



Waiting Times for Hospital Treatment

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How long do patients wait for hospital treatment after referral by a GP? Under the NHS Constitution for England, patients have a legal right to start consultant-led treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral for non-urgent conditions. This note presents data, charts and maps on the number of people treated, waiting times by NHS area team and NHS provider, and data on individual treatment specialisms. An outline of data for Wales and Scotland is also presented.

The percentage of patients waiting less than 18 weeks for treatment involving admission to hospital fell below the 90% target for much of 2014. The 95% target for non-admitted patients has also been breached on two occasions. In late 2014 these drops were in line with a waiting list initiative involving a 'managed breach' of targets and a suspension of some penalties for failing to meet the targets.

Performance also fell on the incomplete (waiting list) measure in 2014, though this target is still being met as of January 2015. Waiting lists for hospital treatment reached their highest level in six years in Jun 2014. While the waiting list has since fallen in number by around 7%, its level remains higher than at any time between April 2008 and March 2014.

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1 Introduction to ‘Referral to Treatment’ Waiting Times

Under the NHS Constitution for England, patients have a legal right to start treatment within 18 weeks after GP referral for non-urgent conditions. If this is not possible, the NHS must take reasonable steps to offer them a range of alternative providers. The data which measures success on this commitment, published since 2007, is known as ‘Referral to Treatment’, or ‘RTT’.

The targets (or ‘operational standards’) for RTT waiting times are as follows:

- **Admitted (Adjusted), 90%:** 90% of all RTT patients whose treatment pathway involves admission to hospital should be treated within 18 weeks of referral. These are also known as ‘inpatient’ waiting times. They are measured on an adjusted basis, meaning that delays due to patients refusing reasonable appointment offers are discounted from the waiting time which counts for the target.¹
- **Non-Admitted, 95%:** 95% of all RTT patients whose treatment pathway does not involve admission to hospital should be treated within 18 weeks of referral. These are also known as ‘outpatient’ waiting times.
- **Incomplete, 92%:** 92% of all patients waiting to start treatment should have been waiting for less than 18 weeks. These are also known as ‘waiting list’ waiting times.

These targets are designed to allow tolerance for situations where starting treatment within 18 weeks would be inconvenient or clinically inappropriate. These include cases where patients choose to delay appointments, cases where patients do not attend appointments, and cases where clinically-based exceptions are needed.

There is also a “zero tolerance” policy for any RTT waits of more than 52 weeks, with such waits resulting in contractual penalties.

Further information about RTT waiting times, including definitions and FAQs, can be found on NHS England’s [statistical work area](#)². Data for each provider and commissioner in England is published monthly, with a data lag of five weeks. Unless otherwise stated, all data in this note is taken from NHS England’s statistical publications at the aforementioned site.

Recent Developments: ‘Managed Breach’ and Focus on Long Waits

In August 2014, the Secretary of State for Health announced that the NHS would prioritise patients who had endured long waits for routine treatment. It was also admitted that this may involve a ‘managed breach’ of the targets described above; a time during which the targets may not be met due to the focus on those who have waited for excessively long periods. Mr Hunt stated:

I want the NHS to put particular focus on anyone who has been waiting more than 18 weeks since being referred for treatment, so have asked NHS England to commission 100,000 additional treatments over the summer including 40,000 additional inpatient

¹ Data is also published for admitted pathways on an unadjusted basis, but this is not subject to a waiting times target.

² <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2014-15/>

admissions. This focus on long waiters may mean we undershoot the 18 week target for a temporary period, although we will return to meeting it before the end of the year. Indeed as the many NHS target experts will know we could ensure we met the 18 week target every month by focusing those 100,000 additional treatments on shorter rather than longer waiters. But that would be an indefensible betrayal of those who have been waiting the longest and not one I would be prepared to sanction as Health Secretary. The truth is we need to ensure both that 90% of people get their treatment within 18 weeks - the official target - and that people who are not treated within that period are not neglected. So I have set a timeframe of this calendar year to deliver on both of those objectives.³

This waiting list initiative, and the associated 'managed breach', ended in November 2014. In February 2015, [a letter to NHS trusts and CCGs](#) from NHS England, Monitor and the Trust Development Authority stated that "we do not expect CCGs to enact contractual sanctions for underperformance against the 3 RTT standards" in Q4 2014/15 where this was a result of work to reduce potential 18-week waits.

It is important to note key differences between the RTT targets. The 'Incomplete' target measures the waiting list: waiting times of patients who are still waiting for treatment. The 'Admitted (Adjusted)' and 'Non-Admitted' measure activity – they measure waiting times for those who are treated each month. Because providers have control over how to schedule treatments, performance on the Admitted and Non-Admitted targets can be a direct result of who the provider has chosen to treat in a given month. For instance, if a provider were to treat only 'long waiters' (18+ weeks) in a particular month, it would fail the Admitted and Non-Admitted targets, since 0% of those treated would have waited less than 18 weeks. In doing so, however, it may have cleared its waiting list of the longest waiters. On the other hand, if a provider chose to treat only 'short waiters' (those waiting less than 18 weeks) in a particular month then it would excel on the Admitted and Non-Admitted targets, scoring 100% on both. But in doing so, it would have allowed those who had already waited for over 18 weeks to wait even longer before treatment. Recent [guidance from the NHS Intensive Support Team](#) suggests that all other things being equal, patients should be offered treatment dates in chronological order according to their length of wait.

³ Aug 4th 2014, [NHS waiting times: job not done](#)³

2 Summary of Key Indicators

Table A (below) summarises the key RTT indicators for England, which are described in further depth below. The table considers the last twelve months of available data (to the end of January 2015), compared with the previous twelve months (to January 2014). Each of these data points is explored in more detail below.

Table A: Summary of RTT Waiting Times Data, England

TREATED WITHIN 18 WEEKS				NUMBER TREATED			
<i>Overall</i>	<i>Twelve months to:</i>			<i>Overall</i>	<i>Twelve months to:</i>		
	Jan-15	Jan-14	Change		Jan-15	Jan-14	Change
Admitted Pathways (Adjusted)	89.1%	91.6%	-2.5%	Admitted Pathways (Adjusted)	3,706,749	3,692,299	+0.4%
Non-Admitted Pathways	95.7%	97.0%	-1.3%	Non-Admitted Pathways	10,460,992	10,227,558	+2.3%
WAITING LISTS				LOWEST-PERFORMING SPECIALITIES			
<i>Incomplete Pathways</i>	<i>Still waiting at end of:</i>			<i>Admitted Pathways (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Twelve months to:</i>		
	Jan-15	Jan-14	Change	<i>% within 18 weeks</i>	Jan-15	Jan-14	Change
Total Number Waiting	2,920,109	2,905,331	+0.5%	Neurosurgery	83.7%	86.7%	-3.0%
Waiting more than 18 weeks	7.4%	6.5%	+0.9%	Trauma & Orthopaedics	85.3%	88.1%	-2.7%
Waiting more than 26 weeks	67,205	58,811	+14.3%	Oral Surgery	86.2%	90.3%	-4.0%
Waiting more than 52 weeks	441	430	+2.6%				
LOWEST-PERFORMING SPECIALITIES				LOWEST-PERFORMING SPECIALITIES			
<i>Non-Admitted Pathways</i>	<i>Twelve months to:</i>			<i>Incomplete Pathways</i>	<i>Still waiting at end of:</i>		
<i>% treated within 18 weeks</i>	Jan-15	Jan-14	Change	<i>% waiting less than 18 weeks</i>	Jan-15	Jan-14	Change
Neurosurgery	92.2%	93.9%	-1.7%	Neurosurgery	87.9%	88.6%	-0.7%
Oral Surgery	92.8%	94.5%	-1.7%	Plastic Surgery	88.8%	89.0%	-0.2%
Neurology	93.1%	95.8%	-2.7%	Trauma & Orthopaedics	89.9%	91.0%	-1.1%

3 Numbers Treated in England

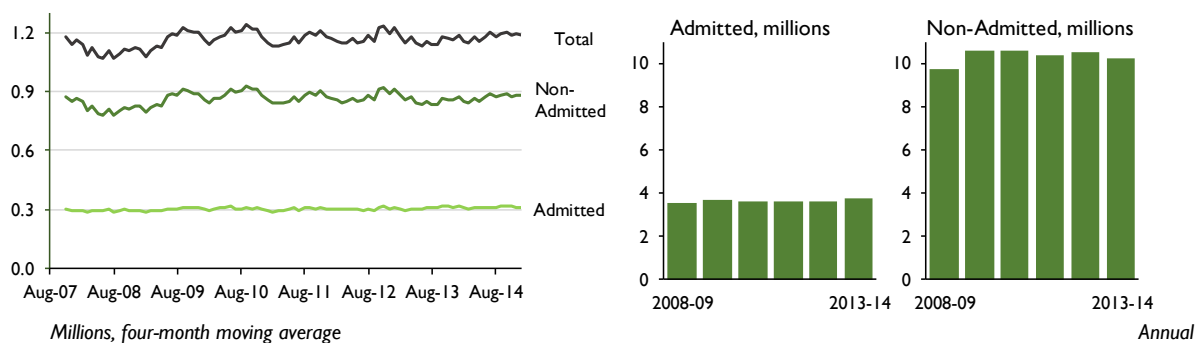
3.1 Overall: All Treatment Specialities

In the twelve months to January 2015, there were 14.2 million treatments following GP referral in England. This is an average of around 35 referrals per week for each GP practice in England. After accounting for the 5.5% of RTT treatments performed by non-NHS providers, this works out as an average of around 1,500 treatments per week for each NHS hospital provider.⁴ 26% of RTT pathways involved admission to hospital, while the remainder were treated as day cases or outpatients.

The number of treatments in the 12 months to January 2015 was 1.7% higher than in the previous 12-month period. In numerical terms, the increase is roughly similar in size to the population of Derby or Stoke-on-Trent, and works out as an average of around 30 extra treatments per week for each NHS hospital provider. The number of non-admitted treatments grew by 2.3%, and the number of treatments involving admission grew by 0.4%. **Charts 1a-1c** illustrate these trends over a longer period.

⁴ There is substantial variation between hospital trusts, of course: the trust performing the most treatments, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals, performed an average of approximately 7,500 treatments per week over the 12 months to September 2014.

