

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 December 2005

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

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

February 2006

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Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, 31 December 2005

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February 2006

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NHS Wales Hospital Waiting Times, September 2005

Introduction

The following information for NHS waiting times is taken from a number of sources. These include official statistics, published by the Statistical Directorate or provided by the Health and Social Care Department of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Health of Wales Information Site (HOWIS). Statistics for England and Scotland are those published by the Department of Health and Scottish Executive.

In Wales, more than half (58 per cent) of all admissions to hospital are emergencies that are dealt with immediately. Just over a quarter of all admissions (28 per cent) are people who have been waiting on a waiting list. The remaining people have an admission date that has been booked ahead or are subject to a plan to be admitted after a period of time based on medical or social criteria.

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1 NHS Waiting Times Targets

The 2005-06 targets are set out in the Service and Financial Framework (SaFF), the agreements between the Welsh Assembly Government and NHS organisations that form part of the performance management arrangements between these bodies.

1.1 NHS Acute Hospitals

Unless otherwise stated the following waiting times targets contained in Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance for the Service and Financial Framework 2005-06*, set minimum standards to be achieved across Wales by 31 March 2006.¹ Two new waiting times targets are now included, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Accident and Emergency (A & E). A third new target, Cardiac Revascularisation, combines the former targets for Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty.

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

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

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

^(b) Target date: 31 March 2007. Interim targets based on current performance are due to be set by the Welsh Assembly Government by 1 September 2005.

1.2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

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

1.3 Cardiac Revascularisation

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

¹ Welsh Health Circular (2004) 083 *Annual priorities and planning guidance for the service and financial framework 2005-06*, 17 December 2004, available at http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2004/WHC_2004_083.pdf

1.4 Cancer Targets (Standards)

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

2005-2006 SaFF Cancer Standards

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

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

Cancers covered by the 2005-06 Standards

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

Details of the cancer waiting times are set out in the Welsh Health Circular *Cancer Services in Wales – Publication of National Cancer Standards and the Implication for Commissioners and Providers, Through the Cancer Networks.*²

² Welsh Health Circular (2005) 051, *Cancer Services in Wales - Publication of National cancer Standards and the implication for Commissioners and Providers, through the Cancer Networks*, available at http://assembly/health/Key-Publications/Circulars/2005/WHC_2005_051%20ENGLISH.pdf.

2 Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times

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

2.1 Inpatient and day case treatment, by length of wait

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

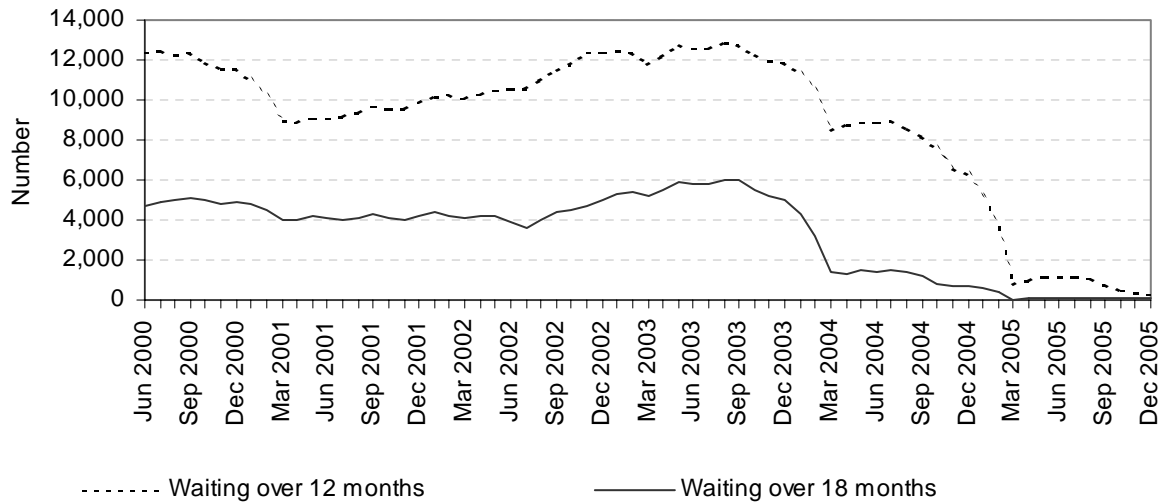
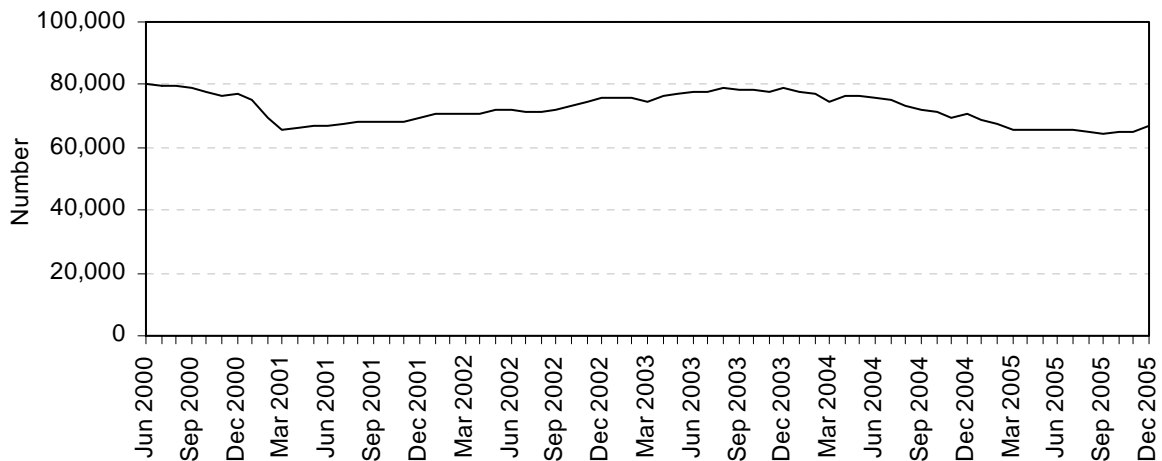


