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Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
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Next Update
13 September 2006

NHS WALES DIAGNOSTIC & THERAPY SERVICES WAITING TIMES: AT END JUNE 2006

Background

Numbers waiting for Diagnostic and Therapy Services have been published monthly since February 2006.

Initially the focus is on outpatient and community patients referred to:

- Radiology
- Occupational Therapy
- Cardiophysiology
- Physiotherapy
- Adult Hearing Aids
- Podiatry
- Art Therapies
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Dietetics

Waiting list targets for 2006/07 include, by the end of March 2007 the maximum wait for access to specified diagnostic or therapy services should be 36 weeks, and a maximum wait of 24 weeks for an echo cardiogram (cardiophysiology).

Key Points:

At the end of June 2006:

- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for radiology after being referred by a GP fell over the month from 854 to 849. The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for radiology after being referred by a consultant rose over the month from 1,801 to 1,818.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for a stress test (cardiophysiology) rose over the month from 8 to 11. The number of people waiting more than 24 weeks for an echo cardiogram (cardiophysiology) fell over the month from 1,197 to 1,134.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for adult hearing aids (audiology)¹ fell over the month from 330 to 266.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for dietetics fell over the month from 59 to 43.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for physiotherapy fell over the month from 1,754 to 1,652.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for occupational therapy fell over the month from 506^r to 476.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for speech language therapy fell over the month from 2,132 to 2,047.
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for art therapy remained at 1
- The number of people waiting more than 36 weeks for podiatry fell over the month from 3,201 to 2,897.

¹ First issue of hearing aids only. Does not include waiting lists for digital upgrades or the second issue of a hearing aid.

^r Revised

All figures relating to 30 June 2006 are provisional.

This briefing and associated trust, hospital site and detailed service figures are available on the Internet:
www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPY SERVICES WAITING LISTS:

Table 1

Patients waiting for diagnostic and therapy services in Welsh NHS Trusts

<u>Patients waiting at the end of June 2006:</u>							
	Under 12 weeks	Over 12 weeks & up to 24 weeks	Over 24 weeks & up to 36 weeks	Over 36 weeks & up to 48 weeks	Over 48 weeks & up to 72 weeks	Over 72 weeks	Total Waiting
<u>Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Radiology – GP Referral	9,483	1,568	505	296	341	212	12,405
Radiology – Consultant Referral	19,196	4,509	1,391	840	819	159	26,914
Cardiophysiology – Stress Test	1,124	128	18	6	5	0	1,281
Cardiophysiology – Echo Cardiogram	3,349	1,549	789	265	60	20	6,032
Audiology - Adult Hearing Aids ¹	2,206	1,111	342	137	90	39	3,925
Dietetics	2,988	734	110	30	9	4	3,875
Physiotherapy	12,390	3,736	1,271	941	698	13	19,049
Occupational Therapy	1,132	442	193	114	166	196	2,243
Speech Language	2,539	1,437	944	560	829	658	6,967
Art	6	8	8	1	0	0	23
Podiatry	4,560	1,531	505	353	609	1,935	9,493

¹ First issue of hearing aids only. Does not include waiting lists for digital upgrades or the second issue of a hearing aid.

NOTES

1. This release provides monthly waiting lists for specific diagnostic and therapy services (see page 1 of this release for further details on what services are covered) as reported by Health Solutions Wales (HSW). Waiting lists reported by HSW include all those people, irrespective of their area of residence, who are waiting for NHS-funded diagnostic and therapy services within Wales.
2. The figures in this release represent the number of outpatients and community patients reported by the NHS as waiting for specified diagnostic and therapy services. It does not include patients waiting for admission to a hospital as an inpatient or day case.
3. The waiting time is calculated from the date the referral request was received until the date on which:
 - a) the diagnostic test for which the patient has been referred is carried out; or
 - b) the hearing aid is fitted; or
 - c) the patient commences the first treatment following an assessment or examination.
4. This release is the main mechanism for the publication of the Welsh diagnostic and therapy waiting list information. Additional waiting list information, at NHS Trust, hospital site and detailed service level is available from the Internet URL given on the front page of this release.
5. If you have any comments on the coverage or presentation of this release, we would be pleased to receive them.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADDITIONAL COPIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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