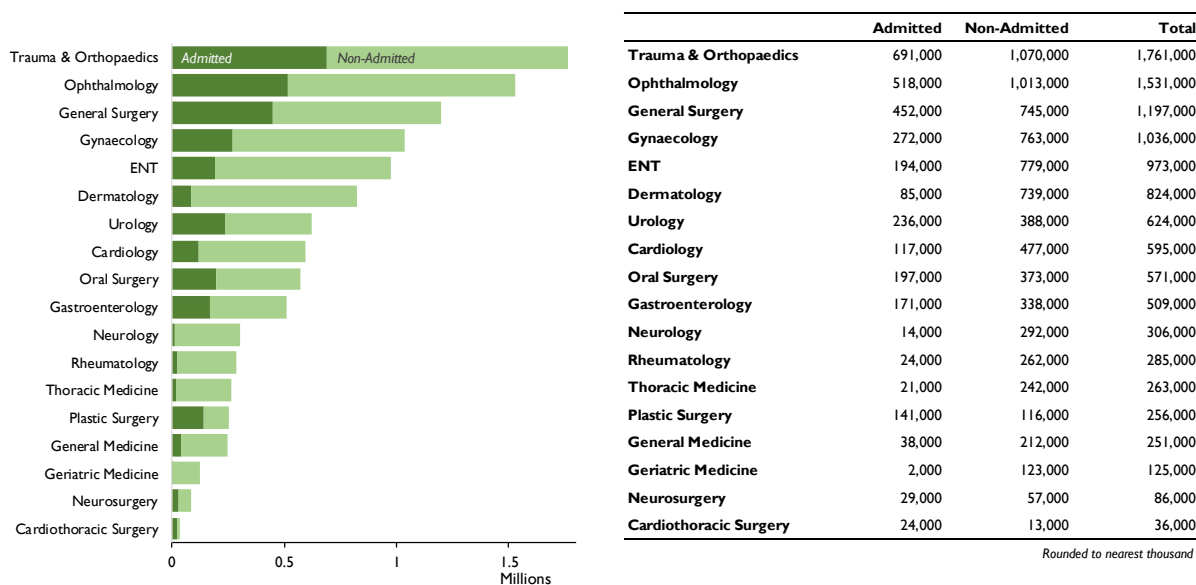
Charts 1a-1c: Number of patients treated on RTT pathways, England



3.2 Patients Treated by Treatment Speciality

RTT treatments are recorded by 'speciality', i.e. the type of treatment involved. The two specialities with the largest number of treatments are trauma & orthopaedics and ophthalmology, together comprising 23% of all treatments. **Chart 2** shows treatments performed in each speciality and a breakdown of admitted/non-admitted treatments for each speciality. The specialities with the greatest proportion of admitted treatments are cardiothoracic surgery and plastic surgery, while geriatric medicine and neurology have the lowest proportion of admitted treatments. A glossary of treatment function definitions, explaining what each of these specialities includes, can be found in the appendix to this document.

**Chart 2: Number of treatments by speciality and mode
England, 12 months to January 2015**



There were also almost 3 million pathways (of which almost 2.5 million non-admitted) not shown in Chart 2 whose treatment speciality was recorded as ‘Other’– i.e. a speciality which does not fall into the eighteen categories listed above.

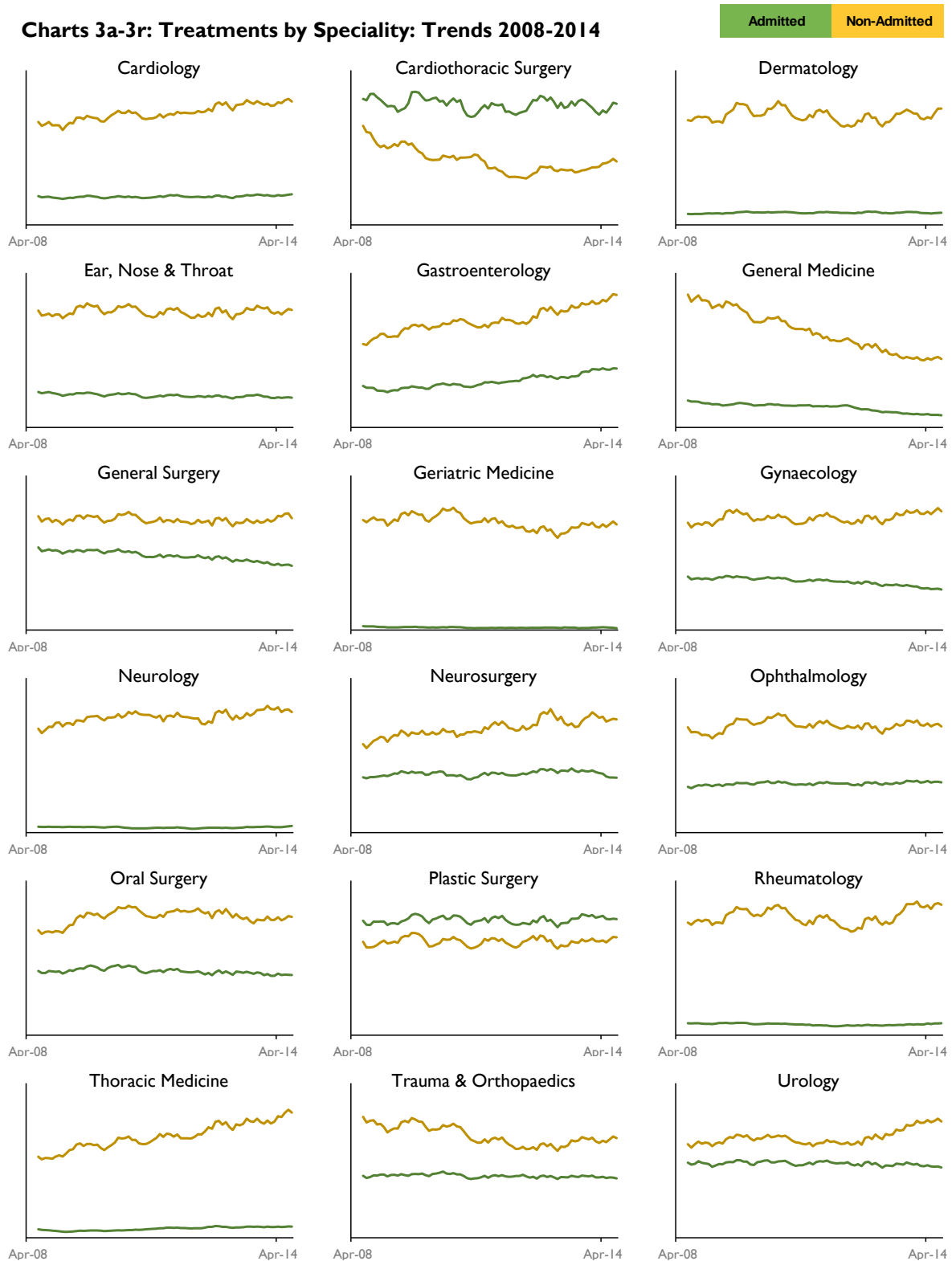
Following on from Chart 2, **Table B** shows how the number of treatments in each speciality has changed year-on-year. Specialities are sorted by total change in the number of treatments. Percentage changes are shown on the right, with orange shading representing a rise and blue shading representing a fall. Gastroenterology saw the largest increase in both numerical and percentage terms.

Table B: Year-on-Year change in treatments by speciality
12 months ending Jan 15 compared with 12 months ending Jan 14. Rounded to nearest hundred

Speciality	Change			% Change		
	Admitted	Non-Admitted	TOTAL	Admitted	Non-Admitted	TOTAL
Gastroenterology	+15,300	+43,000	+58,300	+10%	+15%	+13%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	+2,700	+48,300	+51,000	+0%	+5%	+3%
Dermatology	+1,200	+38,100	+39,300	+1%	+5%	+5%
Urology	-6,700	+30,200	+23,500	-3%	+8%	+4%
Rheumatology	+2,400	+16,600	+19,000	+11%	+7%	+7%
Thoracic Medicine	0	+16,100	+16,100	+0%	+7%	+7%
General Surgery	-21,600	+36,300	+14,700	-5%	+5%	+1%
Ophthalmology	+18,600	-5,500	+13,100	+4%	-1%	+1%
Neurology	+1,400	+10,100	+11,500	+11%	+4%	+4%
Cardiology	+3,200	+5,300	+8,500	+3%	+1%	+1%
Plastic Surgery	+1,600	+5,700	+7,300	+1%	+5%	+3%
Oral Surgery	-2,400	+7,400	+5,000	-1%	+2%	+1%
Geriatric Medicine	-400	+2,600	+2,200	-15%	+2%	+2%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	+100	+1,400	+1,500	+0%	+13%	+4%
Neurosurgery	-1,800	+2,900	+1,100	-6%	+5%	+1%
Other	+39,900	-39,200	+700	+9%	-2%	+0%
Gynaecology	-21,800	+18,500	-3,300	-7%	+2%	-0%
ENT	-11,200	+4,400	-6,800	-5%	+1%	-1%
General Medicine	-6,100	-8,800	-14,900	-14%	-4%	-6%

Charts 3a-3r (overleaf) show trends in the number of patients treated in each speciality since April 2008, along with the relative volume of admitted and non-admitted treatments in each specialism. These charts show relative rather than absolute values: for example, there are six times as many referrals for non-admitted gynaecology treatments as for geriatric medicine. For absolute difference in activity between specialisms, see **Chart 2 above**. These charts allow us to observe changes over time: for example, the gradual decline of non-admitted pathways in general medicine, and the recent upturn in non-admitted pathways in urology.

Charts 3a-3r: Treatments by Speciality: Trends 2008-2014

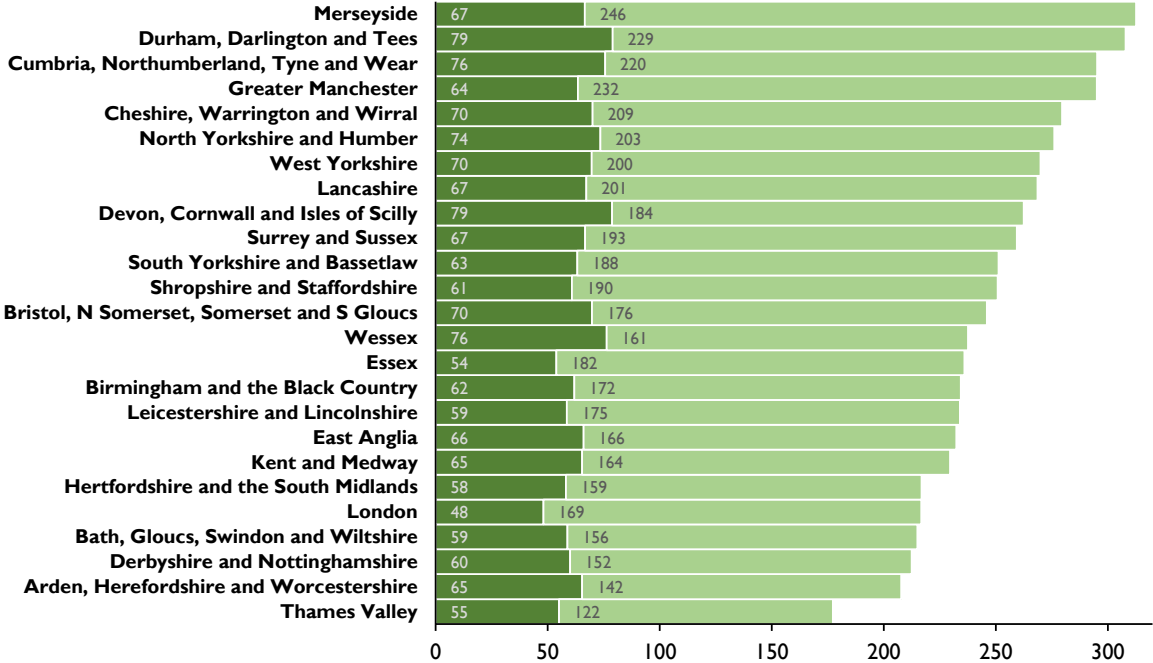


3.3 Patients Treated by NHS Area Team

Chart 4 shows regional variation in the number of treatments performed relative to the size of the population in each NHS area team. This data is based on the location of the CCG commissioning the treatment, so it may not accurately reflect the location where the treatment was actually carried out.