Chart 2: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: total

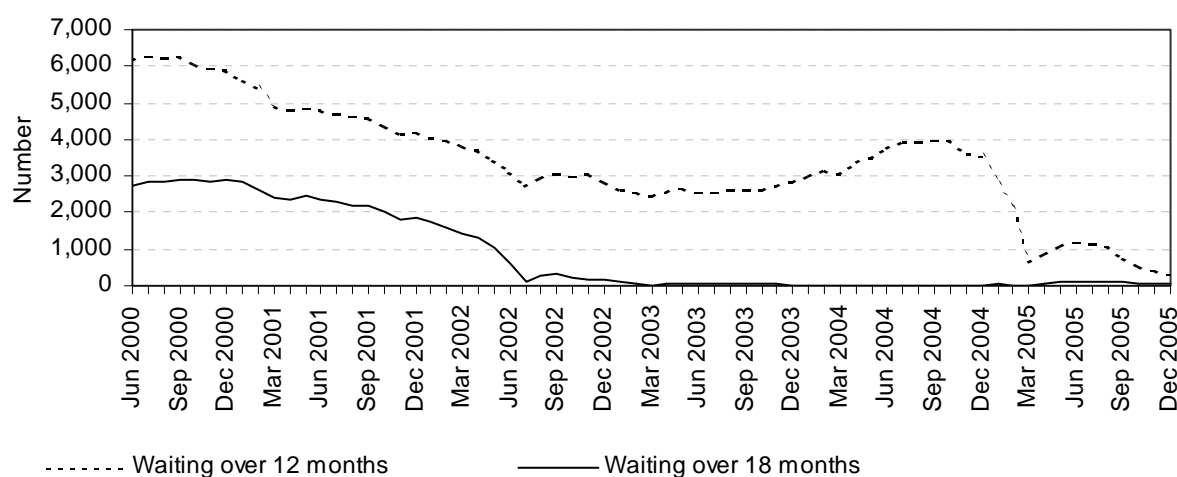


At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 309 people were waiting over 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment, down from 744. This was a decrease of 435 since the previous quarter, and represents 0.5 per cent of the 66,843 total number waiting.
- ◆ The number of people waiting over 18 months for inpatient or day case treatment also decreased from 91 to 53 people between September and December 2005.
- ◆ Of those people on the inpatient or day case waiting list, 77 per cent were treated within 6 months, an increase of 1 percentage point.

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

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



At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ The number waiting over 12 months for T & O treatment fell from 760 to 306 between September and December 2005, and accounted for all but 3 of those waiting that length of time.
- ◆ 67 per cent of T & O patients were treated within 6 months compared with the 77 per cent average for all specialties.
- ◆ All 53 people waiting over 18 months for admission were waiting for Trauma and Orthopaedics (T & O) treatment.

2.3 Inpatient or day case treatment, by specialty

Table A1 (see Annex A) shows the number of Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment at the end of June 2005 in the 6 specialties with the highest numbers waiting. The figures show that:

- ◆ The majority of specialties achieved the SaFF target with no patients waiting over 12 months. Those who had not were T & O (306), General Surgery (2) and Cardiothoracic (1).

2.4 Inpatient or day case treatment, by NHS Trust

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

At December 2005:

- ◆ The number of NHS Trusts with people waiting over 12 months has fallen from 5 to 3, Cardiff and Vale (293), Gwent (8) and Pembrokeshire and Derwen (2).
- ◆ 23 per cent (15,444) of the total number (66,843) were waiting over 6 months for inpatient or day case treatment.
- ◆ The number of NHS Trusts with people waiting over 18 months fell to 1. Cardiff and Vale had 52 people waiting, a reduction of 15 since the September quarter.

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

At December 2005:

- ◆ 16 of the 22 LHBs had people waiting over 12 months, but only 4 had more than 10 people, Cardiff (134), Vale of Glamorgan (73), Rhondda Cynon Taff (27) and Caerphilly (22).
- ◆ 4 LHBs had more than 1,000 people waiting over 6 months, Cardiff (2,112), Rhondda Cynon Taff (1,190), Swansea (1,089) and Carmarthenshire (1,030).
- ◆ 12 LHBs had people waiting over 18 months, those with the most people waiting were Cardiff (19) and Vale of Glamorgan (12).

3 Outpatient Waiting Times

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

3.1 Outpatients, by length of wait

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

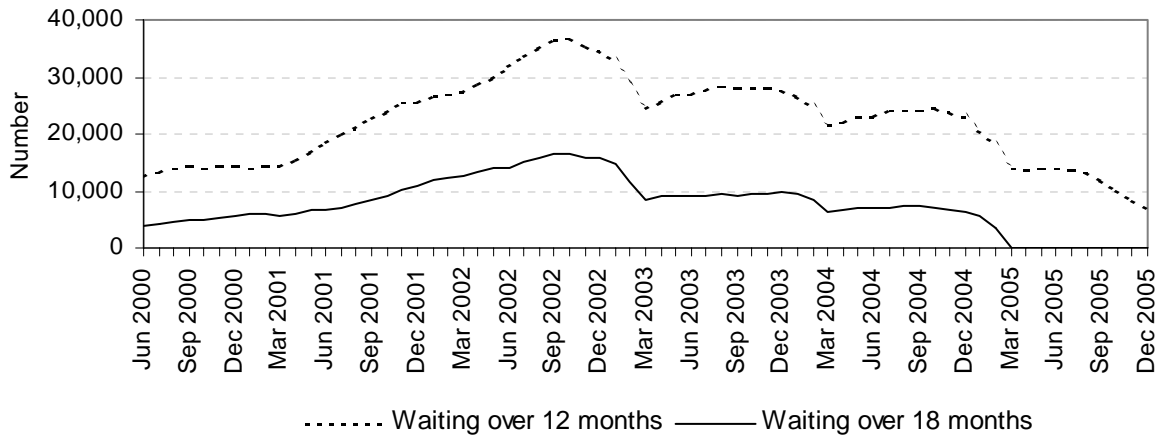
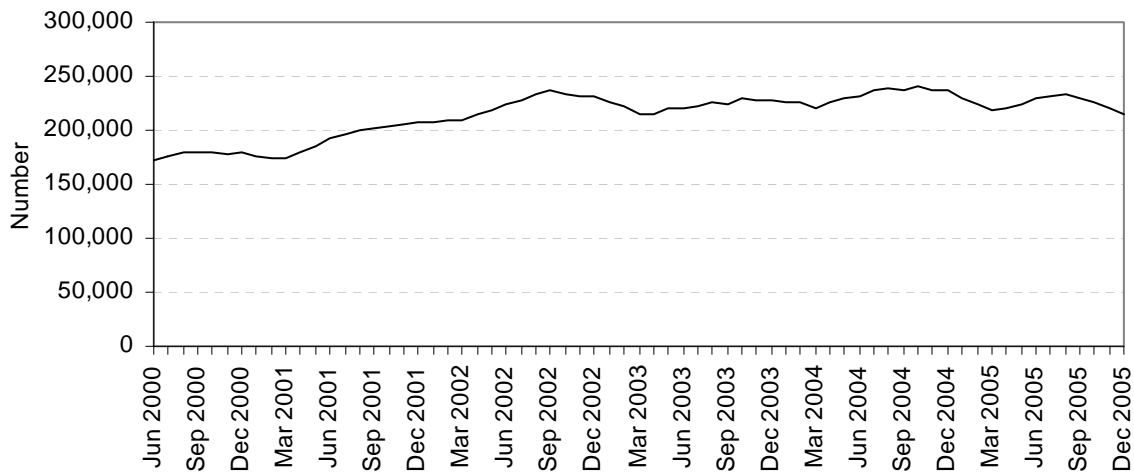


