

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE
NHS REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (RTT) TIMES DATA
October 2008

Main Points

- Data is being published on Referral to Treatment (RTT) times for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during October 2008.
- Data for admitted patients (patients whose 18 week clock stopped with an inpatient/day case admission) has been published each month since January 2007 on an unadjusted basis. See statistical notes.
- Data for admitted patients (patients whose 18 week clock stopped with an inpatient/day case admission) has been published each month since March 2008 on an adjusted basis. See statistical notes.
- Data for non-admitted patients (patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month for reasons other than an inpatient/day case admission) and incomplete RTT times for patients whose 18 week clock is still running has been published each month since August 2007. See statistical notes.
- Provider-based data for both admitted and non-admitted patients is being published on a performance-sharing basis for the first time in October 2008. See statistical notes. Data with performance sharing is used to assess performance for providers. Performance-sharing does not affect the commissioner level data or performance.
- The NHS Improvement Plan, published in July 2004, stated *“By 2008, no one will have to wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment...”* - DH PSA target 13. This data is being used to monitor progress towards this target. For admitted patients, adjusted data is used to assess performance.
- Publication is an important mechanism in order to improve coverage and completeness of the data.
- A data completeness assessment is being published alongside the reported figures in order to aid interpretation of the data. Further details on the methodology are available at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/18WeeksReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/DH_089757

Tables 1a and 1b - RTT data by Strategic Health Authority (commissioner based) - admitted and non-admitted data - October 2008

- Tables 1a and 1b show the proportion of patients seen within 18 weeks by Strategic Health Authority for admitted and non-admitted pathways.
- The data is accompanied by a data completeness assessment for each Strategic Health Authority.
- The data completeness assessment compares the number of completed pathways with a known clock start reported in the RTT return against the expected number of pathways.
- In total, 318,000 admitted patients and 877,000 non-admitted patients, for whom English commissioners are responsible, completed their RTT pathway during October 2008.
- The NHS reported both the clock stop and the clock start for 314,000 (98.7%) of completed admitted pathways and 863,000 (98.5%) of completed non-admitted pathways.
- Of those pathways with both a known clock stop and a known clock start, 90.6% of admitted patients (adjusted) and 96.3% of non-admitted patients completed their referral to treatment pathway within 18 weeks.
- For October, two provider organisations submitted adjusted data in their unadjusted return.

Table 1a – Admitted data by Strategic Health Authority

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Strategic Health Authority	Reported no. of completed admitted pathways	Reported no. of completed admitted pathways (with known referral date)	Completeness Measure (*)	Admitted pathways - % completed within 18 weeks		
				Oct-08	Oct 08 (unadjusted)	Oct 08 (adjusted)
	Oct-08	Oct-08	Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)	Oct 08 (adjusted)
England	318,151	313,974	95%	90.15%	87.92%	90.57%
North East	16,710	16,708	89%	91.77%	89.05%	91.82%
North West	45,595	45,409	93%	90.12%	89.27%	90.21%
Yorkshire & Humber	33,427	33,303	93%	90.88%	88.88%	91.08%
East Midlands	25,775	25,761	93%	91.81%	89.34%	91.34%
West Midlands	33,763	33,622	97%	90.78%	87.93%	91.18%
East of England	34,591	34,460	96%	89.36%	86.76%	90.18%
London	41,928	39,099	95%	86.42%	86.05%	88.03%
South East Coast	24,325	23,750	97%	86.82%	84.19%	87.86%
South Central	23,184	23,069	98%	92.70%	89.50%	92.41%
South West	38,848	38,788	99%	92.08%	88.27%	92.45%
Other (**)	5	5	-	-	80.00%	80.00%

(*) – The number of completed admitted pathways with a known referral date (from the RTT return) is compared with the number expected (based on monthly elective admissions data adjusted for admissions that do not end RTT pathways). See data completeness methodology papers published at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performanceandstatistics/18WeeksReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/DH_089757