Figures given here are the number of completed pathways per 1,000 population. So a figure of 100 represents one completed pathway for every ten residents over the course of a year.

Chart 4: Completed RTT Pathways per 1,000 Population, by NHS Area Team 12 months to January 2015

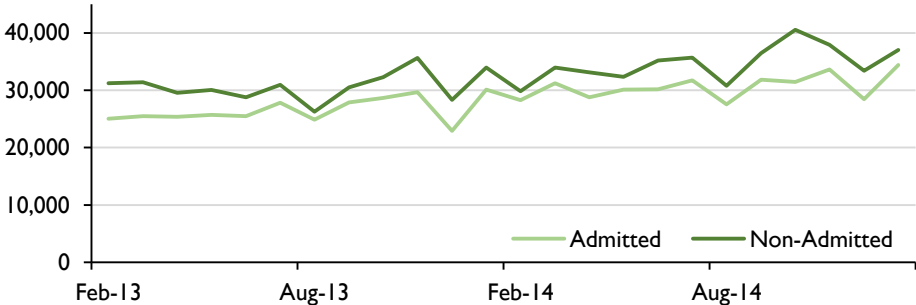


Source for population data: ONS small area population estimates mid-2013

3.4 Independent Sector Providers

In the 12 months to January 2015, over 780,000 RTT pathways involved treatment by an independent sector provider following an NHS commission. This is 14% higher than the number referred to independent sector organisations in the previous twelve months. Independent sector providers accounted for around 5.5% of all RTT activity in the most recent period. **Chart 5** shows trends in these numbers.

Chart 5: Independent Sector RTT Pathways, 2013-2015



Tables C and D (below) show changes in the number of independent sector commissions by area team and by treatment speciality. Since area teams came into existence in April 2013, the periods used for comparison are April 2014–January 2015 and April 2013–January 2014.

Trauma & orthopaedics is the speciality with the highest independent sector activity, with four times more pathways than any other speciality.

Table C: Independent sector RTT pathways by NHS area team

	Number of pathways		Change		% of all pathways at IS providers
	Apr-14 to Jan-15	Apr-13 to Jan-14	% Increase	Increase	
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	8,700	5,600	+54%	+3,100	3%
Bath, Gloucs, Swindon and Wiltshire	31,000	28,400	+9%	+2,600	12%
Birmingham and the Black Country	20,300	14,600	+39%	+5,700	4%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	31,000	26,000	+19%	+5,000	11%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	11,700	11,100	+6%	+600	4%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	10,300	8,900	+16%	+1,400	2%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	52,500	47,300	+11%	+5,200	15%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	26,400	25,300	+4%	+1,100	7%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	16,100	13,600	+18%	+2,500	5%
East Anglia	14,800	12,900	+14%	+1,900	3%
Essex	28,800	33,400	-14%	-4,600	9%
Greater Manchester	84,100	78,300	+7%	+5,800	13%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	25,900	24,700	+5%	+1,200	5%
Kent and Medway	17,500	15,200	+15%	+2,300	5%
Lancashire	32,500	23,800	+36%	+8,700	10%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	8,900	8,100	+10%	+800	3%
London	38,600	32,800	+18%	+5,800	3%
Merseyside	13,900	14,200	-2%	-300	5%
North Yorkshire and Humber	14,500	10,600	+37%	+3,900	4%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	9,500	7,500	+27%	+2,000	3%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	5,800	2,200	+165%	+3,600	2%
Surrey and Sussex	57,900	38,200	+52%	+19,700	10%
Thames Valley	19,400	16,200	+20%	+3,200	7%
Wessex	43,700	36,600	+19%	+7,100	8%
West Yorkshire	36,400	38,600	-6%	-2,200	7%

Table D: Independent sector RTT pathways by treatment speciality

	Year to Jan-15	Year to Jan-14	Change
Cardiology	1,766	3,123	-43%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	556	863	-36%
Dermatology	38,953	31,257	+25%
ENT	60,029	58,726	+2%
Gastroenterology	54,040	44,576	+21%
General Medicine	1,465	1,168	+25%
General Surgery	95,790	84,450	+13%
Geriatric Medicine	792	1,226	-35%
Gynaecology	52,347	49,110	+7%
Neurology	2,410	2,757	-13%
Neurosurgery	6,134	4,124	+49%
Ophthalmology	63,702	45,738	+39%
Oral Surgery	13,028	12,451	+5%
Other	58,264	54,112	+8%
Plastic Surgery	5,895	5,627	+5%
Rheumatology	6,340	6,398	-1%
Thoracic Medicine	2,096	1,825	+15%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	282,089	245,684	+15%
Urology	37,950	34,441	+10%

4 Waiting Lists in England

This section documents waiting times for patients whose RTT treatment pathways are still ongoing – that is, patients who are still waiting for treatment.

4.1 Overall

At the end of September 2014, just over 2.9 million patients were waiting to start consultant-led treatment. This represents almost 6% of the English population, or a number larger than the populations of either Greater Manchester or the West Midlands. Seven trusts did not submit data on incomplete RTT pathways in January 2015; NHS England estimate that, if these were included, the true number waiting for treatment would be just over 3.1 million.

In 2014 waiting lists reached their highest levels since early 2008, having been steadily growing since early 2012. **Chart 6** shows the RTT waiting list compared with the number of patients treated in each month. Waiting lists follow a clear annual cycle, with numbers waiting peaking in the summer months and typically falling in the autumn. 2013-14 was an exception in that the autumn fall was only very slight.

Chart 6: Number waiting for treatment and number treated in each month
Four-month moving average

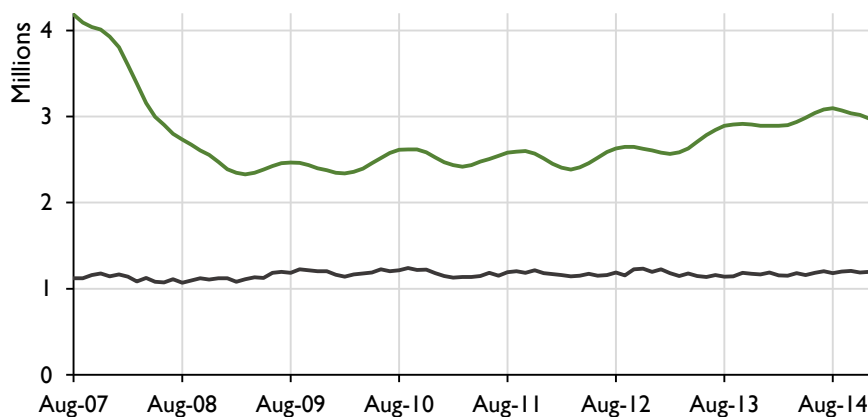
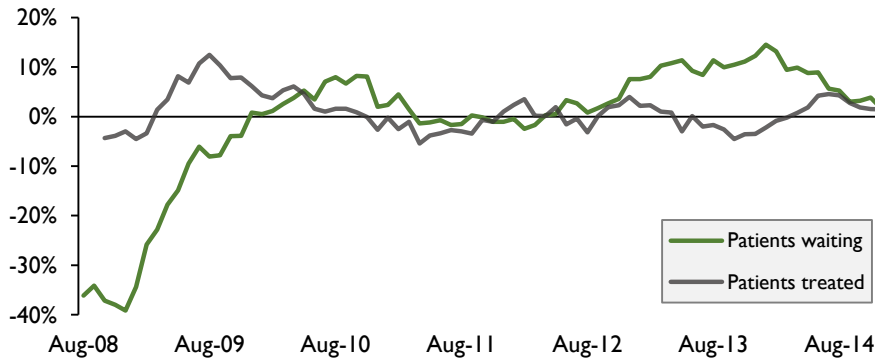


Chart 7 (below) shows the year-on-year change in the number of patients waiting and treated in the past three months for each month since 2008. Given that RTT waiting lists and waiting times exhibit an annual cycle of growth and decline, as discussed above, this year-on-year comparison allows us to observe trends more clearly. The chart shows that the rate of increase in the size of the RTT waiting list peaked in early 2014. Since then the waiting list has been growing, but at decreasing rate. The chart also shows that the large waiting list increase in 2013 and 2014 came at a time when the number of treatments performed was experiencing a year-on-year fall.

Chart 7: Year-on-Year change in patients treated (three-month average) and patients waiting



Despite the increase in the size of the RTT waiting list, NHS England as a whole continues to meet its target for incomplete RTT pathways. As noted earlier, the target is that 92% of patients waiting for treatment should have been waiting for less than 18 weeks. As **Chart 8** shows, the percentage waiting over 18 weeks remains below the 8% level required to breach this target. There has been a slight decline in performance on this measure since early 2013 – but performance is still better on this measure now than at any time before 2012. **Chart 9** compares waiting lists at the end of January in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Chart 8: RTT Waiting List: Patients waiting for over 18 weeks

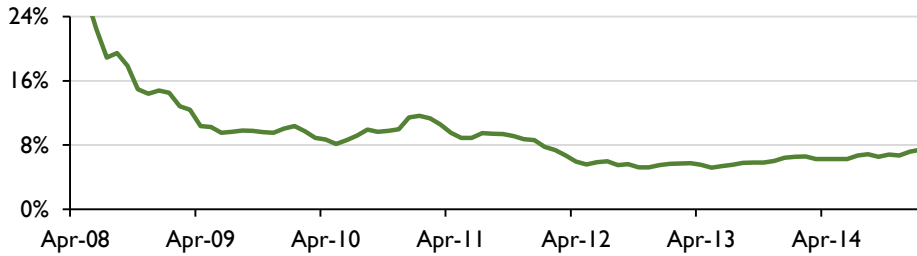
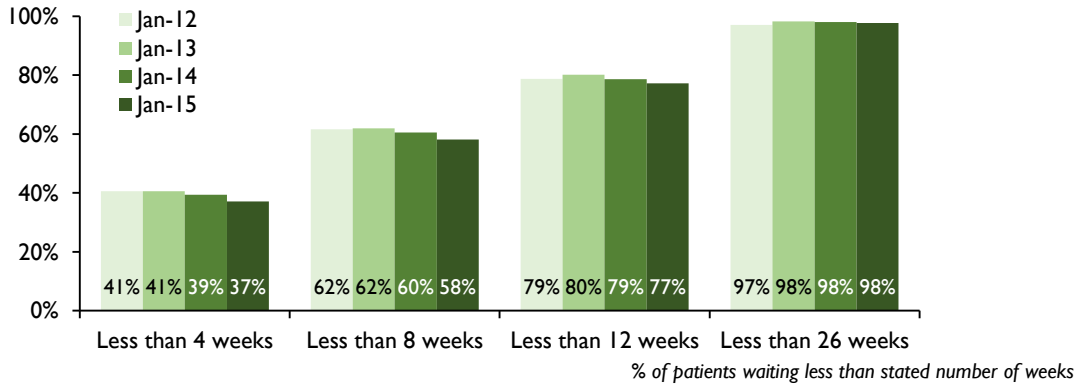


Chart 9: Waiting times of patients still waiting for treatment Comparison 2012-2015



