who received treatment from an alternative provider were treated in England, 11 per cent higher than the previous quarter. 325 of the patients treated by an alternative provider were categorised as having received their treatment from “various” providers.
- ◆ The most frequently given reason for declining an offer (2,595) remains the same as the December 2004 quarter, i.e. that patients did not wish to transfer either their consultant or location. The majority of these patients (2,566) were from Cardiff and Vale.



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

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	Patients accepted but ineligible	Patients referred to an alternative provider
Cardiff & Vale	8,450	2,734	4,294	203	989	230	3,113
Carmarthenshire	452	78	137	140	23	74	128
Ceredigion	297	114	181	0	1	1	35
Gwent	3,411	1,792	427	10	190	992	1,240
North East Wales	329	275	25	0	29	0	296
Pontypridd & Rhondda	871	485	129	11	231	15	334
Swansea	4,823	2,244	2,085	26	257	211	1,271
All Wales	18,633	7,722	7,278	390	1,720	1,523	6,417

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

Table 2: Patients treated through the Second Offer Scheme

NHS Trust	Treated through in-house solutions	Treated by an alternative provider	Total
Bro Morgannwg	594	0	594
Cardiff & Vale	1,037	1,691	2,728
Carmarthenshire	616	55	671
Ceredigion	216	34	250
Conwy & Denbighshire	236	0	236
Gwent	1,753	946	2,699
North East Wales	143	233	376
North Glamorgan	204	0	204
North West Wales	291	0	291
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	458	0	458
Pontypridd & Rhondda	38	274	312
Powys	0	0	0
Swansea	1,556	1,148	2,704
All Wales	7,142	4,381	11,523

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

NHS Trust	Cardiff & Vale	Cardiff Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Gwent	North East Wales	Pontypridd & Rhondda	Swansea	All Wales
Cardiff BUPA	1,127	0	29	138	0	184	153	1,631
Nuffield Hospital (1)	152	13	1	175	0	3	159	503
Weston NHS Trust	254	0	0	6	0	0	0	260
Kidderminster Treatment Centre	30	0	0	16	0	0	0	46
Worcester BUPA	82	0	0	81	0	0	0	163
Bristol BUPA	46	42	0	126	0	75	159	448
Sancta Maria (Swansea)	0	0	0	0	0	0	212	212
St Josephs Newport	0	0	0	404	0	0	0	404
Wrexham BUPA	0	0	0	0	233	0	0	233
Werndale - Carmarthen	0	0	4	0	0	0	152	156
Various	0	0	0	0	0	12	313	325
Total	1,691	55	34	946	233	274	1,148	4,381

(1) The Welsh Assembly Government has stated that in the Nuffield Hospital Group patients may be referred to one of a number of their hospitals. These are most likely to be in Bristol, Warwick, Cheltenham, Birmingham, Hereford or Taunton. It is also possible patients might be referred to Oxford or Slough.

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

NHS Trust	Treatment no longer required	Transport arrangements	Social reasons	Receiving provider not known	Patient choice	Patient prefers to remain with consultant	Does not wish to travel	Deferred/ removed from waiting list	Will not transfer consultant / location	Too old/ not well	Various	Reason unknown	Total
Cardiff & Vale	201	4	28	445	1	36	0	40	2,566	0	905	68	4,294
Carmarthen	11	58	34	2	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137
Ceredigion	0	15	110	38	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	8	181
Gwent	46	0	223	0	158	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	427
North East Wales	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	25
Pontypridd & Rhondda	28	12	0	0	0	66	14	0	0	0	0	9	129
Swansea	136	24	290	0	0	19	321	0	0	43	0	(1)1,252	2,085
All Wales	422	113	685	491	191	121	335	40	2,595	43	905	1,337	7,278

(1) Reasons were not collected between November 2004 and January 2005

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

In March 2005:

- ◆ The total number of patients experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 700. Of these 216 were delayed in mental health facilities and 484 were in other acute and community hospitals.
- ◆ The number of patients experiencing delays was 5 per cent less than in December 2004 and 31 per cent less than in March 2004.
- ◆ The beds occupied by people experiencing delays represented 4.9 per cent of all available beds; down from 5.2 per cent in December 2004.
- ◆ Delays for social care reasons accounted for 23 per cent of all delays, compared to 30 per cent for healthcare reasons and 47 per cent for other reasons. The reduction in the previous 12 months was greatest in delays for social care reasons which accounted for 23 per cent of all delays in March 2005 compared with 37 per cent of all delays in March 2004.