(**) – ‘Other’ comprises pathways commissioned by the National Commissioning Group

Table 1b – Non-Admitted data by Strategic Health Authority

Strategic Health Authority	Reported no. of completed non-admitted pathways	Reported no. of completed non-admitted pathways (with known referral date)	Completeness Measure (***)	Non-admitted pathways - % completed within 18 weeks	
				Sep-08	Oct-08
	Oct-08	Oct-08	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
England	876,771	863,247	96%	95.66%	96.28%
North East	45,672	45,672	101%	96.64%	96.75%
North West	129,672	129,562	97%	94.96%	95.21%
Yorkshire & Humber	85,010	84,955	96%	96.19%	96.98%
East Midlands	58,726	58,702	97%	96.32%	96.00%
West Midlands	92,596	92,533	96%	95.36%	95.61%
East of England	89,497	89,337	97%	95.41%	96.83%
London	157,758	146,082	92%	95.01%	96.02%
South East Coast	76,201	74,993	96%	95.26%	96.33%
South Central	68,677	68,613	98%	96.27%	97.29%
South West	72,960	72,796	95%	97.01%	96.99%
Other (**)	2	2	-	-	100.00%

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(**) – ‘Other’ comprises patient pathways commissioned by the National Commissioning Group

(***) – The number of completed non-admitted pathways with a known referral date (from the RTT return) is compared with the number of first attendances reported in the monthly MAR data (adjusted to include all RTT pathways) minus the expected number of admitted clock stops. See data completeness methodology papers published at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Perfomedataandstatistics/18WeeksReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/DH_089757

Table 2 - Referral to Treatment (RTT) Times – by time band (commissioner based) – October 2008

- This table shows the distribution, in time bands, of the completed admitted and non-admitted pathways with a known clock start.

	Time bands (weeks)	<18	0-6	>6-12	>12-18	>18-24	>24-30	>30-36	>36-44	>44-52	52+
Admitted pathways	Percentage (Sep 08 adjusted)	90.15%	37.83%	29.62%	22.70%	5.79%	1.99%	0.84%	0.43%	0.24%	0.55%
	Percentage (Oct 08 adjusted)	90.57%	39.23%	27.87%	23.47%	5.51%	2.03%	0.74%	0.39%	0.19%	0.58%
	Percentage (Oct 08 unadjusted)	87.92%	37.87%	27.19%	22.86%	6.91%	2.64%	1.01%	0.53%	0.26%	0.73%
Non-admitted pathways	Percentage (Sep 08)	95.66%	62.76%	24.99%	7.91%	1.95%	0.92%	0.47%	0.29%	0.20%	0.52%
	Percentage (Oct 08)	96.28%	65.70%	22.81%	7.77%	1.78%	0.81%	0.39%	0.24%	0.16%	0.35%

Table 3 – Proportion of patients seen within 18 weeks – by treatment function (commissioner based) – October 2008

- This table shows the RTT data by treatment function (treatment functions in alphabetical order).