One year waits

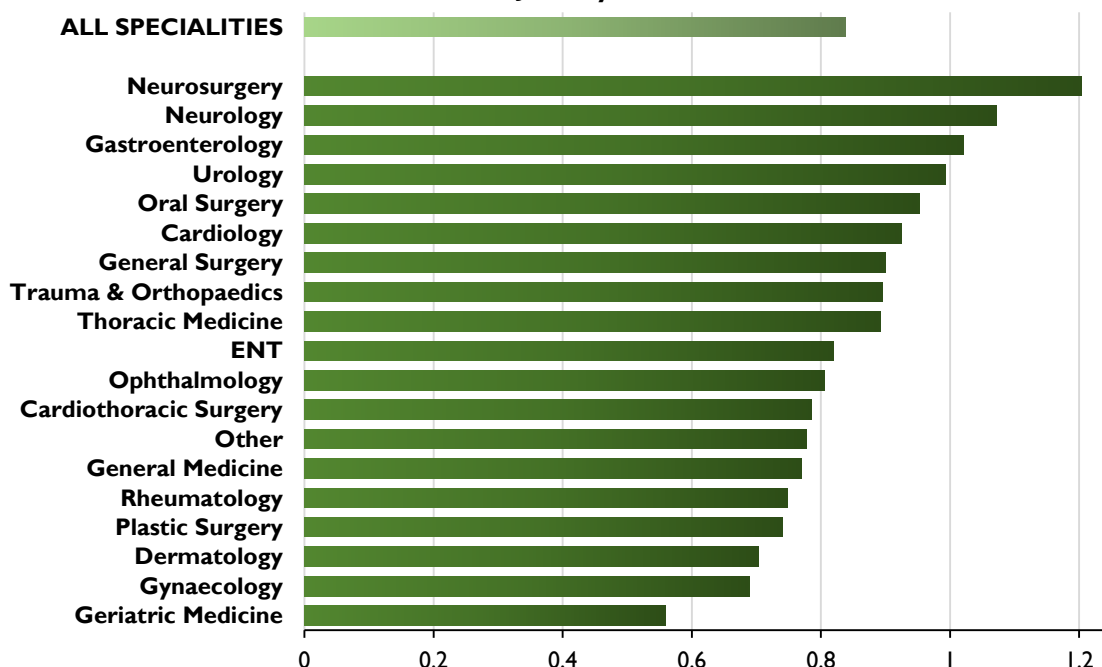
In August 2007, over half a million people on the RTT waiting list had been waiting for over a year. This was 13.8% of the total waiting list at the time. This number has fallen dramatically: the number fell to 32,000 in April 2009, 11,000 in October 2011, and 1,100 in December 2012. Since 2013 the number has stayed between 200 and 600. Note that current figures are likely to underestimate the total number of one year waiters because of the seven providers not currently reporting their data on incomplete pathways.

While there has been a large reduction in the number of one-year waiters since 2007, it has not so far proved possible to eradicate one-year waits entirely.

4.2 Waiting Lists by Treatment Speciality

One way to gauge the size of waiting lists in individual treatment specialities is to compare the number of patients waiting with the number of patients who have been treated recently. **Chart 10** does this, showing the ratio of patients waiting at the end of January 2015 to the total number of patients treated in the three months to January 2015. A value above 1 – as recorded by three specialisms – indicates that the number of patients on the waiting list is greater than the total treated in the past three months. That is to say that even if no new patients were referred in these specialisms, it would still take over three months to clear the waiting list at current rates.

**Chart 10: Ratio of patients still waiting to patients treated in last three months, by speciality
As of January 2015**



Meanwhile, **Chart 11** shows the change in waiting list for each treatment speciality over the past twelve months. Overall, almost 15,000 more people were on the RTT waiting list at the end of January 2015 than a year earlier.

The biggest percentage increase was in gastroenterology, where the waiting list at the end of January 2015 was nearly 12% higher than a year earlier. Excluding gastroenterology, there was almost no net increase in the total waiting list. Waiting lists fell in over half of specialities.

Chart 11: Year-on-year change in waiting list size by speciality, Jan 14 to Jan 15

Specialism	Change	%
TOTAL	+14,778	+0.5%
Gastroenterology	+13,902	+11.6%
Other	+9,214	+1.7%
General Surgery	+5,929	+2.3%
Thoracic Medicine	+2,631	+4.8%
Dermatology	+1,596	+1.1%
Neurosurgery	+1,038	+4.1%
Rheumatology	+813	+1.6%
Neurology	+694	+0.8%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	-321	-4.3%
ENT	-361	-0.2%
Gynaecology	-703	-0.4%
Ophthalmology	-731	-0.2%
Geriatric Medicine	-1,427	-7.7%
Oral Surgery	-1,757	-1.3%
Plastic Surgery	-1,929	-4.0%
Cardiology	-2,400	-1.8%
Urology	-2,609	-1.7%
General Medicine	-2,902	-5.8%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	-5,899	-1.5%

4.3 Waiting Lists by NHS Area Team

Of the 25 NHS area teams in England, 19 were meeting the waiting list target (92% of patients waiting for less than eighteen weeks) at the end of January 2015. One year earlier, at the end of January 2014, all but one area team was meeting the target.

Table D (below) details waiting list waiting times by area team. For January 2015, the percentage of patients waiting for less than 4, 8, 12, 18 and 26 weeks are all shown. A comparison to the key 18-week target measure for January 2014 is also given. Shading shows performance relative to the England-wide average: so green shading represents performance above the English average on the measure in question, while orange shading represents below-average performance.

As with all data presented in this document, the Library can provide information for local NHS providers and commissioners to Members and their staff on request.

**Table E: Waiting list waiting times by NHS Area Team
Patients waiting at end of January 2015**

Waiting less than	Jan-15					Jan-14	
	4 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks	18 weeks	26 weeks	18 weeks	Change
Merseyside	44.1%	64.6%	82.1%	95.3%	99.0%	95.7%	-0.4%
Lancashire	39.3%	62.5%	81.5%	94.7%	98.5%	94.4%	+0.4%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	41.5%	62.9%	81.1%	94.7%	98.7%	94.9%	-0.2%
Wessex	38.4%	60.0%	79.5%	94.4%	98.9%	94.7%	-0.3%
Birmingham and the Black Country	37.3%	59.1%	78.4%	94.2%	98.3%	93.8%	+0.4%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	40.3%	61.9%	80.1%	93.9%	98.5%	93.1%	+0.8%
West Yorkshire	36.9%	57.9%	77.3%	93.8%	98.8%	94.7%	-0.9%
Greater Manchester	40.6%	61.9%	79.9%	93.7%	98.2%	94.1%	-0.3%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	38.3%	59.2%	77.6%	93.6%	98.5%	94.2%	-0.6%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	37.8%	59.5%	78.3%	93.4%	98.3%	94.7%	-1.2%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	40.6%	61.4%	79.3%	93.3%	98.3%	93.6%	-0.3%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	38.1%	58.5%	77.1%	93.1%	98.1%	93.7%	-0.7%
Essex	36.8%	57.6%	77.1%	93.0%	98.1%	94.5%	-1.5%
Kent and Medway	38.1%	59.5%	78.7%	92.6%	97.8%	94.0%	-1.4%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	39.2%	60.5%	78.1%	92.4%	97.9%	92.5%	-0.1%
North Yorkshire and Humber	37.3%	58.5%	77.3%	92.2%	98.0%	92.8%	-0.5%
Bath, Gloucs, Swindon and Wiltshire	34.6%	53.6%	72.9%	92.1%	97.8%	93.1%	-1.0%
Thames Valley	36.3%	57.1%	77.0%	92.1%	97.7%	89.8%	+2.3%
London	37.1%	58.5%	77.4%	92.0%	97.7%	92.3%	-0.2%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	36.0%	57.1%	77.2%	91.8%	97.4%	93.4%	-1.6%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	36.5%	58.3%	77.2%	91.6%	97.7%	93.7%	-2.1%
Surrey and Sussex	32.8%	53.8%	73.7%	91.1%	97.6%	93.2%	-2.1%
East Anglia	35.4%	55.5%	74.3%	90.8%	98.4%	95.8%	-5.0%
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	36.2%	56.4%	74.2%	90.4%	97.4%	94.3%	-3.9%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	34.7%	53.8%	72.4%	89.8%	96.3%	92.1%	-2.3%
ENGLAND	37.1%	58.2%	77.2%	92.6%	97.7%	93.5%	-0.7%

KEY Above English average  Below English Average

Chart 11 (below) reproduces the effect of **Chart 9** (above) for area teams rather than treatment specialities, showing the ratio of patients waiting at the end of January 2015 to the total number of patients treated in the three months ending January 2015. A value above 1 – as recorded by two area teams – indicates that the number of patients on the waiting list is greater than the total treated in the past three months.

Chart 12: Ratio of patients still waiting to patients treated within prior three months, by NHS Area Team, as of January 2015

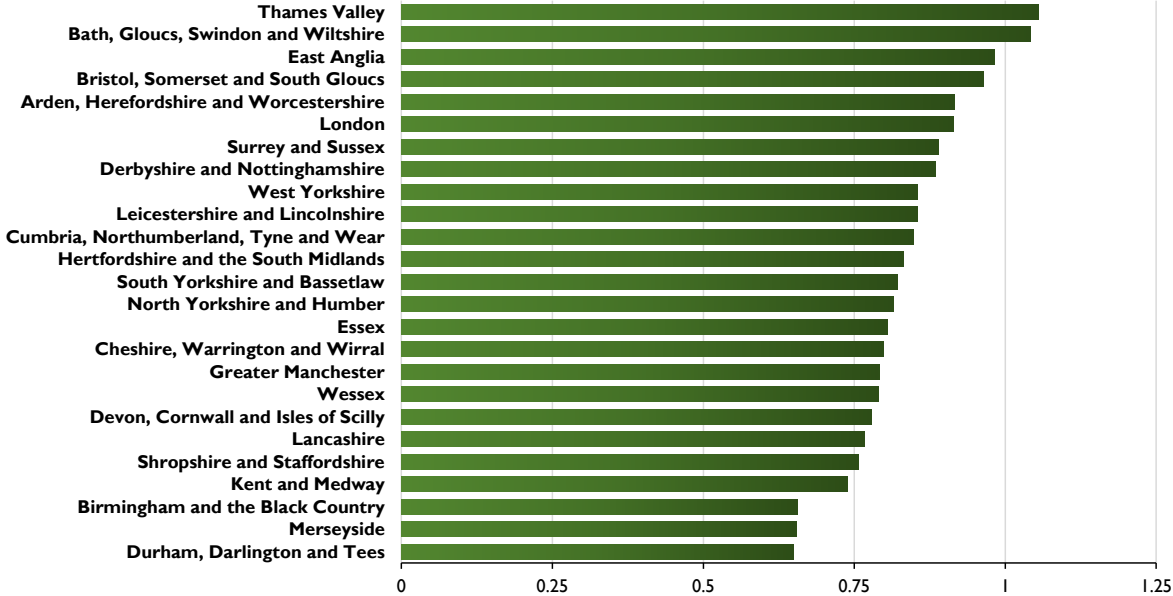


Table F (overleaf) shows waiting list performance for each area team by treatment speciality. Green squares represent a speciality for which the area team in question is meeting the incomplete RTT target. Orange shading represents a breach of the target, with darker orange shading showing cases where performance on the measure is below 85%.

The only speciality for which all area teams met the target at the end of January was gynaecology. Almost half of area teams breached the target for urology, trauma & orthopaedics and neurosurgery in January 2015.