⁵ The Statistical Release SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2005
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/health/2005/hdw20050426-e.htm>

7 Waiting times in England and Scotland

7.1 England

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 December 2004.

The latest information on waiting lists in England, relating to December 2004, can be accessed on the Department of Health website.⁶

Since waiting list numbers in Wales have declined substantially between December 2004 and March 2005, this should be taken into account when making comparisons.

Inpatient or day case waiting times

In Table 5, caution should be exercised in comparing information from two different collection systems as definitions may not be interpreted in exactly the same way, even though the same definitions are broadly applied.

Table 5: Residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: December 2004

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	70,646	241.9	843,026	170.1
Waiting over 6 months	23,342	79.9	66,270	13.4
Waiting over 9 months	..	..	86	0.0
Waiting over 12 months	6,293	21.6	24	0.0
Waiting over 18 months	678	2.3	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales websites

At the end of December 2004:

- ◆ 6,293 people in Wales were recorded as having waited more than 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment compared to 24 in England.
- ◆ As a rate per 10,000 head of population, the number of people waiting over 6 and over 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment in Wales was higher than 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.

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

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

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

Table 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 December 2004.

Table 6: Residents waiting for first outpatient appointment: December 2004

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	236,978	811.6	3,505,292(a)	707.2
Waiting over 3 months	130,227	446.0	62,518(b)	12.6
Waiting over 5 months	..	..	114(b)	0.0
Waiting over 6 months	76,568	262.2	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales websites

- (a) Total figure for England includes both GP written referrals (2,359,942) and referrals from other sources (1,145,350).
- (b) 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 December 2003 to December 2004 (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 was provided in an earlier Members' Research Service quarterly bulletin.⁷ Latest figures for Scotland are available from the website of the Information Services Division of NHS Scotland (ISD Scotland), which also includes an explanation of the categories of the Availability Status Code (ASC) used in Table 7 below.⁸

It would not be valid to compare the rates for Scotland in Table 7 with those for England and Wales in Table 5 because the comparable rate in Scotland would lie somewhere below the waiting list rate of 222.5 per 10,000 population shown for December 2004.

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

	December 2003	March 2003	June 2004	September 2004	December 2004
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	112,023	110,277	112,375	112,537	113,612
of which: number waiting with an ASC(a)	28,947	28,949	30,228	31,398	32,801
Waiting over 6 months (b)	8,508	5,729	6,161	7,512	5,976
Waiting over 9 months (b)	0	1	0	0	1
Waiting over 12 months (b)	0	0	..	..	..
<i>Rate per 10,000 population(c)</i>					
On waiting list	221.8	218.4	222.5	222.8	225.0
of which: number waiting with an ASC (a)	57.3	57.3	59.9	62.2	65.0
Waiting over 6 months (b)	16.8	11.3	12.2	14.9	11.8
Waiting over 9 months (b)	..	0.0	..	..	0.0
Waiting over 12 months (b)	..	..	..	..	..

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

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

Source: ISD Scotland

(c) Rates are based on latest ONS Key Population and Vital Statistics

Outpatient waiting times

Until March 2004, the numbers of people in Scotland waiting for a first outpatient appointment were not collected centrally. However, during 2004, the development of a monitoring and reporting system to enable performance to be measured against a new target of a maximum 6 month wait at 31 December 2005 for a new outpatient appointment

⁷ <http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/committeeresearchpapers/health/health-e.htm>

⁸ http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?p_service=Content.show&pContentID=670&p_applic=CCC&



means that some figures are now available. Table 8 contains figures for the total numbers of patients together with those waiting more than 6 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of September and December 2004. 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 appointment⁹

	30 September 2004		31 December 2004	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	265,228	525.2	240,883	477.0
Waiting over 6 months	53,579	106.1	45,056	89.2