Treatment function	Admitted pathways				Non-admitted pathways		
	Number of completed pathways with known clock start	of which, % completed within 18 weeks:			Number of completed pathways with known clock start	of which, % completed within 18 weeks:	
		Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)		Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08
Cardiology	9,128	94.66%	92.99%	94.43%	34,705	95.16%	95.93%
Cardiothoracic Surgery	2,102	87.65%	85.43%	87.20%	1,292	94.15%	94.58%
Dermatology	6,271	94.55%	94.32%	94.90%	61,543	96.97%	96.99%
Ear, Nose & Throat	19,709	88.31%	84.95%	88.73%	62,356	96.15%	96.39%
Gastroenterology	8,019	97.97%	97.81%	98.19%	18,768	92.36%	94.74%
General Medicine	6,562	96.61%	95.78%	96.46%	35,597	95.60%	96.19%
General Surgery	46,423	91.12%	89.35%	91.71%	59,067	94.80%	95.55%
Geriatric Medicine	323	94.79%	97.22%	97.52%	11,641	96.48%	97.38%
Gynaecology	28,985	93.94%	92.17%	94.76%	57,315	96.55%	97.10%
Neurology	1,365	94.54%	94.46%	94.87%	22,298	95.08%	95.21%
Neurosurgery	2,284	74.85%	76.66%	78.33%	4,035	83.86%	83.59%
Ophthalmology	40,152	91.80%	90.38%	92.69%	79,427	96.41%	96.77%
Oral Surgery	18,412	89.36%	85.90%	88.69%	28,068	91.39%	92.97%
Plastic Surgery	12,028	91.89%	89.01%	91.98%	9,404	94.64%	96.32%
Rheumatology	1,980	96.62%	95.46%	97.63%	19,369	96.04%	96.77%
Thoracic Medicine	1,174	96.04%	95.42%	97.70%	13,221	95.48%	96.17%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	58,428	81.37%	77.60%	82.39%	96,580	94.28%	94.82%
Urology	21,468	92.62%	90.50%	92.26%	26,161	92.48%	93.85%
Other	29,161	92.93%	91.72%	93.27%	222,400	97.12%	97.65%
Total	313,974	90.15%	87.92%	90.57%	863,247	95.66%	96.28%

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Table 4 - Proportion of patients seen within 18 weeks and data completeness – by Primary Care Trust (commissioner based)

	Admitted pathways				Non-admitted pathways		
	Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks			Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks	
	Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)	Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
England	95%	90.15%	87.92%	90.57%	96%	95.66%	96.28%
Ashton, Leigh And Wigan	99%	93.43%	90.66%	91.52%	103%	95.83%	96.51%
Barking And Dagenham	106%	70.10%	73.77%	73.97%	75%	94.47%	94.46%
Barnet	98%	84.45%	82.56%	82.91%	95%	96.86%	95.42%
Barnsley	92%	92.79%	93.49%	93.90%	105%	97.58%	98.13%
Bassetlaw	95%	94.71%	92.21%	92.97%	89%	97.89%	98.18%
Bath & NE Somerset	86%	93.26%	90.52%	93.18%	83%	97.39%	96.90%
Bedfordshire	91%	88.17%	87.33%	88.79%	115%	95.55%	96.88%
Berkshire East	111%	91.97%	91.21%	93.44%	85%	98.03%	97.58%
Berkshire West	99%	94.14%	89.72%	94.08%	98%	97.38%	98.22%
Bexley Care	97%	79.28%	80.61%	84.21%	102%	91.15%	94.66%
Birmingham East & North	93%	90.26%	86.93%	90.79%	87%	94.60%	94.76%
Blackburn With Darwen	110%	88.03%	89.81%	89.96%	128%	97.79%	96.72%
Blackpool	84%	91.62%	91.64%	91.56%	109%	95.43%	96.74%
Bolton	95%	90.89%	89.56%	90.63%	117%	96.16%	96.57%
Bournemouth And Poole	101%	96.48%	87.34%	96.70%	103%	97.67%	97.86%
Bradford And Airedale	84%	90.44%	89.53%	91.24%	125%	95.92%	96.95%
Brent Teaching	97%	91.34%	91.35%	93.21%	90%	97.81%	97.51%
Brighton And Hove City	96%	86.60%	79.68%	83.48%	104%	95.78%	95.57%
Bristol	102%	92.84%	88.66%	92.99%	100%	96.52%	96.11%
Bromley ¹	94%	60.18%	85.97%	89.57%	99%	70.79%	94.83%
Buckinghamshire	97%	92.01%	90.59%	91.77%	98%	97.33%	97.69%
Bury	93%	85.91%	84.84%	86.76%	107%	92.01%	89.58%
Calderdale	91%	90.18%	86.64%	88.64%	100%	98.11%	98.09%
Cambridgeshire	95%	94.86%	92.27%	95.54%	91%	97.72%	98.39%
Camden	96%	86.99%	84.10%	85.79%	86%	97.37%	97.36%
Central & E Cheshire	115%	88.02%	86.75%	87.68%	120%	96.30%	95.99%
Central Lancashire	93%	92.03%	91.18%	91.73%	92%	93.98%	94.92%
City & Hackney Teaching	96%	90.05%	89.68%	90.89%	84%	97.40%	97.06%
Cornwall & Isles Of Scilly	98%	91.09%	90.92%	92.66%	98%	97.20%	97.10%
County Durham	93%	92.43%	87.44%	91.44%	102%	97.12%	96.99%
Coventry Teaching	93%	88.36%	88.48%	89.46%	89%	95.43%	96.44%
Croydon	93%	87.47%	89.29%	90.80%	94%	93.19%	92.97%