Chart 5: Welsh residents waiting for a first outpatient appointment: total

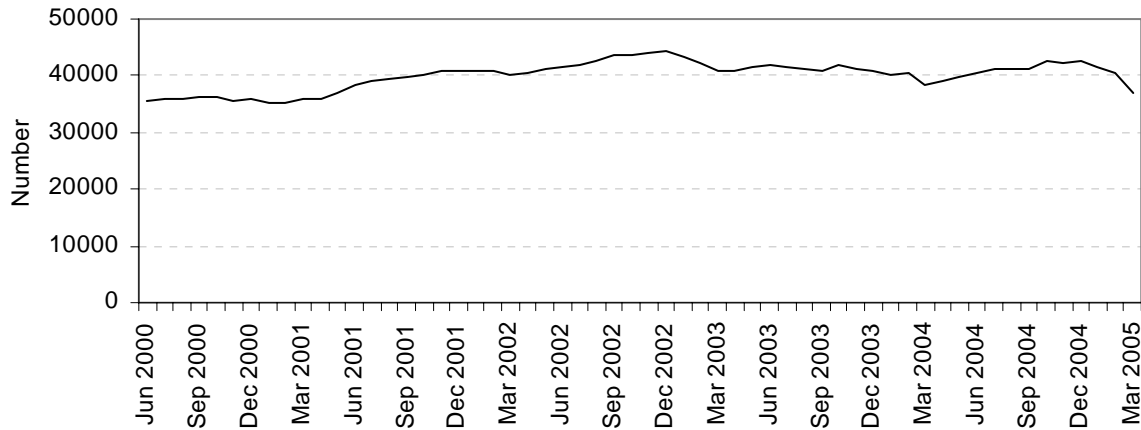


At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 78 people had been waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment, an increase of 21 since the last quarter.
- ◆ The number waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment fell from 11,786 to 6,996 and for those waiting over 6 months, from 58,996 to 56,250. The percentage of those seen within 6 months was maintained at 74 per cent.

3.2 Trauma and Orthopaedics outpatients, by length of wait

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



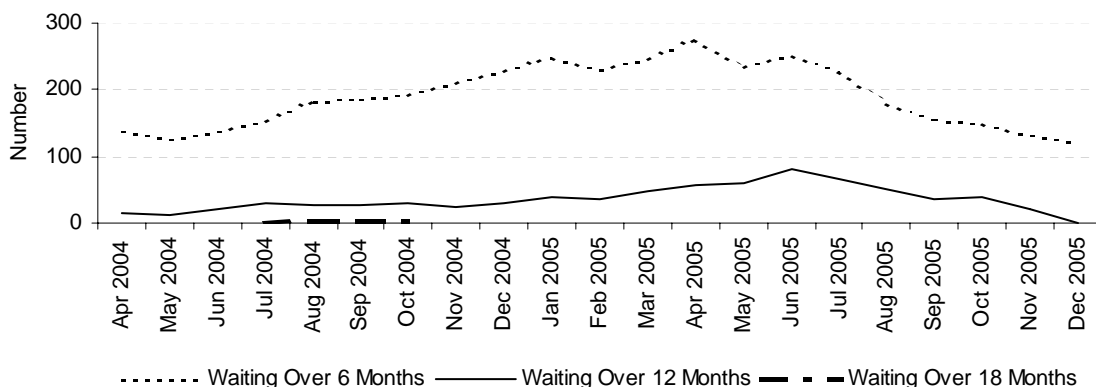
At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ The number of people waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment with T & O fell from 3,684 to 1,910.
- ◆ Those waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment with T & O accounted for 27 per cent of all those waiting over 12 months, a decrease of 4 percentage point since September 2005.
- ◆ Only 1 person was waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment with T & O.

3.3 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

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

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



- ◆ The number of children and adolescents waiting over 6 months for a first outpatient appointment fell from 156 to 119, a reduction of nearly a quarter (23 per cent) in the number waiting that length of time.
- ◆ The total number of children and adolescents waiting for a first outpatient appointment had fallen and none were waiting over 12 months.
- ◆ Of the 911 patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment, 340 were waiting over 3 months, a reduction of 51 over the previous quarter (391). This represents a fall of 6 percentage points (from 43 to 37 per cent).

3.4 First outpatient appointment, by specialty

Table A4 (see Annex A) shows the 14 specialties with over 100 Welsh residents waiting over 12 months for a first outpatient appointment at the end of December 2005.

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ Only 1 specialty, T & O, had more than 1,000 people waiting over 12 months. However, the number had fallen from 3,684 to 1,910 since September 2005.
- ◆ 5 of the 14 specialties had more than 500 people waiting over 12 months and 4 had people waiting over 18 months, Orthodontics (69), T & O and ENT (1 each) and Plastic Surgery (7).
- ◆ Of the 56,250 people waiting over 6 months, 54 per cent (30,212) were waiting for 4 specialties, T & O (13,189), ENT (5,911), Ophthalmology (5,647) and Dermatology (5,465).