Values are only shown where 100 people or more are waiting for a particular speciality in the area team. Blank squares show where this is not the case. Oral surgery is excluded here since over 95% of treatments are referred by NHS England rather than a local area team.

Table F: Patients waiting for treatment at end of January 2015, % waiting less than 18 weeks by area team and treatment speciality

	Cardiology	Dermatology	Ear, Nose and Throat	Gastroenterology	General Medicine	General Surgery	Geriatric Medicine	Gynaecology	Neurology	Neurosurgery	Ophthalmology	Other	Plastic Surgery	Rheumatology	Thoracic Medicine	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Urology
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	94%	91%	88%	93%	96%	86%	96%	94%	96%	90%	94%	92%	82%	96%	81%	88%	87%
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire	92%	92%	95%	91%	95%	88%	98%	94%	91%	77%	97%	93%	91%	94%	96%	90%	90%
Birmingham and the Black Country	95%	93%	94%	97%	98%	90%	98%	96%	96%	86%	95%	95%	94%	94%	95%	94%	92%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	91%	92%	94%	94%	98%	89%	99%	96%	88%	82%	91%	89%	88%	97%	93%	84%	87%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	93%	96%	95%	94%	94%	90%	100%	95%	97%	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%	95%	92%	94%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	94%	96%	94%	93%	96%	92%	98%	96%	98%	93%	94%	95%	92%	96%	96%	87%	92%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	94%	95%	95%	96%	94%	87%	97%	96%	96%	98%	92%	95%	94%	97%	94%	91%	93%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	94%	93%	93%	96%	98%	90%	97%	93%	92%	75%	93%	96%	84%	99%	94%	90%	92%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	98%	98%	95%	96%	96%	93%	96%	95%	95%	94%	95%	96%	93%	96%	96%	93%	93%
East Anglia	93%	88%	90%	95%	95%	89%	96%	92%	94%	77%	95%	88%	89%	92%	95%	90%	93%
Essex	94%	87%	92%	96%	97%	91%	98%	94%	96%	88%	93%	95%	93%	94%	96%	91%	94%
Greater Manchester	95%	96%	93%	95%	91%	91%	99%	94%	98%	91%	96%	94%	95%	96%	97%	92%	95%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	96%	91%	90%	94%	99%	90%	97%	94%	90%	82%	94%	93%	90%	93%	89%	87%	89%
Kent and Medway	96%	86%	95%	97%	98%	93%	98%	94%	96%	71%	92%	95%	94%	97%	99%	88%	95%
Lancashire	94%	97%	96%	95%	95%	92%	99%	97%	96%	99%	97%	95%	84%	97%	98%	93%	95%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	96%	94%	90%	95%	97%	90%	88%	93%	91%	91%	94%	89%	93%	95%	94%	90%	90%
London	90%	96%	91%	93%	95%	90%	94%	95%	95%	88%	94%	92%	83%	97%	96%	87%	90%
Merseyside	96%	96%	97%	96%	98%	93%	99%	95%			96%	96%	96%	99%	97%	93%	96%
North Yorkshire and Humber	93%	93%	94%	89%	98%	90%	99%	94%	93%	95%	93%	95%	82%	90%	87%	92%	92%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	96%	98%	96%	98%	99%	91%	97%	93%	98%	91%	94%	95%	93%	97%	95%	90%	94%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	86%	97%	96%	96%	96%	90%	94%	93%	98%	98%	94%	94%	87%	96%	98%	91%	92%
Surrey and Sussex	94%	96%	94%	86%	96%	89%	97%	94%	87%	82%	90%	94%	92%	90%	94%	89%	91%
Thames Valley	93%	94%	95%	96%	94%	90%	99%	96%	95%	93%	85%	93%	84%	98%	95%	92%	94%
Wessex	97%	93%	94%	95%	95%	93%	99%	95%	93%	89%	94%	97%	92%	98%	98%	93%	92%
West Yorkshire	98%	95%	94%	95%	99%	92%	99%	95%	97%	95%	94%	94%	90%	98%	96%	90%	91%

KEY

	92%+	Meeting target
	85% - 92%	} Breaching target
	Below 85%	

5 Waiting Times in England

This section examines waiting times for patients treated – that is, how long patients wait for hospital treatment after GP referral. This differs from the topic of the last section – incomplete pathways measure those who are still waiting for treatment, whereas the admitted and non-admitted measures discussed in this section measure waiting times for those whose RTT pathways are complete.

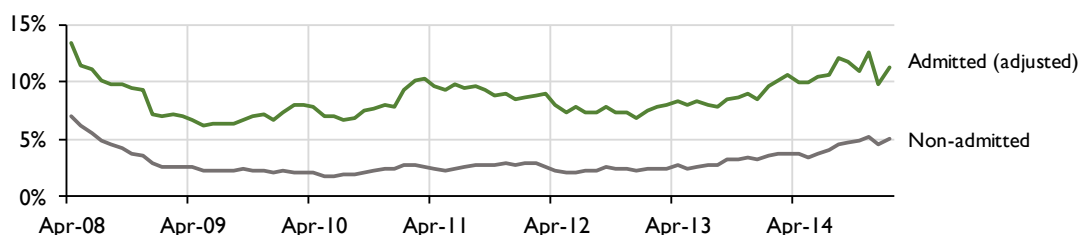
As mentioned at the outset of this document, the RTT activity targets are that 90% of completed pathways involving admission to hospital should be completed within 18 weeks, and 95% of completed pathways not involving admission to hospital should be completed within 18 weeks.

5.1 Overall

18-Week Measure

The 90% target for admitted pathways (on an adjusted basis) has been breached for ten of the last twelve months. In late 2014 this was in line with the ‘amnesty’ on the admitted and non-admitted targets. Prior to 2014, the target had not been breached since March 2011. The 95% target for non-admitted patients was met every month from 2008 until November 2014. **Chart 13** shows the percentage of patients waiting for *over* 18 weeks in each month since 2008. The sharp changes in recent months are likely to reflect changes in management decision as a result of the waiting times initiative (and associated ‘managed breach’ of the targets).

Chart 13: Patients waiting for over 18 weeks: Completed RTT pathways



Median and 95th Percentile Waiting Times

While the 18-week measure is the officially monitored waiting times target, it does not tell the full story about RTT waiting times. Simply knowing that someone waited less than 18 weeks for treatment does not tell us how long they waited – and given that nine-tenths of patients wait for less than 18 weeks, it is natural to wonder precisely how long the typical patient waits for treatment. The RTT data gives us a breakdown of how many patients for each number of weeks before treatment (i.e. how many waited 1-2 weeks, how many waited 2-3 weeks, etc) along with data on the **median** and **95th percentile** waiting times. The median waiting time is

the middle value of all waiting times – so if the median time is 6 weeks then we know that half of patients waited for more than 6 weeks and half waited for less than 6 weeks. The 95th percentile measures the waiting times for those who waited longest – so if the 95th percentile waiting time is 18 weeks, this means that 5% of patients waited for more than 18 weeks. **Charts 14a and 14b** illustrate the median and 95th percentile RTT waiting times.

Charts 14a and 14b: RTT Waiting Times in England, Median and 95th Percentile
Number of weeks waited

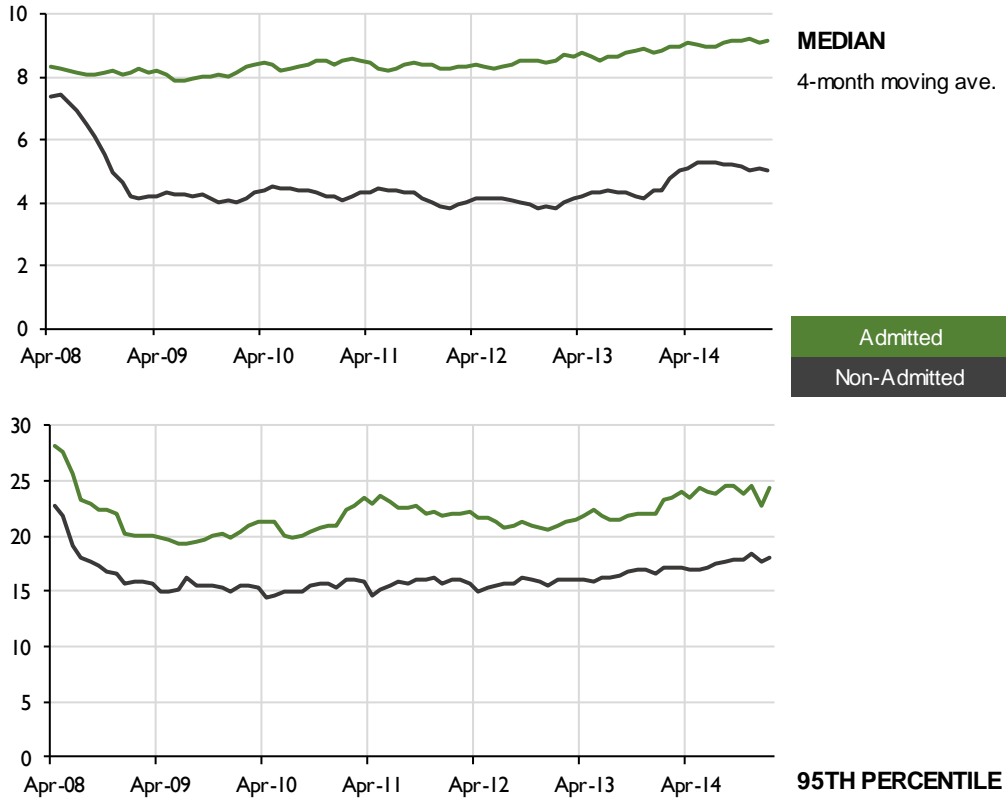


Chart 14a shows the median waiting time for treatment on a four-month moving average basis. For admitted patients, this has risen slowly from eight weeks in 2008 to just over nine weeks at present. For non-admitted patients the median wait stayed at just over four weeks (save for seasonal variation) between 2009 and 2013, but rose sharply in mid-to-late 2013. It is now stabilised at just over 5 weeks.

Chart 14b shows the 95th percentile RTT waiting time. Notably, the 95th percentile waiting time for admitted patients is only 39% higher than for non-admitted patients – a substantially smaller gap than for the median, where the value for admitted patients is 63% higher than for non-admitted patients and has historically been closer to 100% higher. Both admitted pathways and non-admitted pathways have seen a slow rise in the 95th percentile waiting time since early 2013. Currently, 5% of admitted patients wait for 24½ weeks or more, and 5% of non-admitted patients wait for 18 weeks or more.

5.2 Waiting Times by Treatment Speciality

Table G shows RTT waiting times performance by treatment speciality in the 12-month periods ending January 2014 and January 2015. Green shading denotes that the relevant waiting time target has been met, while orange shading indicates that the target was breached.

Most specialities saw a decline in performance between 2014 and 2015 for both Admitted (Adjusted) and Non-Admitted pathways.