Sources: National Assembly for Wales intranet and website
 Statistical releases on NHS Waiting Times, SDR 43/2005 and earlier issues
 Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government
 SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: December 2004
 Department of Health website
 Information and Statistics Division, NHS Scotland
 Office for National Statistics

⁹http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/collect2.jsp?pContentID=1272&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&



Annex A: Waiting times for inpatients/day cases and outpatients: Statistical tables

Table A1: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by specialty as at 31 March 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	21,303	7,971	673	9
General Surgery	13,115	3,241	116	0
Gynaecology	5,440	1,080	30	0
Urology	5,059	801	15	1
Plastic Surgery	1,493	283	7	7
Ear, Nose and Throat	7,032	1,941	1	1
Neurosurgery	473	107	0	0
All other specialties	11,759	945	3	3
All specialties	65,674	16,369	845	21

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

Table A2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by Trust as at 31 March 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,380	919	12	12
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	4,368	840	0	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	11,601	3,973	513	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	4,625	1,097	24	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	1,397	333	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	5,096	1,050	0	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	10,954	3,214	130	9
North East Wales NHS Trust	3,272	660	0	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	2,407	659	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	3,199	315	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	1,967	639	0	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	4,070	1,034	2	0
Powys Local Health Board	750	154	0	0
Swansea NHS Trust	7,579	1,482	164	0
Velindre NHS Trust	8	0	0	0
Total	65,674	16,369	845	21



Table A3: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by specialty as at 31 March 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	37,137	15,355	4,453	15
Ear, Nose and Throat	22,571	6,279	1,464	0
Dermatology	22,437	7,306	1,299	0
Ophthalmology	22,641	6,167	1,009	0
General Surgery	18,711	3,805	765	0
General Medicine	18,658	4,150	704	0
Other Neurology	4,276	1,679	540	1
Rheumatology	5,434	1,877	514	0
Oral Surgery	9,290	2,522	288	0
Audiological Medicine	1,755	786	213	0
Plastic Surgery	1,413	773	168	11
All Other Specialties	52,657	11,992	2,337	4
All Specialties	216,980	62,691	13,754	31

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 31 March 2005

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,614	829	179	15
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	20,635	5,455	1,161	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	43,791	16,770	4,051	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	14,357	3,952	974	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	4,011	680	9	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	12,204	1,363	307	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	43,118	14,126	2,795	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	11,275	2,561	455	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	8,740	2,145	359	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	6,096	338	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	7,447	2,180	442	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	12,848	3,224	561	0
Powys Local Health Board	3,058	170	42	0
Swansea NHS Trust	24,703	8,898	2,419	16
Velindre NHS Trust	83	0	0	0
Total	216,980	62,691	13,754	31



Annex B: Delayed transfers of care: Statistical tables

Table B1: Delayed transfers of care, by Region and NHS Trust, Mar 2004 - Mar 2005(a)

	Mar 2004	Jun 2004	Sep 2004	Dec 2004	Mar 2005
Mid and West Wales	348	275	250	205	186
Bro Morgannwg	51	49	36	40	37
Carmarthenshire	100	59	24	19	19
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	18	12	17	15	16
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	63	45	69	42	37
Powys Healthcare	27	30	21	16	11
Swansea	89	80	83	73	66
North Wales	136	122	110	124	147
Conwy and Denbighshire	44	31	22	20	28
North East Wales	61	61	58	69	77
North West Wales	31	30	30	35	42
South East Wales	526	459	425	409	367
Cardiff and Vale	191	169	163	200	184
Gwent	232	190	178	118	104
North Glamorgan	48	49	30	44	45
Pontypridd and Rhondda	55	51	54	46	33
Velindre	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1,010	856	785	738	700

Source: SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2005 and earlier editions, Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figures for acute and mental health services

Table B2: Delayed transfers of care, by Region, NHS Trusts and reason for delay, March 2005(a)