3.5 First outpatient appointment, by NHS Trust

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

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ Velindre NHS Trust had no people and Ceredigion and Mid-Wales had 1 person waiting over 12 months. Of the rest, 5 NHS Trusts had more than 500 people waiting, a reduction of 2 compared with the previous quarter.
- ◆ Only 1 NHS Trust, Cardiff and Vale (2,379), had more than 1,000 people waiting over 12 months, down from 3,812 in the previous quarter.

3.6 First outpatient appointment, by Local Health Board (LHB)

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

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 7 LHBs had people waiting over 18 months for a first outpatient appointment of which Powys (64) had the largest number.

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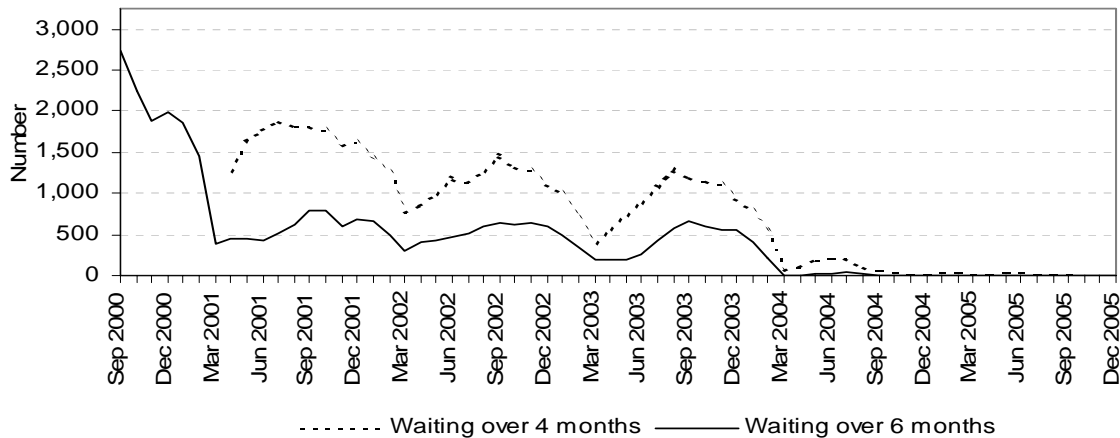
- ◆ Only 4 LHBs had over 500 people waiting and only 1, Cardiff and Vale (1,468) had over 1,000.

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

4.1 Cataract Surgery

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

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



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

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ No-one was waiting over 4 months for cataract surgery.

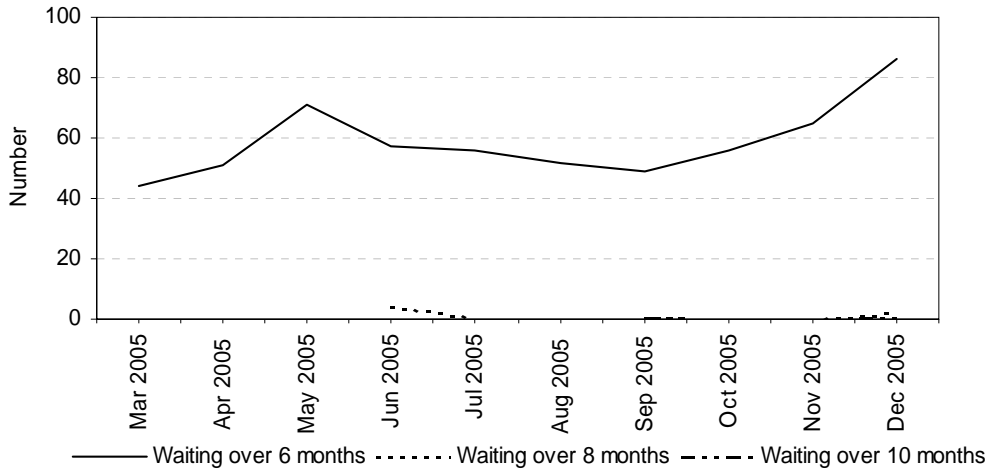
4.2 Cardiac Revascularisation ³

Target: All patients to be seen within 6 months.

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



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



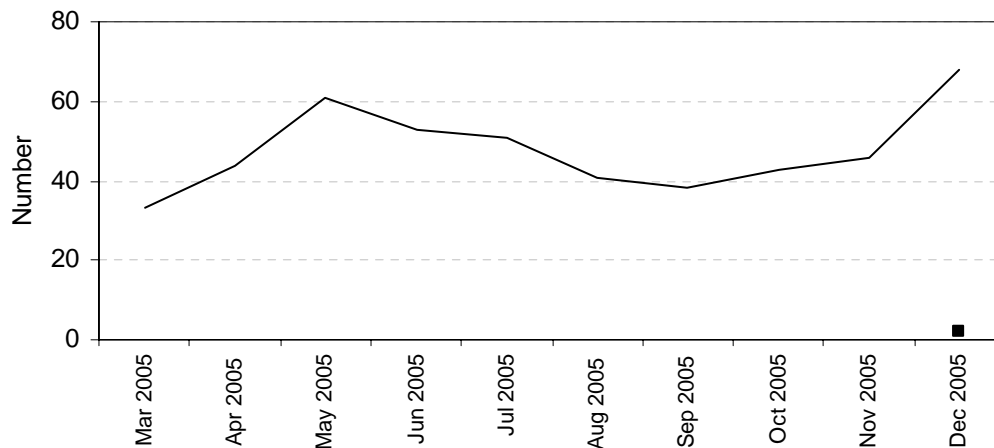
At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 86 people were waiting over 6 months, 2 were waiting over 8 months and 1 was waiting over 10 months for cardiac revascularisation.

4.3 Angiography

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

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



At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ 68 people were waiting over 4 months and 2 over 8 months for angiography. 2 other people were waiting over 10 and over 12 months respectively.