Table G: RTT 18-Week Waiting Times by Treatment Speciality

	Meeting target		Breaching target			
	Admitted (Adjusted)		Non-Admitted		Incomplete	
	Year to Jan 15	Year to Jan 14	Year to Jan 15	Year to Jan 14	End of Jan 15	End of Jan 14
Cardiology	92.0%	94.2%	96.1%	97.3%	93.6%	94.3%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	86.7%	87.4%	96.7%	98.0%	90.0%	90.2%
Dermatology	92.6%	95.6%	95.9%	97.6%	93.9%	95.7%
Ear, Nose & Throat	86.4%	89.6%	95.7%	97.0%	93.2%	93.6%
Gastroenterology	97.9%	98.8%	93.4%	96.1%	93.8%	94.5%
General Medicine	98.2%	98.5%	97.5%	98.2%	95.3%	96.2%
General Surgery	87.9%	90.5%	95.6%	96.5%	90.4%	91.6%
Geriatric Medicine	98.7%	99.2%	98.7%	99.1%	97.0%	97.1%
Gynaecology	91.9%	93.9%	97.8%	98.3%	94.6%	95.7%
Neurology	95.1%	98.5%	93.1%	95.8%	94.0%	93.6%
Neurosurgery	83.7%	86.7%	92.2%	93.9%	87.9%	88.6%
Ophthalmology	89.2%	92.4%	95.9%	97.4%	93.6%	94.2%
Oral Surgery	86.2%	90.3%	92.8%	94.5%	92.4%	92.8%
Other	90.4%	92.6%	96.1%	97.4%	93.0%	94.2%
Plastic Surgery	89.7%	91.4%	96.0%	96.7%	88.8%	89.0%
Rheumatology	98.2%	98.8%	96.6%	97.9%	95.4%	96.4%
Thoracic Medicine	98.8%	98.4%	95.9%	97.2%	94.5%	95.5%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	85.3%	88.1%	94.9%	96.1%	89.9%	91.0%
Urology	89.3%	91.9%	95.0%	96.3%	91.8%	92.5%
Total	89.1%	91.6%	95.7%	97.0%	92.6%	93.5%

5.3 Waiting Times by NHS Area Team

Table H shows RTT waiting times by NHS area team for the 12 months ending January 2015. 10 of 25 area teams met the 90% target for admitted (adjusted) pathways. All but five areas met the 95% target for non-admitted pathways.

This chart includes a comparison with the twelve months to January 2014. While NHS area teams came into existence only in April 2013 – i.e. during this twelve month period – it is nevertheless possible to perform a notional comparison by mapping the commissioners which existed before this time (Primary Care Trusts) with current area teams. This allows us to see how performance has changed in different areas of England. The contrast is most stark for admitted (adjusted) pathways, where the number of area teams breaching the target

rose from 2 to 15. Note again that the 'year to January 2015' period partly covers a time when the admitted and non-admitted targets were not enforced in the usual way.

Table H: RTT Waiting Times Performance by NHS Area Team

	Meeting target		Breaching target			
	Admitted (Adjusted)		Non-Admitted		Incomplete	
	Year to Jan 15	Year to Jan 14	Year to Jan 15	Year to Jan 14	End of Jan 15	End of Jan 14
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	87.6%	91.2%	96.6%	97.8%	90.4%	94.3%
Bath, Gloucs, Swindon and Wiltshire	91.5%	93.7%	96.2%	97.1%	92.1%	93.1%
Birmingham and the Black Country	89.0%	92.2%	95.9%	97.7%	94.2%	93.8%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	86.5%	92.3%	94.4%	96.2%	89.8%	92.1%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	92.9%	93.2%	97.0%	97.6%	93.6%	94.2%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	88.4%	91.6%	97.0%	97.5%	93.1%	93.7%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	90.8%	92.3%	96.1%	97.2%	93.4%	94.7%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	88.8%	92.3%	96.2%	97.2%	92.4%	92.5%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	92.6%	92.2%	98.4%	98.7%	94.7%	94.9%
East Anglia	89.9%	92.1%	96.5%	97.8%	90.8%	95.8%
Essex	88.1%	91.7%	95.0%	97.4%	93.0%	94.5%
Greater Manchester	91.5%	93.3%	96.4%	97.1%	93.7%	94.1%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	89.6%	91.9%	95.2%	97.2%	91.6%	93.7%
Kent and Medway	89.4%	91.9%	96.9%	97.3%	92.6%	94.0%
Lancashire	91.1%	91.0%	97.2%	97.4%	94.7%	94.4%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	85.4%	90.0%	94.4%	95.7%	91.8%	93.4%
London	86.9%	90.6%	95.6%	97.1%	92.0%	92.3%
Merseyside	93.3%	93.2%	97.8%	98.0%	95.3%	95.7%
North Yorkshire and Humber	88.4%	92.2%	94.6%	96.5%	92.2%	92.8%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	90.1%	88.5%	97.1%	97.0%	93.9%	93.1%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	89.7%	91.4%	96.2%	96.8%	93.3%	93.6%
Surrey and Sussex	88.6%	91.7%	93.4%	96.9%	91.1%	93.2%
Thames Valley	88.4%	91.3%	96.2%	97.7%	92.1%	89.8%
Wessex	91.1%	92.5%	96.6%	97.4%	94.4%	94.7%
West Yorkshire	90.3%	91.0%	95.5%	96.4%	93.8%	94.7%
ENGLAND	89.1%	91.6%	95.7%	97.0%	92.6%	93.5%

Tables I and J (overleaf) show detailed waiting time performance for each area team by treatment speciality. **Table I** covers admitted (adjusted) pathways while **Table J** covers non-admitted pathways, both for the 18-week target. Only specialities with 100 or more completed pathways are shown; otherwise the cell is left blank. As with Table F, a green cell denotes the relevant target being met, and an orange cell denotes the target being breached. Values are rounded, so a displayed figure of (e.g.) 90% for admitted pathways may still represent a breach of the target since the actual value may be as low as 89.5%.

Following these tables, three **maps** show performance on the admitted (adjusted), non-admitted, and incomplete measures for CCGs. These maps cover the twelve month period ending January 2015.

**Table I: Patients treated within 18 weeks, Admitted (adjusted) pathways, by NHS area team and treatment speciality
12 month period ending January 2015**

	Cardiology	Cardiothoracic Surgery	Dermatology	Ear, Nose and Throat	Gastroenterology	General Medicine	General Surgery	Geriatric Medicine	Gynaecology	Neurology	Neurosurgery	Ophthalmology	Other	Plastic Surgery	Rheumatology	Thoracic Medicine	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Urology
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	97%	95%	95%	75%	99%	98%	84%		91%	90%	89%	89%	92%	89%	100%	99%	82%	87%
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire	87%	85%	92%	93%	99%	99%	92%		91%	95%	79%	91%	92%	90%	100%	99%	89%	87%
Birmingham and the Black Country	95%	96%	92%	84%	98%	98%	83%		92%	97%	80%	89%	93%	92%	99%	99%	83%	87%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	87%	87%	90%	84%	99%	95%	84%		92%	97%	77%	81%	87%	89%	100%	99%	82%	86%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	97%	95%	93%	94%	98%	98%	90%		95%			94%	89%	96%	98%	99%	91%	94%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	94%	83%	87%	89%	97%	98%	89%	100%	91%		92%	85%	91%	92%	98%	100%	85%	86%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	95%	95%	96%	90%	96%	99%	86%		96%	90%	96%	88%	93%	93%	95%	97%	87%	94%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	86%	90%	95%	83%	99%	100%	87%	100%	93%	97%	67%	86%	96%	88%	99%	99%	86%	85%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	97%		94%	95%	100%	99%	90%		96%			93%	96%	92%		100%	89%	89%
East Anglia	95%		95%	80%	98%	99%	85%		91%	95%	88%	95%	94%	89%	99%	98%	83%	92%
Essex	89%	83%	59%	86%	98%	100%	87%	100%	93%	94%	83%	86%	91%	92%	98%	96%	85%	87%
Greater Manchester	90%	92%		91%	96%	98%	90%		93%		97%	94%	89%	94%	99%	98%	90%	92%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	96%	80%	89%	89%	99%	100%	89%	97%	92%	93%	80%	91%	92%	90%	99%	98%	82%	86%
Kent and Medway	95%	48%	85%	90%	98%	98%	91%	99%	91%	92%	52%	92%	93%	86%	96%	99%	83%	92%
Lancashire	92%	89%	98%	91%	98%	98%	91%		94%		83%	91%	92%	88%	97%	99%	90%	90%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	97%	92%	89%	75%	96%	98%	81%		89%	89%	85%	84%	84%	93%	97%	99%	80%	91%
London	89%	83%	96%	80%	97%	96%	84%	100%	90%	93%	74%	88%	87%	86%	98%	99%	83%	86%
Merseyside	96%		96%	93%	99%	97%	92%		96%			94%	88%	96%		98%	92%	94%
North Yorkshire and Humber	90%	81%	94%	78%	95%	99%	90%		94%			86%	92%	86%	98%	98%	86%	88%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	97%	97%	93%	89%	98%	97%	89%		92%	95%	86%	91%	89%	94%	98%	97%	85%	94%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	78%	82%	90%	92%	99%	97%	89%		91%			92%	92%	88%	98%	99%	84%	91%
Surrey and Sussex	92%	91%	90%	89%	98%	99%	87%		89%	96%	84%	89%	91%	89%	98%	98%	84%	89%
Thames Valley	94%	60%	95%	88%	99%	97%	91%		91%	97%	81%	78%	90%	85%	97%	99%	83%	90%
Wessex	95%		94%	86%	99%	99%	91%		91%	91%		89%	92%	94%	97%	100%	87%	91%
West Yorkshire	98%	97%	84%	88%	97%	100%	90%	95%	91%	97%	86%	92%	89%	88%	99%	99%	87%	92%

KEY

90%+	Meeting target
80% - 90%	Breaching target
Below 90%	

**Table J: Patients treated within 18 weeks, Non-admitted pathways, by NHS area team and treatment speciality
12 month period ending January 2015**

