

# Publication Summary



## Delayed Discharges in NHS Scotland

Figures from April 2011 Census

Publication date – 31 May 2011



### Introduction

This publication summarises the latest statistics on NHS inpatients who are ‘delayed discharges’ (formerly known as patients ready for discharge). This data is taken from a ‘snapshot’ of NHS inpatients as at the April 2011.

### Key Points

- There were 12 patients delayed for over 6 weeks in the April 2011 census. This compares with 168 at the January 2011 census and zero at the April 2010 census.
- At the April 2011 census, there were a total of 665 delayed discharges in Scotland, compared with 790 at the January 2011 census, and 579 at the April 2010 census.
- The median duration to the census point for all delayed discharges was 21 days (26 day at the January 2011 census, and 19 days at the April 2010 census).

**Chart1 NHS Delayed Discharges that are outwith the six week discharge planning period by principal reason for delay; Scotland; January 2001 to April 2011**

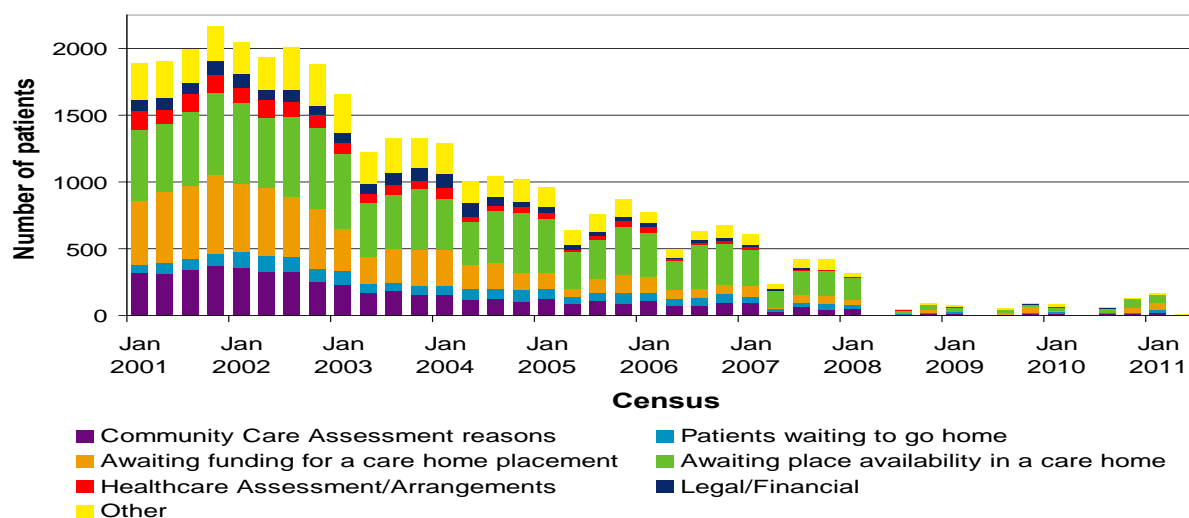


Chart Footnotes (see main report)

## Background

For most patients, following completion of health and social care assessments, the necessary care, support and accommodation arrangements are put in place in the community without any delay in the patient's safe and appropriate discharge from hospital.

A delayed discharge occurs when a patient, clinically ready for discharge, cannot leave the hospital because the other necessary care, support or accommodation for them is not readily accessible and/or funding is not available, to purchase a care home place, for example.

'Delayed discharges' data has been collected nationally since September 2000 according to national standard definitions and data recording criteria laid out in Management Executive Letter (MEL)(2000)07, issued by the Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD). These definitions have evolved since their inception and the latest version is in the [Definitions and data recording manual](#). The national definitions allow for a consistent approach to a patient being considered 'ready for discharge' i.e. the patient is clinically ready to move on to the next stage of care.

For most Local Authority Partners there is an accepted period beyond the clinically ready for discharge date during which all assessment and follow-on arrangements are put in place. The common period for local discharge planning is six weeks.

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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