4.4 Cancer

Targets:

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

Since 1 April 2005, NHS Trusts have been collecting and making monthly returns for cancer waiting times to the Welsh Assembly Government. Figures have been published for 3 of the cancer sites in the cancer Welsh health circular, breast, lung and upper gastrointestinal and for one other, lower gastrointestinal cancer. Figures for the four cancer sites and the percentages of those treated within the cancer standard targets are reproduced below in Tables 1 and 2, by Welsh region.

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

Region	USC Patients starting treatment within 62 days of diagnosis							
	Breast		Lower Gastro-intestinal		Lung		Upper Gastro-intestinal	
North Wales	52	100%	18	55%	28	88%	2	33%
Mid and West Wales	67	97%	13	57%	15	63%	6	86%
South East Wales	77	80%	33	80%	49	59%	15	88%
Wales	196	90%	64	66%	92	66%	23	77%

Table 2: Welsh residents with non-urgent suspected cancer (non-USC), as at end of September 2005

Region	Non-USC Patients starting treatment within 31 days of diagnosis							
	Breast		Lower Gastro-intestinal		Lung		Upper Gastro-intestinal	
North Wales	87	100%	67	82%	68	93%	45	96%
Mid and West Wales	71	79%	71	89%	35	76%	43	93%
South East Wales	89	87%	75	94%	80	96%	37	93%
Wales	247	89%	213	88%	183	91%	125	94%

4.5 Accident and Emergency (A & E) waiting times

Targets:

- a) *95 per cent of all patients to spend less than 4 hours in Accident and Emergency (A&E) from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge.*
- b) *No-one should wait longer than 8 hours for admission, discharge or transfer.*

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

At the end of December 2005:

- ◆ The all-Wales average against the target was 92.4 per cent, up 0.5 percentage points from September 2005.
- ◆ The number of hospitals achieving the 95 per cent target remained at 4, Royal Glamorgan (Pontypridd & Rhondda) 96.1 per cent, Withybush (Pembrokeshire & Derwen) 95.0 per cent, Wrexham Maelor (North East Wales) 95.5 per cent and Princess of Wales (Bro Morgannwg) 96.3 per cent.
- ◆ Only 3 hospitals outside the target lost ground between September and December 2005, Glan Clwyd (down 0.5 percentage points), Bronglais and Singleton (both down 1 percentage point).
- ◆ 8 hospitals are now 5 percentage points or less away from target. Royal Gwent was remained furthest from target but at 87 per cent, had improved by 1.3 percentage points since the last quarter.
- ◆ The hospital making the most progress towards target was Prince Phillip (94.3 per cent), an improvement of 4.7 percentage points. West Wales (Glangwili Hospital) was next (92.8 per cent), improving by 3.6 percentage points.

5 Second Offer Scheme

The figures in the tables that follow are for the current accounting year, 2005-06. Figures for 2004-05 are available from the March 2005 Quarterly Waiting Times paper.⁴ Tables 1 – 4 provide information on the numbers of patients who have:

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

Key figures from the period 1 April - 31 December 2005 are:

- ◆ Of the 6,625 people who were made a second offer of treatment, 4,016 (61 per cent) have accepted, the same percentage as the September 2005 quarter.
- ◆ Swansea had the highest decline rate at 41 per cent and Gwent the lowest at 7 per cent. The decline rate for Cardiff and Vale reduced by 10 percentage points, from 43 per cent to 33 per cent between September and December 2005.
- ◆ 7,491 people have received treatment through Second Offer Scheme money, an increase of 3,103 since September 2005. 5,348 people (71 per cent) were treated through in-house solutions; the remainder by an alternative provider.
- ◆ Cardiff BUPA (802) and the Nuffield Hospital Group (347) with 151 patients treated in Hereford, continue to be the most often used alternative providers of treatment. These were followed by St Josephs, Newport (314) Weston-super-Mare BUPA (299) and Wrexham BUPA (136).
- ◆ 786 (37 per cent) of the patients treated by an alternative provider were treated in England, a decrease of 5 percentage points since the last quarter.
- ◆ The reasons why the majority (1,233) of patients declined a Second Offer are unknown. Of the rest, 307 have been recorded as refusing through patient choice. No reasons have been recorded by Swansea NHS Trust for the 510 people who have declined an offer.

Table 3: Patients to whom a second offer has been made, responses and referrals to an alternative provider, April to December 2005

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

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NHS Trust	Patients to whom a 2 nd offer has been made ⁽¹⁾	Patients who have accepted an offer	Patients who have declined an offer	Patients who are undecided	Patients who were non-contactable ⁽²⁾	Patients accepted but ineligible	Patients referred to an alternative provider ⁽³⁾
Cardiff & Vale	2,613	1,609	857	10	166	26	1,726
Gwent	2,161	1,235	152	0	57	717	1,008
North East Wales	172	140	32	0	0	3	143
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Pontypridd & Rhondda	414	313	88	43	-92	65	174
Powys	24	13	4	0	2	5	13
Swansea	1,241	706	510	0	0	25	307
All Wales	6,625	4,016	1,643	53	133	841	3,387

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

⁽²⁾ The Welsh Assembly Government has stated that this can be a negative number because the numbers who are non contactable is a transitional category and patients must be taken off this once they move into one of the other categories upon being contacted (i.e they are contacted in one month and reply back to the trust the following month). This is to avoid double counting.

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

Table 4: Patients treated through the Second Offer Scheme, April to December 2005

NHS Trust	Treated through in-house solutions	Treated by an alternative provider	Total
Bro Morgannwg	217	0	217
Cardiff & Vale	1,337	879	2,216
Carmarthen	359	0	359
Ceredigion	279	0	279
Conwy & Denbighshire	532	0	532
Gwent	1,578	851	2,429
North East Wales	97	136	233
North Glamorgan	231	0	231
North West Wales	35	0	35
Pembrokeshire & Derwen	410	0	410
Pontypridd & Rhondda	201	108	309
Swansea	72	169	241
All Wales	5,348	2,143	7,491

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

Table 5: Alternative providers and treatment undertaken, by NHS Trust, April to December 2005