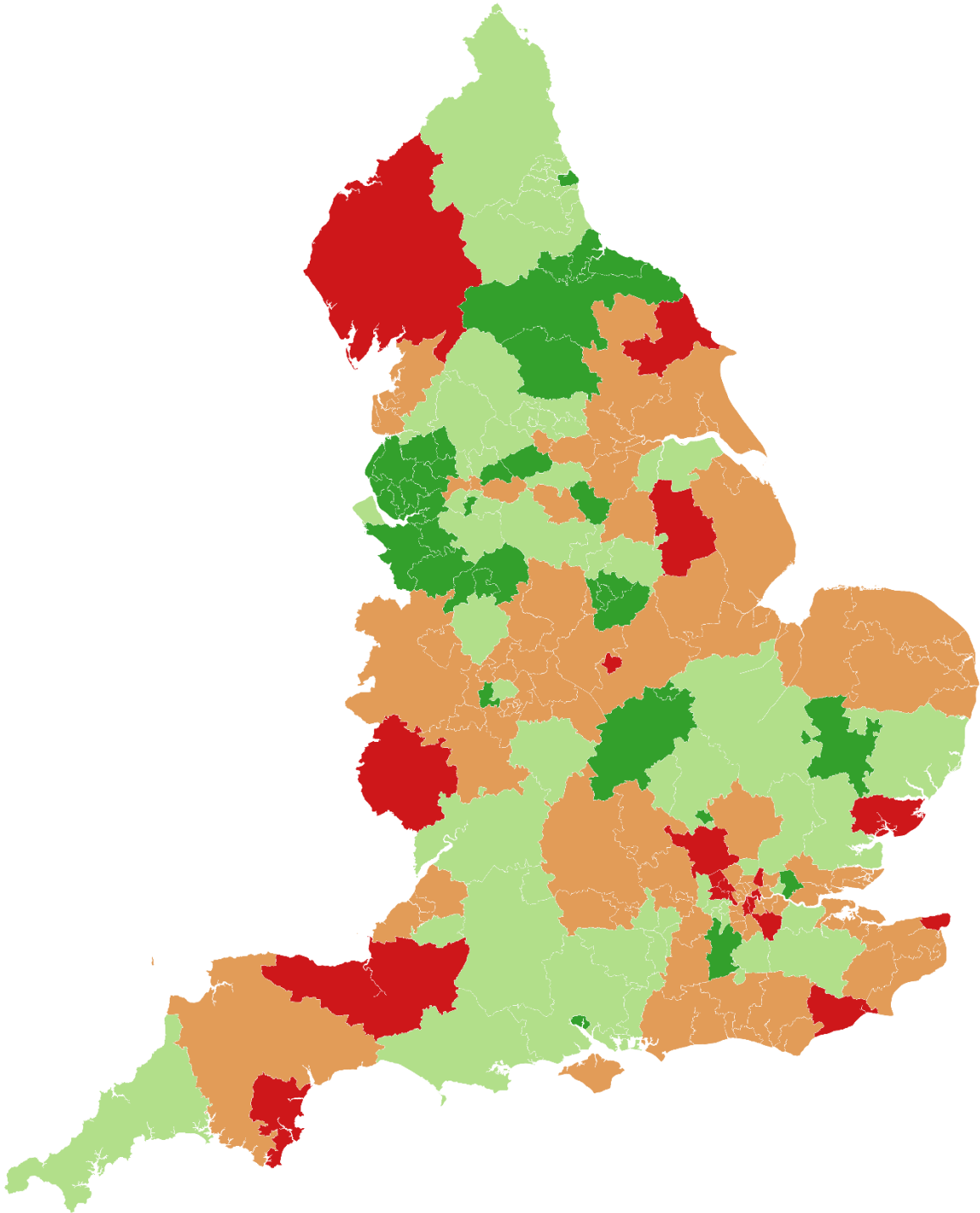
	Cardiology	Cardiothoracic Surgery	Dermatology	Ear, Nose and Throat	Gastroenterology	General Medicine	General Surgery	Geriatric Medicine	Gynaecology	Neurology	Neurosurgery	Ophthalmology	Other	Plastic Surgery	Rheumatology	Thoracic Medicine	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Urology
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	99%	98%	96%	96%	95%	98%	95%	98%	98%	98%	93%	97%	98%	96%	97%	95%	94%	95%
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire	94%		95%	97%	91%	97%	97%	99%	98%	88%	90%	97%	97%	98%	94%	96%	96%	96%
Birmingham and the Black Country	94%	98%	96%	96%	94%	98%	96%	95%	98%	96%	91%	97%	96%	96%	98%	90%	95%	94%
Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucs	93%		93%	91%	92%	98%	94%	98%	98%	80%	89%	96%	95%	99%	96%	96%	93%	96%
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral	96%	96%	97%	97%	95%	97%	95%	99%	99%	100%	97%	96%	98%	99%	98%	97%	96%	96%
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	97%	97%	98%	97%	94%	98%	97%	99%	98%	94%	95%	97%	98%	97%	97%	97%	95%	96%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	96%	100%	98%	97%	94%	97%	94%	99%	98%	97%	97%	95%	97%	97%	96%	94%	94%	94%
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	94%	96%	97%	95%	96%	98%	96%	99%	99%	94%	87%	97%	97%	95%	99%	93%	93%	95%
Durham, Darlington and Tees	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	97%	99%	98%	98%	99%	97%	98%	98%	96%
East Anglia	97%	99%	96%	95%	96%	99%	96%	99%	98%	95%	96%	95%	97%	94%	98%	99%	96%	97%
Essex	96%	96%	90%	94%	96%	97%	93%	99%	97%	95%	90%	96%	96%	97%	96%	95%	94%	93%
Greater Manchester	97%	97%	95%	96%	92%	96%	97%	99%	98%	99%	94%	97%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%
Hertfordshire and the South Midlands	95%	98%	93%	94%	94%	99%	95%	99%	97%	93%	92%	96%	97%	96%	96%	93%	94%	92%
Kent and Medway	97%		98%	97%	96%	98%	97%	98%	98%	96%	85%	96%	97%	94%	98%	97%	96%	97%
Lancashire	97%	96%	98%	98%	96%	97%	96%	99%	99%	94%	95%	98%	96%	95%	98%	98%	97%	96%
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire	96%	96%	96%	93%	90%	98%	95%	98%	97%	91%	96%	94%	94%	96%	96%	97%	92%	95%
London	96%	96%	96%	95%	93%	97%	95%	99%	98%	94%	85%	96%	96%	96%	97%	97%	94%	93%
Merseyside	98%	99%	98%	97%	98%	99%	98%	99%	97%		100%	97%	98%	97%	99%	97%	97%	98%
North Yorkshire and Humber	91%	94%	93%	95%	87%	98%	93%	99%	98%	94%	93%	97%	97%	94%	91%	88%	95%	92%
Shropshire and Staffordshire	97%	99%	97%	98%	97%	99%	98%	97%	99%	98%	92%	95%	99%	98%	97%	95%	94%	98%
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	93%	100%	97%	97%	97%	95%	93%	98%	97%	84%	94%	98%	97%	95%	98%	98%	94%	94%
Surrey and Sussex	95%	98%	97%	95%	85%	97%	93%	97%	97%	86%	82%	88%	94%	95%	87%	93%	94%	94%
Thames Valley	97%		98%	93%	97%	98%	96%	99%	98%	95%	95%	94%	98%	96%	98%	98%	93%	95%
Wessex	97%		95%	96%	95%	97%	96%	98%	97%	91%	92%	97%	98%	99%	98%	97%	96%	96%
West Yorkshire	97%	98%	94%	96%	85%	99%	97%	99%	97%	97%	97%	97%	95%	90%	98%	95%	95%	96%

KEY

	95%+	}	Meeting target
	90% - 95%		Breaching target
	Below 90%		

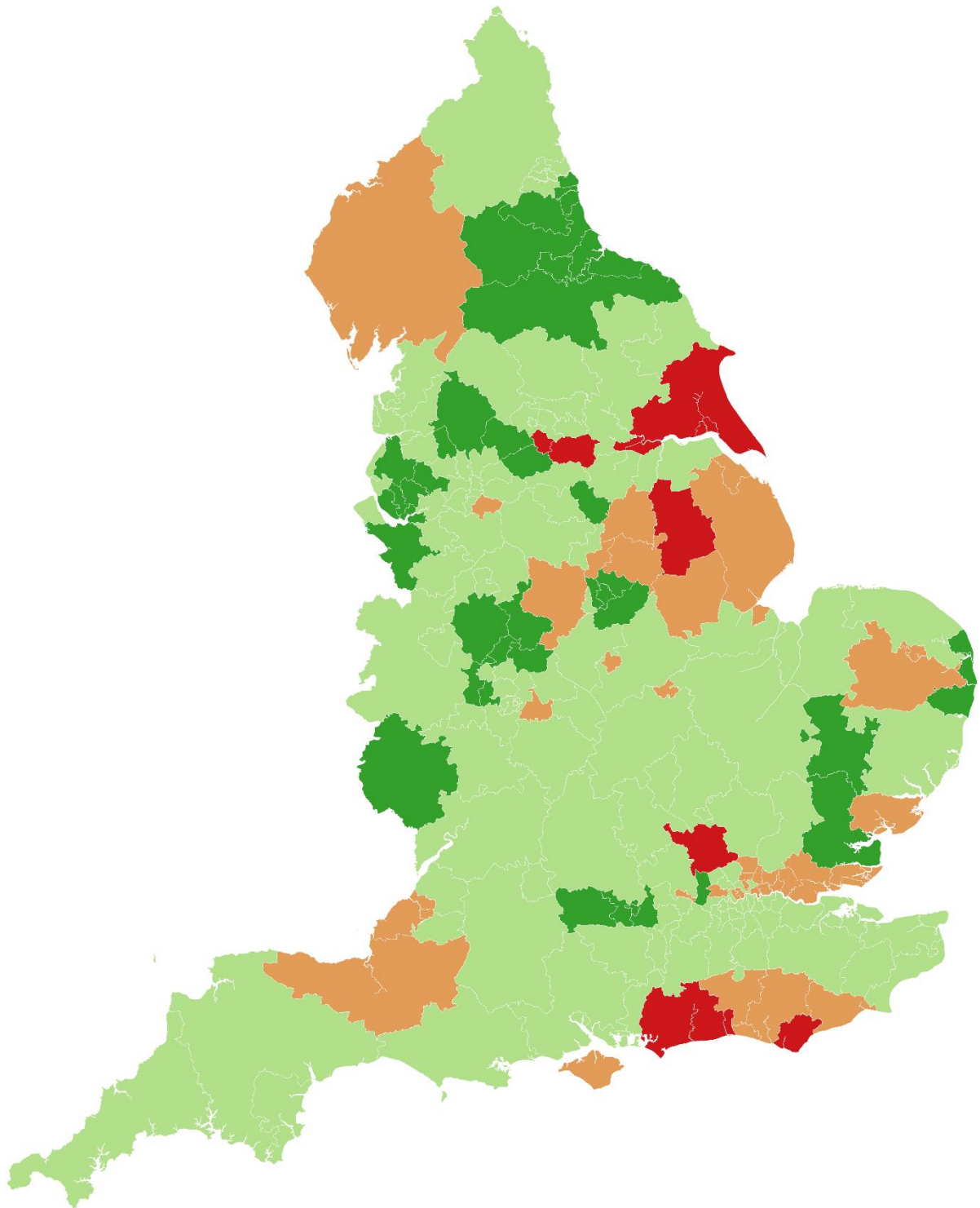
5.4 Maps: Waiting times by CCG





ADMITTED (ADJUSTED) PATHWAYS: RTT Waiting Times Performance
By CCG, 12 month period ending Jan 2015