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	60	62	64	0	186	
Bro Morgannwg	12	11	14	0	37	2.9
Carmarthenshire	4	5	10	0	19	2.7
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	1	2	13	0	16	7.1
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	21	6	10	0	37	6.4
Powys Healthcare	6	3	2	0	11	2.7
Swansea	16	35	15	0	66	3.9
North Wales	28	53	63	3	147	
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	12	14	2	28	2.8
North East Wales	25	31	21	0	77	8.0
North West Wales	3	10	28	1	42	3.6
South East Wales	71	94	201	1	367	
Cardiff and Vale	18	62	104	0	184	8.2
Gwent	36	15	53	0	104	4.5
North Glamorgan	9	12	24	0	45	6.3
Pontypridd and Rhondda	8	5	19	1	33	3.7
Velindre	0	0	1	0	1	1.5
Total	159	209	328	4	700	4.9

Source: SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2005, Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figures for acute and mental health services

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

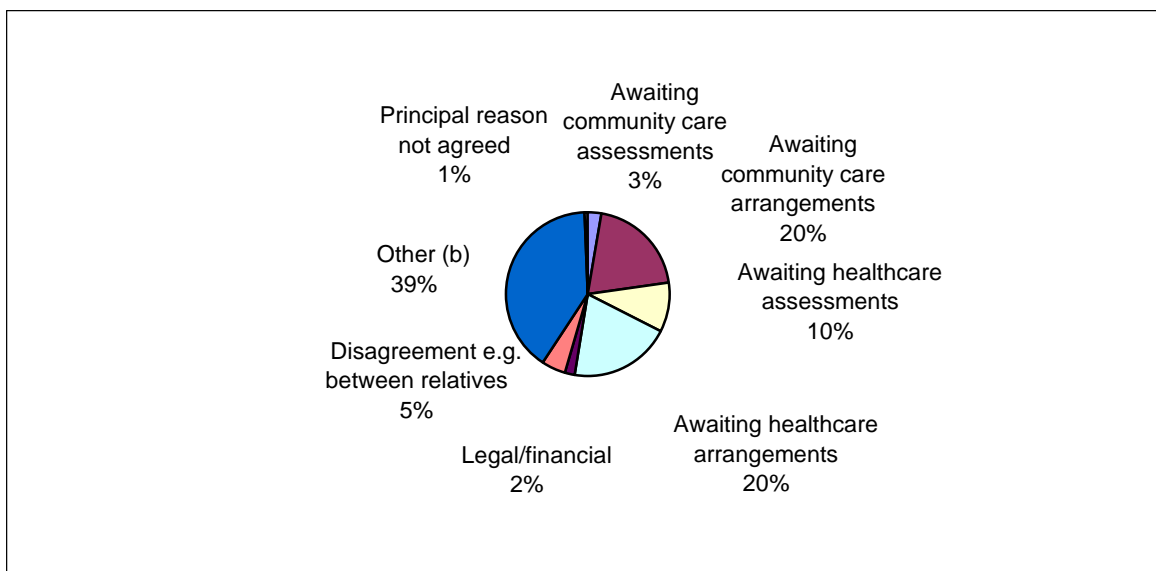
Reason for delay	Number	Per cent
Social Care reasons	159	22.7
Awaiting community care assessments	19	2.7
Awaiting community care arrangements	140	20
Health Care reasons	209	29.9
Awaiting healthcare assessments	69	9.9
Awaiting healthcare arrangements	140	20
Patient/carer/family-related reasons	328	46.9
Legal/financial	13	1.9
Disagreement e.g. between relatives	33	4.7
Other (b)	282	40.3
Other		
Principal reason not agreed	4	0.6
Total	700	100

Source: SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2005, Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figures 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, March 2005



Source: SDR 42/2005 Delayed Transfers of Care: March 2005, Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figures for acute and mental health services

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

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

1. StatsWales

The Welsh Assembly Government's statistical database 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.¹⁰

The latest quarterly statistical release, SDR 43/2005, *NHS Wales Waiting Times: at end March 2005*, was published on 27 April 2005.¹¹

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 2002-03, such as morbidity and details of emergency admissions, are in the 2004 edition of the annual *Health Statistics Wales*, which is available electronically and in hardback copy from the Members' Library.¹² *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 to 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.

¹⁰ <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

¹¹ <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/sdr43-2005/sdr43-2005.pdf>

¹² Health Statistics Wales, 2004

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2003/hsw2004/hsw2004-intro-e.htm>



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.

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.*)