NHS Trust	Cardiff	Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Gwent	North East	Pontypridd	Swansea	All Wales
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	& Vale				Wales & Rhondda				
Cardiff BUPA	485	0	0	195	0	83	39	802	
Nuffield - Birmingham	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	
Nuffield - Bristol	15	0	0	43	0	0	23	81	
Nuffield - Cheltenham	1	0	0	42	0	0	0	43	
Nuffield - Hereford	0	0	0	151	0	0	0	151	
Nuffield - Taunton	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	
Weston super Mare	288	0	0	11	0	0	0	299	
Worcester BUPA	46	0	0	59	0	0	0	105	
Bristol BUPA	3	0	0	5	0	25	2	35	
St Josephs Newport	0	0	0	314	0	0	0	314	
Sancta Maria, Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	105	
Wrexham BUPA	0	0	0	0	136	0	0	136	
Total	879	0	0	851	136	108	169	2,143	

Table 6: Reasons given for declining a second offer of treatment, by NHS Trust, April to December 2005

NHS Trust	Social reasons	Patient choice	Wishes to remain with Trust	Other	Reason unknown	Declined after assessment	Total
Cardiff & Vale	0	134	0	0	668	55	857
Gwent	27	122	0	3	0	0	152
North East Wales	0	27	2	0	0	3	32
Pontypridd & Rhondda	0	24	9	1	51	3	88
Powys	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Swansea	0	0	0	0	510	0	510
All Wales	27	307	11	4	1,233	61	1,643

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 December 2005:

- ◆ The total number of people experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 621. Of these 221 were delayed in mental health facilities and 400 were in other acute and community hospitals.
- ◆ The number of people experiencing delays was 13.3 per cent less than in September 2005, and 15.9 per cent less than in December 2004.
- ◆ The number of beds occupied by people experiencing delays represented 4.4 per cent of all available beds; down from 5 per cent in September 2005.
- ◆ The category containing the highest percentage of reasons for delay continues to be Patient/carer/family related reasons (48 per cent). This contrasts with Social Care (30.1 per cent) and Healthcare (20.3 per cent) reasons.

⁵ The Statistical Release SDR 11/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: December 2005
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/health/2006/hdw20060124-e.htm>

7 Waiting Times in England and Scotland

1.5 England

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

The latest information on waiting lists in England, relating to September 2005, can be accessed on the Department of Health website.⁶

Inpatient or day case waiting times

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

Table 7: Residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment: as at 30 September 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000	Number	Rate per 10,000
		population		population
Total	64,256	217.6	794,894	158.7
Waiting over 6 months	15,228	51.6	33,505	6.7
Waiting over 9 months	..	..	72	0.0
Waiting over 12 months	774	2.6	10	0.0
Waiting over 18 months	91	0.3	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales websites

At the end of September 2005:

- ◆ 774 people in Wales were recorded as having waited more than 12 months for inpatient or day case treatment compared to 10 in England.
- ◆ The rate per 10,000 head of population 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. 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.

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

- ◆ The English length of wait is reported differently from Welsh lengths of wait, and the lengths reported in Table 8 are 13 weeks (3 months) and 21 weeks (approximately 5 months).
- ◆ The number of people waiting more than 6 months (26 weeks) for an outpatient appointment is no longer collected in England.
- ◆ No comparative figures are available for the total waiting for first outpatient appointment at any one time or for those waiting over 6, 12 or 18 months.

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

Table 8: Residents waiting for first outpatient appointment: as at 30 September 2005

	Wales		England	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^(a)	Number	Rate per 10,000 population ^{(a) (c)}
Total	229,525	777.4	3,636,211 ^(b)	725.9
Waiting over 3 months	116,060	393.1	39,534 ^(c)	7.9
Waiting over 5 months	..	..	98 ^(c)	0.0
Waiting over 6 months	58,994	199.8	..	..

Sources: Department of Health and StatsWales websites

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

(b) Total figure for England includes both GP written referrals (2,403,289) and referrals from other sources (1,232,922).

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

1.6 Scotland

Inpatient and day case waiting times

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

Figures collected on the number waiting for inpatient and day case treatment in Scotland are not on a comparable basis to those for England and Wales in Table 7. A major change in the way in which waiting list information is collected was introduced in Scotland from 1 April 2003. An explanation of the changes was provided in an earlier Members' Research Service quarterly bulletin.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 9 below.⁸

Table 9: Scottish residents on waiting lists for inpatient and day case treatment ^(a): as at 30 September 2004 - 2005

	September 2004	December 2004	March 2005	June 2005	September 2005
<i>Number</i>					
On waiting list	112,538	114,052	112,639	112,052	109,992
of which: number waiting with an ASC(b)	31,398	33,099	35,471	35,910	35,048
Waiting over 6 months (c)	7,512	6,005	1,596	1,118	1,249
Waiting over 9 months (c)	1	1	0	0	0
Waiting over 12 months (d)	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Rate per 10,000 population (d)</i>					
On waiting list	222.5	225.5	222.7	221.6	216.6
of which: number waiting with an ASC (b)	59.8	65.4	70.1	71.0	69.0
Waiting over 6 months (c)	12.2	11.9	3.2	2.2	2.5
Waiting over 9 months (c)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Waiting over 12 months (c)	..	..	..	..	..

Source: ISD Scotland

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

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

(c) Rates are based on latest ONS Key Population and Vital Statistics, available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=6>

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

⁷NHS Wales Waiting Times: targets, time trends and comparisons with waiting times in England and Scotland : September 2003 <http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/committeeresearchpapers/health/health-e.htm>

⁸NHS Scotland, Information Services Division:

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

Outpatient waiting times

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

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

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

	30 June 2005		30 September 2005	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 population	Number	Rate per 10,000 population
Total	211,007	417.2	210,586	414.7
Waiting over 6 months	15,432	30.5	11,854	23.3

Source: ISD Scotland

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

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

Specialty	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	22,727	7,560	306	53
General Surgery	12,871	2,779	2	0
Ear, Nose and Throat	6,615	1,759	0	0
Gynaecology	5,574	892	0	0
Ophthalmology	5,435	137	0	0
Urology	4,850	845	0	0
All other specialties	8,771	1,472	1	0
All specialties	66,843	15,444	309	53