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	Admitted pathways				Non-admitted pathways		
	Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks			Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks	
	Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)	Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
Cumbria	103%	89.16%	89.57%	89.86%	101%	96.43%	96.73%
Darlington	95%	97.18%	92.76%	96.96%	100%	98.12%	98.51%
Derby City	100%	91.55%	84.84%	91.80%	100%	96.51%	95.63%
Derbyshire County	89%	91.44%	88.93%	91.46%	98%	95.97%	95.90%
Devon	102%	91.54%	89.26%	91.82%	89%	96.52%	96.93%
Doncaster	95%	92.42%	90.55%	91.94%	89%	97.72%	97.48%
Dorset	102%	90.92%	84.52%	90.79%	100%	97.31%	97.58%
Dudley	93%	80.78%	83.46%	85.41%	105%	95.66%	95.80%
Ealing	95%	93.34%	90.56%	93.38%	93%	94.37%	96.22%
E & N Hertfordshire	99%	90.54%	91.93%	92.84%	99%	91.97%	96.51%
East Lancashire	107%	90.97%	89.80%	90.27%	125%	96.37%	95.77%
East Riding Of Yorkshire	91%	90.93%	83.91%	90.18%	83%	96.62%	96.66%
E Sussex Downs & Weald	108%	85.94%	82.03%	89.04%	89%	92.78%	94.49%
Eastern And Coastal Kent	91%	85.74%	82.45%	85.16%	90%	96.19%	97.08%
Enfield	98%	87.61%	84.60%	85.31%	102%	96.21%	95.20%
Gateshead	82%	92.03%	90.64%	92.57%	101%	96.66%	96.62%
Gloucestershire	83%	90.08%	86.86%	90.34%	88%	96.17%	95.98%
Gt Yarmouth & Waveney	101%	89.79%	88.29%	91.61%	114%	96.13%	96.74%
Greenwich Teaching	96%	80.65%	75.17%	78.71%	100%	92.72%	93.98%
Halton And St Helens	94%	88.81%	91.41%	91.77%	82%	93.22%	94.39%
Hammersmith & Fulham	91%	94.22%	91.25%	95.10%	93%	97.15%	96.74%
Hampshire	96%	91.51%	87.10%	91.15%	97%	95.24%	97.22%
Haringey Teaching	102%	86.23%	82.68%	84.63%	93%	96.15%	96.91%
Harrow	98%	90.49%	89.08%	91.92%	91%	96.61%	97.34%
Hartlepool	91%	91.97%	92.69%	94.64%	104%	96.57%	97.66%
Hastings And Rother	115%	87.56%	84.56%	92.28%	85%	90.55%	94.46%
Havering	106%	72.24%	74.41%	74.60%	74%	95.11%	94.23%
Heart Of Birm Teaching	93%	93.75%	91.54%	93.25%	80%	95.51%	95.09%
Herefordshire	103%	91.55%	92.08%	93.61%	49%	98.29%	98.71%
Heywood, M'ton & Roch.	93%	88.23%	87.48%	88.83%	107%	86.70%	86.53%
Hillingdon	89%	94.57%	94.25%	95.30%	105%	97.38%	97.47%
Hounslow	91%	91.42%	90.83%	92.29%	118%	95.97%	96.21%
Hull	88%	91.65%	83.84%	91.11%	72%	97.67%	97.30%
Isle Of Wight Healthcare	96%	97.39%	95.57%	95.81%	97%	96.33%	97.16%
Islington	94%	86.75%	87.48%	89.03%	96%	97.35%	97.47%
Kensington And Chelsea	91%	93.72%	91.62%	95.00%	93%	97.99%	97.14%

