

## Analysis Method Notice

### The number of patients waiting more than 8 weeks for a specified diagnostic test

This notice describes an Analysis Method that has been developed for use in the production of published national outcome indicators, performance measures and/or currencies, which are derived directly from NHS Wales data.

The Analysis Method has been reviewed by the Analysis Methodologies Group and its output submitted to the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) for potential accreditation.

*It should be noted that, where the data flow on which the analysis is being undertaken has not been reviewed by WISB (see 'Status of WISB Data Standards Assurance' below), accreditation of the analysis method **cannot** be interpreted as an approval of the underlying data standards or the quality of the data used.*

*It is recognised that formal review and/or assurance of the data flow may have been undertaken by other bodies, where those data are being formally published; for example, as 'Official Statistics'. In such circumstances, users of this method are advised to contact the relevant organisations should they require further information on the underlying quality of the specified data source.*

For further details about the group, including Terms of Reference and membership, please visit the following website:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=56696>

**WISB Reference:** ISRN 2018 / 002

Please address enquiries about this Analysis Method the NHS Wales Informatics Service Data Standards Team.

E-mail: [data.standards@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:data.standards@wales.nhs.uk) / Tel: 029 2050 2539

<b>WISB Analysis Method Appraisal Assessment</b>	<b>Accredited</b> This Analysis Method has been appraised by WISB and is felt to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the specified indicator requirement, in that it is suitable for its calculation / derivation;</li> <li>• Is reproducible by organisations, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>WISB Analysis Method Appraisal Outcome(s)</b>	

<b>Status of Data Standards Assurance</b>	<b>WISB Reviewed</b> The data used in this Analysis Method are based on data item standards that have been through the Information Standards Assurance Process.
<b>WISB Decision</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Data Standards Assurance Outcome(s)</b>	

---

**Indicator**

The number of patients waiting more than 8 weeks for a specified diagnostic test

**Target:**

0

---

**Rationale / Context**

Diagnostic tests and investigations are used to identify a patient's condition, disease or injury. Diagnostic testing is an integral part of the healthcare system, providing essential information to enable providers and patients to make the right clinical decisions. From the patient point of view, early detection and diagnosis can prevent unnecessary pain and suffering. It can also reduce the scale and cost of treatment.

---

**Data Source(s)**

[Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return](#)

---

**Definitions:****Definitional Guidance:****Data Items:**

n/a

**Terms:**

n/a

---

**Detailed Specification**

The diagnostic wait is the time waited from receipt of referral for a diagnostic investigation (clock start point) to the end of the census date, which is the last day of the current reporting month.

Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred for has been carried out.

A full list of the diagnostic tests which are included in the indicator can be found in Additional Information.

Waiting lists include all those patients, irrespective of their area of residence, who are waiting for NHS-funded diagnostic services in Wales.

The diagnostic waiting times data is submitted in weekly time bands. The calculation from days to weeks wait reporting is the integer value of  $(\text{number of days} - 1)/7$  or zero, whichever is greater. For example, to calculate the weeks wait for 277 days, this would be:

$(277-1)/7 = 39.428$  (equivalent to 39 weeks and 4 days).

This would be recorded in the 'Over 39 weeks and up to 40 weeks (day 274 – 280) time band.

All DSCNs relating to the Diagnostic and Therapy Waiting Times Return, including details of which

---

OPCS 4. Codes are included, can be found [here](#).

---

**Calculation:**

***Numerator***

The number of patients waiting more than 8 weeks (day 56) for specific diagnostic test / procedures

***Denominator***

N/A

---

**Reporting Format / Frequency**

Reporting Frequency	Monthly
Time Delay of Reported Data?	Monthly data returns must be submitted and signed off by HBs on the 10 working days after the month end

---

**Discussion Points / Areas for Future Development**

*This section details any areas the Analysis Methodologies Group felt needed further consideration / review by the 'owner' of the method.*

## **Appendix A – Additional Information**

The following tests / procedures are within scope of the 8 week waiting times diagnostic target:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Sub Service</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Cardiology	Stress Test Echo  Cardiogram	A stress test is a non invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise.  An echo cardiogram is a non invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease.
Diagnostic Endoscopy	Gastroscopy Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Colonoscopy Cystoscopy Bronchoscopy	Endoscopy is the direct visual examination of any part of the interior of the body by means of an optical viewing instrument.
Imaging	Fluoroscopy	Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique commonly used by physicians to obtain real-time images of the internal structures of a patient through the use of a fluoroscope.
Neurophysiology	Electromyography  Nerve Conduction Studies	Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedures that measures the electrical activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system.  Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) measure the function of the peripheral nervous system i.e. nerves and muscles.
Physiological Measurement	Urodynamic Tests  Vascular Technology	Urodynamics is an umbrella term describing physiological measurements of the bladder and urethra's ability to fulfil these functions, including pressures and flows.  Used to detect abnormalities within the vascular system, assisting a physician's diagnosis and decisions to treat surgically or otherwise.
Radiology – GP Referral  Radiology – Consultant Referral	Barium Enema CT MR Non Obstetric Ultrasound Nuclear Medicine	

**Appendix B – SQL Code** (where applicable)

n/a