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 December 2005

NHS Trust	Total	Number		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	4,090	883	6	1
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	5,018	785	0	0
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust	12,853	3,779	293	52
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	4,950	1,233	0	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	1,512	346	0	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	4,688	1,083	0	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	10,543	2,301	8	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	3,456	841	0	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	1,989	437	0	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	3,355	572	0	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	1,810	378	2	0
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	3,642	824	0	0
Powys LHB	539	116	0	0
Swansea NHS Trust	8,394	1,866	0	0
Velindre NHS Trust	4	0	0	0
Total	66,843	15,444	309	53



Table A3: Welsh residents waiting for inpatient or day case treatment, by Local Health Board, as at 31 December 2005

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Blaenau Gwent	1,541	330	3	1
Bridgend	3,342	609	6	2
Caerphilly	4,158	981	22	5
Cardiff	7,269	2,112	134	19
Carmarthenshire	4,264	1,030	4	1
Ceredigion	1,895	487	0	0
Conwy	2,577	542	0	0
Denbighshire	2,113	494	0	0
Flintshire	2,697	559	0	0
Gwynedd	2,384	480	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	1,366	254	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1,011	220	5	0
Monmouthshire	1,895	355	5	1
Neath Port Talbot	2,931	535	3	2
Newport	3,145	715	8	2
Pembrokeshire	3,004	646	7	2
Powys	2,871	754	2	0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	5,188	1,190	27	5
Swansea	5,047	1,089	6	1
Torfaen	2,207	494	3	0
Vale of Glamorgan	3,295	968	73	12
Wrexham	2,643	600	1	0
Total	66,843	15,444	309	53

Table A4: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by specialty, as at 31 December 2005

Specialty	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Trauma and Orthopaedic	38,524	13,189	1,910	1
Orthodontics	4,505	2,359	769	69
Ophthalmology	21,571	5,647	676	0
Dermatology	19,775	5,465	589	0
Ear, Nose and Throat	22,714	5,911	554	1
Oral Surgery	10,256	3,218	365	0
General Surgery	19,844	3,237	349	0
Rheumatology	5,434	1,514	268	0
Urology	8,969	2,268	261	0
Pain Management	2,413	882	214	0
General Medicine	16,633	3,278	194	0
Audiological Medicine	1,412	574	159	0
Plastic Surgery	2,218	941	131	7
Other Neurology	3,971	1,306	130	0
All other specialties	36,808	6,461	427	0
All specialties	215,047	56,250	6,996	78

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

Table A5: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by Trust as at 31 December 2005

NHS Trust	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Aggregate of non-Welsh NHS Trusts	6,586	1,254	191	8
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	18,949	4,019	400	0
Cardiff and Vale Trust	41,435	14,264	2,379	0
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	14,540	3,571	462	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	3,668	648	1	0
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust	13,900	2,930	583	0
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	41,439	11,587	992	0
North East Wales NHS Trust	12,688	3,375	746	0
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	9,971	2,470	182	0
North West Wales NHS Trust	8,012	1,501	19	0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust	7,220	1,742	84	1
Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust	10,615	1,737	85	0
Powys LHB	3,611	698	152	69
Swansea NHS Trust	22,233	6,450	720	0
Velindre NHS Trust	180	4	0	0
Total	215,047	56,250	6,996	78



Table A6: Welsh residents waiting for first outpatient appointment, by Local Health Board, as at 31 December 2005

Local Health Board	Total	<i>Number</i>		
		Waiting over 6 months	Waiting over 12 months	Waiting over 18 months
Blaenau Gwent	6,570	2,037	225	0
Bridgend	11,418	2,854	318	0
Caerphilly	16,063	4,803	475	1
Cardiff	24,393	8,337	1,468	0
Carmarthenshire	13,515	3,359	374	0
Ceredigion	5,146	1,063	76	1
Conwy	6,309	1,211	159	1
Denbighshire	6,371	1,320	262	0
Flintshire	7,774	1,355	237	0
Gwynedd	5,745	1,349	189	6
Isle of Anglesey	3,453	910	123	4
Merthyr Tydfil	4,532	1,172	94	0
Monmouthshire	6,400	1,631	158	0
Neath Port Talbot	8,941	1,794	191	0
Newport	11,543	3,245	226	0
Pembrokeshire	8,574	2,098	136	1
Powys	7,498	1,634	243	64
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	16,562	3,558	285	0
Swansea	16,757	4,655	530	0
Torfaen	8,119	2,211	188	0
Vale of Glamorgan	10,579	3,327	536	0
Wrexham	8,785	2,327	503	0
Total	215,047	56,250	6,996	78

Table A7: NHS Trust performance against the 4 hour A&E wait target (95 per cent), as at 31 December 2005

NHS Trust	A & E Hospital	September 2005 (%)	December 2005 (%)	Change (%)
South East Region				
Cardiff & Vale	University Hospital of Wales (UHW)	88.9	89.8	0.9
	Royal Gwent	85.7	87.0	1.3
Gwent Healthcare	Nevill Hall	90.7	92.4	1.7
	Total average	87.7	89.1	1.4
North Glamorgan Pontypridd & Rhondda	Prince Charles	90.0	92.4	2.4
	Royal Glamorgan	96.5	96.1	0.6
Mid and West Region				
Bro Morgannwg	Princess of Wales	95.0	96.3	1.3
	West Wales	89.2	92.8	3.6
Carmarthenshire	Prince Phillip	89.6	94.3	4.7
	Total average	91.5	93.6	2.1
Ceredigion & Mid Wales	Bronglais	94.7	93.7	-1.0
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	Withybush	95.1	95.0	-0.1
	Morrison	88.1	90.1	2.0
Swansea	Singleton	89.8	88.8	-1.0
	Total Average	88.7	89.7	1.0
North Wales Region				
Conwy and Denbigh	Glan Clwyd	94.7	94.2	-0.5
North East Wales	Wrexham Maelor	95.1	95.5	0.4
North West Wales	Ysbyty Gwynedd	90.0	93.5	3.5
All Wales Average		91.9	92.4	0.5