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	Admitted pathways				Non-admitted pathways		
	Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks			Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks	
	Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)	Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
Kingston	96%	93.77%	90.30%	91.24%	97%	94.56%	97.31%
Kirklees	95%	90.07%	87.81%	90.26%	102%	97.26%	98.16%
Knowsley	92%	90.22%	90.92%	91.34%	85%	94.14%	94.00%
Lambeth	92%	89.41%	89.66%	91.14%	102%	94.09%	96.34%
Leeds	91%	90.49%	87.64%	88.98%	105%	95.41%	96.67%
Leicester City	93%	88.96%	86.58%	88.99%	102%	93.87%	92.35%
Leics Co. & Rutland	92%	90.40%	86.52%	88.90%	98%	95.07%	94.07%
Lewisham	96%	89.12%	83.13%	90.47%	98%	92.25%	96.82%
Lincolnshire	94%	91.57%	91.02%	91.28%	83%	97.92%	96.69%
Liverpool	93%	93.15%	90.43%	90.85%	85%	94.09%	95.49%
Luton	94%	76.59%	68.41%	70.42%	92%	95.22%	95.21%
Manchester	89%	87.92%	86.04%	88.65%	92%	95.66%	94.96%
Medway	102%	94.03%	89.32%	94.38%	95%	94.97%	96.04%
Mid Essex	99%	90.56%	90.26%	94.25%	109%	96.57%	98.64%
Middlesbrough	99%	95.44%	92.07%	93.72%	102%	98.59%	98.96%
Milton Keynes	91%	96.59%	92.18%	93.22%	130%	99.34%	99.36%
Newcastle	71%	88.34%	83.68%	87.48%	96%	96.27%	96.38%
Newham	93%	87.64%	87.52%	88.62%	91%	95.38%	95.51%
Norfolk	99%	87.78%	86.91%	89.48%	93%	96.56%	96.32%
North East Essex	89%	86.55%	78.97%	82.48%	86%	94.89%	91.19%
North East Lincolnshire	93%	96.76%	96.35%	98.29%	95%	97.43%	96.82%
North Lancashire	88%	92.59%	92.15%	92.32%	101%	96.39%	96.16%
North Lincolnshire	93%	93.70%	92.76%	94.77%	94%	96.96%	98.03%
North Somerset	101%	93.12%	89.16%	92.63%	92%	97.59%	97.59%
North Staffordshire	100%	90.58%	86.67%	89.70%	103%	95.61%	95.79%
North Tees	93%	93.90%	92.72%	94.66%	103%	97.41%	98.49%
North Tyneside	80%	89.35%	86.41%	89.22%	94%	96.21%	95.85%
North Yorkshire And York	98%	90.80%	88.04%	90.02%	94%	96.02%	96.02%
Northamptonshire	98%	94.34%	91.40%	94.22%	103%	96.31%	96.51%
Northumberland							
Care	86%	91.62%	91.32%	92.85%	97%	96.40%	95.76%
Nottingham City	85%	94.38%	91.77%	93.79%	102%	98.12%	98.69%
Nottinghamshire							
County	92%	90.66%	89.32%	89.44%	104%	95.40%	96.38%
Oldham	86%	90.70%	86.22%	87.89%	99%	88.48%	87.48%
Oxfordshire	95%	96.00%	92.06%	95.72%	92%	95.91%	95.48%
Peterborough	96%	93.10%	93.28%	93.74%	111%	95.76%	97.40%
Plymouth Teaching	99%	93.67%	90.79%	93.98%	126%	96.41%	96.23%
Portsmouth City Teaching	106%	95.73%	92.92%	94.21%	101%	92.58%	97.12%
Redbridge	100%	78.86%	80.38%	80.80%	78%	93.50%	93.99%
Redcar And Cleveland	99%	94.59%	91.98%	94.77%	100%	98.44%	98.91%
Richmond & Twickenham	93%	91.33%	90.68%	92.75%	102%	96.82%	96.66%
Rotherham	101%	91.28%	92.87%	93.36%	91%	97.16%	98.24%

