

## Analysis Method Notice

### Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Less Than 26 Weeks

An accredited Analysis Method describes a method that has been agreed for use in the production of published national outcome indicators, performance measures and/or currencies

Analysis Methods are developed and / or agreed by the Analysis Methodologies Group. They are accredited by the Welsh Information Standards Board. 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:** IGRN Ref. 2007/035

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

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<p><b>WISB Appraisal Assessment</b></p>	<p><b>Accredited</b> This Analysis Method has been appraised by WISB and is felt to be fit for purpose in that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets the business requirement;</li> <li>• Is reproducible by organisations, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Status of Data Standards Assurance</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>WISB Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><u><a href="#">Outcome</a></u></p>

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## Indicator

The percentage of patients waiting less than 26 weeks for treatment.

### Target:

95%.

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## Rationale / Context

To reduce the length of time that patients have to wait for high quality, elective treatment in order to improve patient care and treatment outcomes:

- Patients will receive faster access to treatment and care allowing them to be relieved of their symptoms, pain or discomfort more quickly.
- For each elective referral into secondary care, the whole patient journey will be measurable including the so-called 'hidden' waits for the periods of time patients wait for follow up, which historically were not systematically measured.
- Greater transparency so that patients have a greater understanding of their own pathway and can track their individual progress towards start of treatment.
- Sustained, clinically-driven improvements in the patients' experience of the NHS Wales.

This measure forms part of the Welsh Government 2013/14 Tier 1 Measures.

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## Data Source

[Referral to Treatment \(Combined\) Data Set](#)

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## Definitions:

### Definitional Guidance:

RTT (Combined) is an aggregate data collection. Whereas more complex methodologies could be applied to patient-level data sets, in this case, extensive definitional guidance has been provided to LHBs to enable them to determine the content of their aggregate returns. The central 'analysis' of these returns is then comprised of the straightforward selection of relevant counts for onward presentation.

Referral to Treatment Time targets are applicable to Welsh residents only. Therefore, there is no requirement to submit Referral to Treatment Times for English patients waiting for treatment in Welsh LHBs.

Welsh residents treated in English providers are in scope of the indicator.

The following data items and terms are relevant

### Data Items:

[Census / Return Date](#)

[Weeks Wait](#)

[Count](#)

### Terms:

#### Clock Start Date

The start of the elective pathway begins at referral by a healthcare professional to a consultant in secondary care. The clock will start at the point when the Provider receives the referral.

*The definitions associated with all the data items and terms above can be accessed via the NHS Wales Data Dictionary - <http://www.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk>.*

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## Detailed Specification

Full definitions and guidance can be found on the Access 2009 website:

<http://wales.nhs.uk/howis/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=608&pid=19534>

For open pathways only, the length of referral to treatment time will be from the clock start date to the end of the census date, which is the last day of the current reporting month.

The calculation from days to weeks wait reported is Integer value of  $(\text{days}-1)/7$  or zero, whichever is greater.

For example, to calculate the weeks wait for 277 days, use the calculation  $(\text{days}-1)/7$ :

$(277-1)/7 = 39.428$  (i.e. will be reported in the 39 weeks wait band).

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## Calculation:

### *Numerator*

Number of people waiting less than 26 weeks (up to day 182) on an open pathway.

### *Denominator*

Total number of people waiting on an open pathway.

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## Reporting Frequency

Monthly RTT (Combined) data returns must be submitted and signed off by Local Health Boards (LHBs) / Trusts on the 10<sup>th</sup> working day of the month.

Publication of performance also takes place on a monthly basis.

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## Areas for Future Development

The following points reflect considerations raised by either the Analysis Methodologies Group or WISB in terms of aspects of the Analysis Method that require further investigation or development.

For a full breakdown of the issues considered, please refer to the formal WISB Outcome for this Analysis Method, which can be access via the Information Standards Assurance website:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=52532>

None applicable.

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

n/a