Annex B: Delayed transfers of care: Statistical tables

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

	Dec 2004	Mar 2005	Jun 2005	Sept 2005	Dec 2005
Mid and West Wales	205	186	185	221	209
Bro Morgannwg	40	37	37	48	33
Carmarthenshire	19	19	21	30	40
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	15	16	10	8	2
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	42	37	48	62	56
Powys Healthcare	16	11	12	15	28
Swansea	73	66	57	58	50
North Wales	124	147	116	121	93
Conwy and Denbighshire	20	28	27	25	15
North East Wales	69	77	46	51	41
North West Wales	35	42	43	45	37
South East Wales	409	367	373	375	319
Cardiff and Vale	200	184	207	209	192
Gwent	118	104	88	89	70
North Glamorgan	44	45	33	28	27
Pontypridd and Rhondda	46	33	40	46	26
Velindre	1	1	5	3	4
Total	738	700	674	717	621

Source: SDR 11/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: December 2005 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

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

NHS Trust	Social Care reasons	Health Care reasons	Patient/Carer/ Family-related reasons	Other	Total	Percentage of all available NHS beds
Mid and West Wales						
Bro Morgannwg	8	7	18	0	33	2.6
Carmarthenshire	29	4	7	0	40	5.9
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	1	1	0	0	2	0.9
Pembrokeshire and Derwen	26	10	19	1	56	10.3
Powys Healthcare	18	3	7	0	28	7.8
Swansea	10	25	15	0	50	3.0
North Wales						
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	2	13	0	15	1.5
North East Wales	12	8	21	0	41	4.3
North West Wales	10	4	23	0	37	3.2
South East Wales						
Cardiff and Vale	36	41	111	4	192	8.6
Gwent	32	10	28	0	70	3.0
North Glamorgan	2	3	22	0	27	3.8
Pontypridd and Rhondda	1	7	13	5	26	2.9
Velindre	2	1	1	0	4	6.3
Total	187	126	298	10	621	4.4



Source: SDR 11/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: December 2005 and earlier editions, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

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

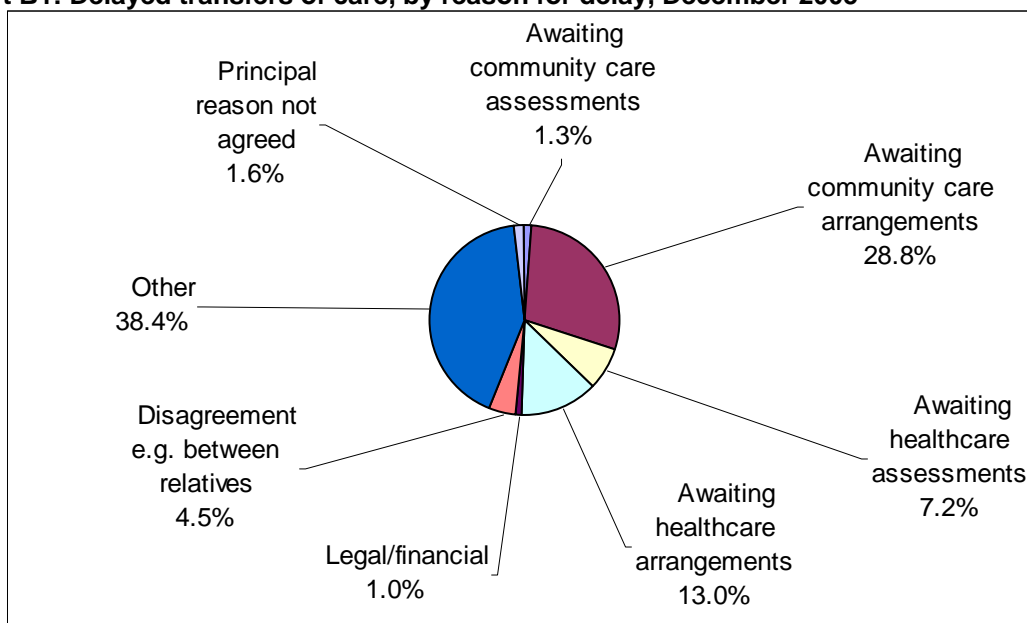
Reason for delay	Number	Per cent
Social Care reasons	187	30.2
Awaiting community care assessments	8	1.3
Awaiting community care arrangements	179	28.9
Health Care reasons	126	20.2
Awaiting healthcare assessments	45	7.2
Awaiting healthcare arrangements	81	13.0
Patient/carer/family-related reasons	298	48.0
Legal/financial	6	1.0
Disagreement e.g. between relatives	28	4.5
Other (b)	264	42.5
Other		
Principal reason not agreed	10	1.6
Total	1,232	..

Source: SDR 11/2006 Delayed Transfers of Care: December 2005, NHS Performance and Operations Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government

(a) aggregated figure for acute and mental health services

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

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



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

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.⁹

The latest quarterly statistical release, SDR 10/2006, *NHS Hospital Waiting Times: at end December 2005*, was published on 25 January 2006.¹⁰

2 Relationships between waiting times and other statistics

◆ *Hospital activity*

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

StatsWales now has some activity figures on bed availability and occupancy rates, and for outpatient attendance and non-attendance by region, Trust and specialty for 2003-04. Other activity statistics for 2003-04, such as morbidity and details of emergency admissions, are in the 2005 edition of the annual *Health Statistics Wales*, which is available electronically and in hardback copy from the Members' Library.¹¹ *Health Statistics Wales* also contains some statistics, for example, on registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer by site, which are compared over time.

◆ *Delayed transfers of care*

Data relating to delayed transfers of care is collected by means of a monthly census. The approach taken is to try and record all cases where delays occur in the system; that is delays within the NHS (e.g. from acute to non-acute care) as well as delays between the NHS and other care settings.

The figures relate to:

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

Recent delayed transfers of care data in Wales are not comparable with that in England as English figures do not generally include delays within the NHS. An improved collection system was introduced in Wales in April 2002 which enabled the identification of a wider

⁹ <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2006/sdr10-2006/sdr10-2006.htm>

¹¹ Health Statistics Wales, 2005

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

range of reasons for delay, but this also means that the information available for the period after April 2002 is not directly comparable to that available previously.

3 Waiting times statistics for England and Scotland

Waiting times figures for England and Scotland are available but are not directly comparable since they are not as up to date as Wales and are collected and published in a different form. Where it is reasonable to compare the information from other countries rates per 10,000 of the population have been shown. Population figures are based on the latest mid-year estimates available from the National Statistics website.¹² The rate per 10,000 for each quarter is based on the mid-year population estimate at that time.

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

¹² <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=6>