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	Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks			Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks	
		Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)		Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08
Salford	97%	89.84%	91.63%	91.97%	103%	95.60%	96.54%
Sandwell	92%	93.78%	93.76%	95.10%	92%	94.81%	94.82%
Sefton	92%	91.90%	91.02%	91.34%	93%	95.19%	95.31%
Sheffield	95%	87.32%	88.44%	89.86%	84%	93.24%	95.98%
Shropshire County	96%	87.15%	79.13%	90.09%	146%	95.27%	95.89%
Solihull Care	98%	90.75%	88.43%	90.82%	88%	91.92%	92.26%
Somerset	114%	91.69%	87.55%	91.86%	102%	97.36%	97.00%
South Birmingham	92%	92.28%	86.29%	89.68%	90%	94.90%	93.56%
South East Essex	93%	90.32%	89.43%	92.24%	100%	95.91%	97.21%
South Gloucestershire	100%	92.85%	87.48%	92.87%	102%	96.89%	97.64%
South Staffordshire	100%	94.82%	91.20%	94.46%	96%	97.07%	96.99%
South Tyneside	89%	90.80%	87.34%	92.11%	101%	94.48%	94.88%
South West Essex	97%	88.84%	87.23%	90.37%	94%	91.44%	97.05%
Southampton City	88%	83.69%	83.15%	85.17%	158%	98.36%	98.32%
Southwark	92%	87.75%	90.25%	91.72%	101%	93.53%	96.64%
Stockport	93%	85.44%	84.95%	85.97%	94%	95.52%	95.90%
Stoke On Trent	100%	89.37%	89.23%	92.21%	102%	95.41%	95.61%
Suffolk	96%	92.10%	81.53%	93.18%	89%	95.49%	95.85%
Sunderland Teaching	96%	88.30%	87.03%	88.63%	111%	95.16%	95.60%
Surrey	96%	87.45%	83.99%	87.50%	94%	96.23%	96.55%
Sutton And Merton	91%	85.25%	85.13%	87.38%	83%	93.85%	94.54%
Swindon	92%	90.21%	86.65%	92.10%	89%	98.43%	98.40%
Tameside And Glossop	94%	91.69%	89.28%	90.90%	98%	92.42%	94.75%
Telford And Wrekin	95%	86.50%	89.79%	91.79%	166%	93.12%	94.81%
Torbay Care	88%	94.41%	91.14%	94.62%	72%	96.76%	96.71%
Tower Hamlets	91%	85.46%	80.85%	81.75%	62%	92.03%	92.71%
Trafford	81%	92.55%	93.13%	94.85%	117%	97.53%	97.10%
Wakefield District	101%	91.07%	90.73%	92.12%	104%	95.66%	96.39%
Walsall Teaching	92%	96.28%	90.96%	94.46%	94%	97.36%	96.60%
Waltham Forest	93%	79.82%	86.54%	87.88%	85%	94.68%	95.86%
Wandsworth	93%	93.30%	89.60%	92.97%	97%	97.64%	97.99%
Warrington	100%	88.69%	91.47%	93.05%	81%	96.49%	96.87%
Warwickshire	102%	90.22%	86.65%	89.40%	98%	94.44%	95.05%
West Essex	100%	90.64%	88.33%	90.85%	112%	94.27%	97.65%
West Hertfordshire	97%	84.69%	83.48%	85.95%	81%	96.76%	97.09%
West Kent	96%	80.66%	82.77%	85.45%	97%	93.30%	95.92%
West Sussex	97%	89.42%	87.54%	90.09%	108%	96.99%	97.51%
Western Cheshire ²	30%	92.49%	87.17%	91.15%	24%	96.39%	98.01%
Westminster	91%	93.32%	89.34%	92.77%	94%	98.29%	98.02%
Wiltshire	96%	90.99%	88.46%	92.01%	84%	96.93%	96.75%