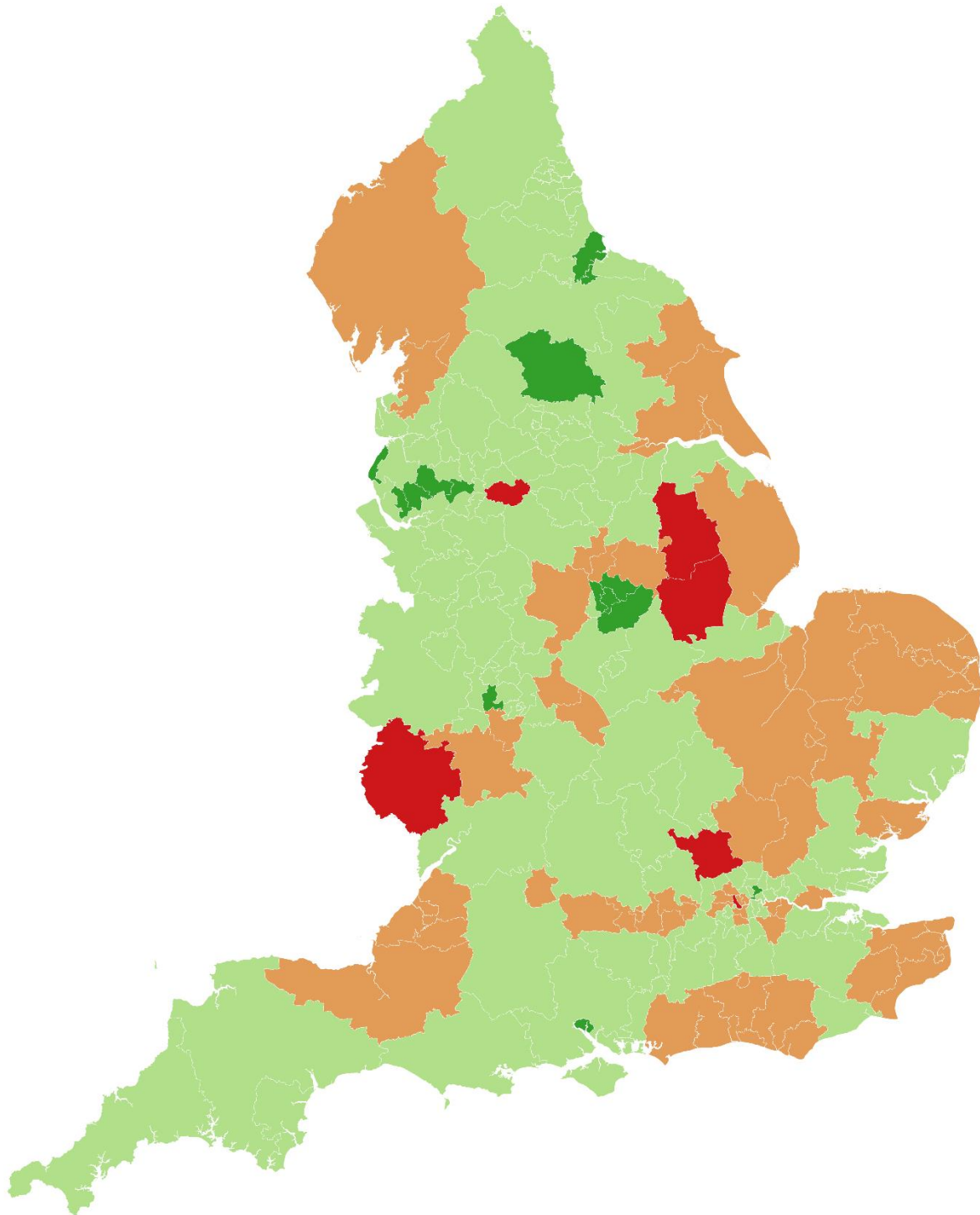
Waiting less than 18 weeks	
Below 85%	} Breaching target
85% - 90%	
90% - 92.5%	} Meeting target
Above 92.5%	

NON-ADMITTED PATHWAYS: RTT Waiting Times Performance
By CCG, 12 month period ending Jan 2015



Waiting less than 18 weeks	
	Below 92.5%
	92.5% - 95%
} Breaching target	
<hr/>	
	95% - 97.5%
	Above 97.5%
} Meeting target	

INCOMPLETE PATHWAYS: RTT Waiting Lists Performance
 By CCG, Patients still waiting at the end of Jan 2015



Waiting less than 18 weeks	
	Below 88% } Breaching target
	88% - 92% } Breaching target
	92% - 96% } Meeting target
	Above 96% } Meeting target

6 Wales

Welsh data on referral to treatment waiting times is [published on StatsWales⁵](#). Datasets for Consultant-led Referral to Treatment (RTT) for England and Wales are not directly comparable, since the targets with respect to which data is collected are not the same in the two countries. In England, the key target is that 90% of admitted and 95% of admitted patients should be treated within 18 weeks of referral. In Wales the targets are that 95% of patients waiting to start treatment must have waited less than 26 weeks from referral to treatment, and 100 per cent of patients not treated within 26 weeks must be treated within 36 weeks.

Charts 15a and 15b show Welsh trends in RTT waiting times on these target measures since 2009. In January 2015, 84.3% of patients waiting for treatment had been waiting for less than 26 weeks. Performance on this measure has gradually fallen since 2009. Also displayed are shows trends on the second Welsh RTT target – the percentage of patients who waited over 26 weeks that were treated within 36 weeks. In June 2014 this figure was 59.6%. This is below the target that *all* patients who are not treated within 26 weeks should be treated within 36 weeks. Again, performance on this target has gradually declined since 2009.

**Charts 15a and 15b: Wales RTT waiting times summary charts:
Performance on target measures**

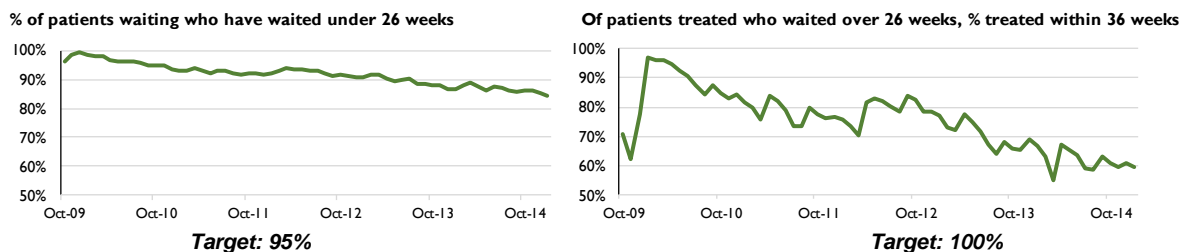
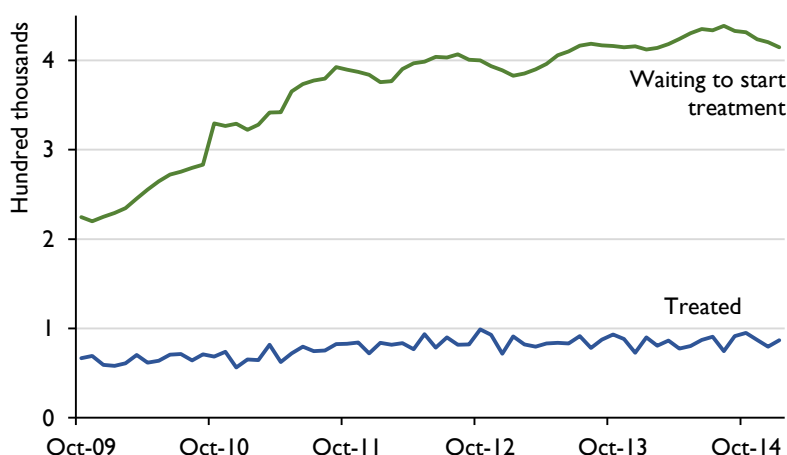


Chart 16 (below) shows changes in the number of patients waiting to start treatment since 2009, compared with the number treated in each month.

Note that the ratio of patients waiting for treatment to patients treated in the last month has recently risen above 4:1 in Wales. In England, this ratio remains below 3:1. The 414,000 people waiting to start treatment represents 13% of the Welsh population – more than double the proportion of the English population who are on the RTT waiting list.

⁵ <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Referral-to-Treatment>

Chart 16: RTT waiting times:
Numbers treated and still waiting to start treatment, monthly data

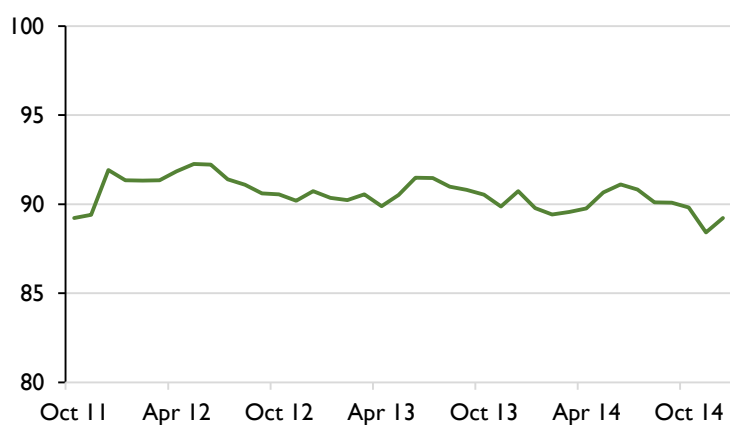


The Department of Health warns that caution should be taken when comparing English and Welsh RTT data, since differences exist in the measurement rules.

7 Scotland

Scottish data on referral to treatment waiting times is [published by ISD Scotland](#)⁶. In Scotland, the RTT target is that 90% of patients should complete their RTT pathways within 18 weeks. This target [came into force in December 2011](#).⁷ While this target has been met in most months since 2011, the recent trend has been for lower performance on this measure, as **Chart 17** shows. The target was breached in the last three months of 2014.

Chart 17: Scotland RTT Waiting Times: % of patient journeys under 18 weeks



⁶ <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Publications/data-tables.asp?id=1294#1294>

⁷ <http://www.18weeks.scot.nhs.uk/>

Table K compares performance for individual Scottish NHS Health Boards for the month of December in the past three years. Shading demonstrates whether the 90% target was met in the month in question.

Table K: RTT 18-week performance, individual Scottish Health Boards

	Meeting target	Breaching target	
	Dec-14	Dec-13	Dec-12
Ayrshire and Arran	82.8	92.9	91.8
Borders	90.8	92.0	93.1
Dumfries and Galloway	90.9	93.0	94.2
Fife	86.7	92.2	91.9
Forth Valley	89.7	81.0	83.3
Grampian	84.9	89.7	90.6
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	91.5	91.1	91.6
Lanarkshire	92.6	93.7	94.3
Lothian	86.3	87.2	87.6
Orkney	97.8	98.0	99.0
Shetland	93.3	97.1	97.4
Tayside	90.3	93.8	90.5
Western Isles	94.0	93.4	95.1

8 Appendix: Glossary of Treatment Functions

Cardiology

Services treating diseases and abnormalities of the heart

Cardiothoracic surgery

Used only where there are no separate services for cardiac surgery and thoracic surgery

Dermatology

Services for the treatment of diseases of the skin

Gastroenterology

The treatment of diseases of the digestive system

General medicine

Includes medical sub-categories not elsewhere listed, e.g. metabolic medicine

General surgery

Includes surgical sub-categories not elsewhere listed, e.g. endocrine surgery

Geriatric medicine

Services to treat diseases and disabilities in older adults

Gynaecology

Disorders of the female reproductive system. Includes planned terminations

Neurology

Services to diagnose and treat conditions and diseases of the central nervous system

Neurosurgery

The prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of disorders which affect any portion of the nervous system including the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and extra-cranial cerebrovascular system

Ophthalmology

The surgical treatment of disorders and diseases of the eye

Oral surgery

The diagnosis and surgical treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and aesthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the head, mouth, teeth, gums, jaws and neck

Plastic surgery

Services to correct or restore form and function. In addition to cosmetic or aesthetic surgery, plastic surgery includes many types of reconstructive surgery, and the treatment of burns

Rheumatology

Services to treat rheumatism, arthritis, and other disorders of the joints, muscles and ligaments

Thoracic medicine

Treatment of diseases affecting organs inside the thorax (the chest). Generally treatment of conditions of the lungs, chest wall, and diaphragm

Trauma & orthopaedics

Surgery to treat injuries, congenital and acquired disorders of the bones, joints, and their associated soft tissues, including ligaments, nerves and muscles

Urology

Surgical treatment of disorders of the urinary system and male reproductive system