RESTRICTED – STATISTICS
 UNTIL PUBLICATION: 9.30AM THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2009
 Prepared by the Government Statistical Service

	Admitted pathways				Non-admitted pathways		
	Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks			Completeness Measure	% completed within 18 weeks	
		Oct-08	Sep 08 (adjusted)	Oct 08 (unadjusted)		Oct 08 (adjusted)	Oct-08
Wirral	101%	87.71%	86.71%	88.48%	84%	97.80%	98.30%
Wolverhampton City	95%	91.47%	85.36%	92.74%	108%	96.55%	97.36%
Worcestershire	100%	89.89%	85.70%	88.26%	96%	94.85%	95.47%
<i>National Commissioning Group</i>	-	-	80.00%	80.00%	-	-	100.00%

(¹) Bromley PCT has a completeness measure that does not account for the reporting by its main provider (Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust), as its main provider recorded all of its pathways as unknown clock starts in October 2008.

(²) Western Cheshire PCT has a low completeness measure, because its main provider (Countess of Chester Hospital NHS FT) did not submit either RTT return in October 2008.

Statistical Notes

1. Referral to Treatment (RTT) times

RTT data is collected from English Primary Care Trusts on a responsible population basis (see note on next page) and from NHS Trusts on a provider basis.

The Operating Framework 2009/10 states “***no one should wait more than 18-weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their hospital treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer***”. The RTT data measures referral to treatment (RTT) times in weeks, split by treatment function. The length of the RTT period is reported for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month.

The Department of Health published the 18 Weeks Rules Suite on 28 November 2007. The documents can be found at:

<http://www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/measure-and-monitor/Rules-suite/>

The rules for the data collection are based on those set out in the rules documents.

The data collection is in three parts:

Part 1a – Completed pathways – admitted

Part 1b – Completed pathways – non-admitted

Part 2 – Incomplete pathways

The return includes all patients whose 18 week clock stopped at any point in the reporting period. A column has been provided to enter data for patients whose length of RTT period is unknown, i.e. patients who have had a clock stop during the month but where the clock start date is not known.

For non-admitted patients, ***the RTT time is measured on an unadjusted basis*** - from the date the 18 week clock starts to the date that the 18 week clock stops, as detailed in DSCN 17/2006. For admitted patients, ***the RTT time is measured on an adjusted basis*** - from the date the 18 week clock starts to the date that the 18 week clock stops, allowing for legitimate pauses as described in the above 18 Weeks Rules Suite and outlined in the Operating Framework for 2008/09 paragraphs 2.24 to 2.28.

The Operating Framework for 2008/09 stated that ***18 week pathways involving an inter-provider transfer would be subject to performance sharing*** (paragraph 2.29). This applies to data for both admitted and non-admitted patients. The provider reporting the end of a pathway that has breached 18 weeks and was received on an inter-provider transfer may report this breach. The breach and the previous provider on the pathway are reported in a separate RTT Performance Sharing Report.

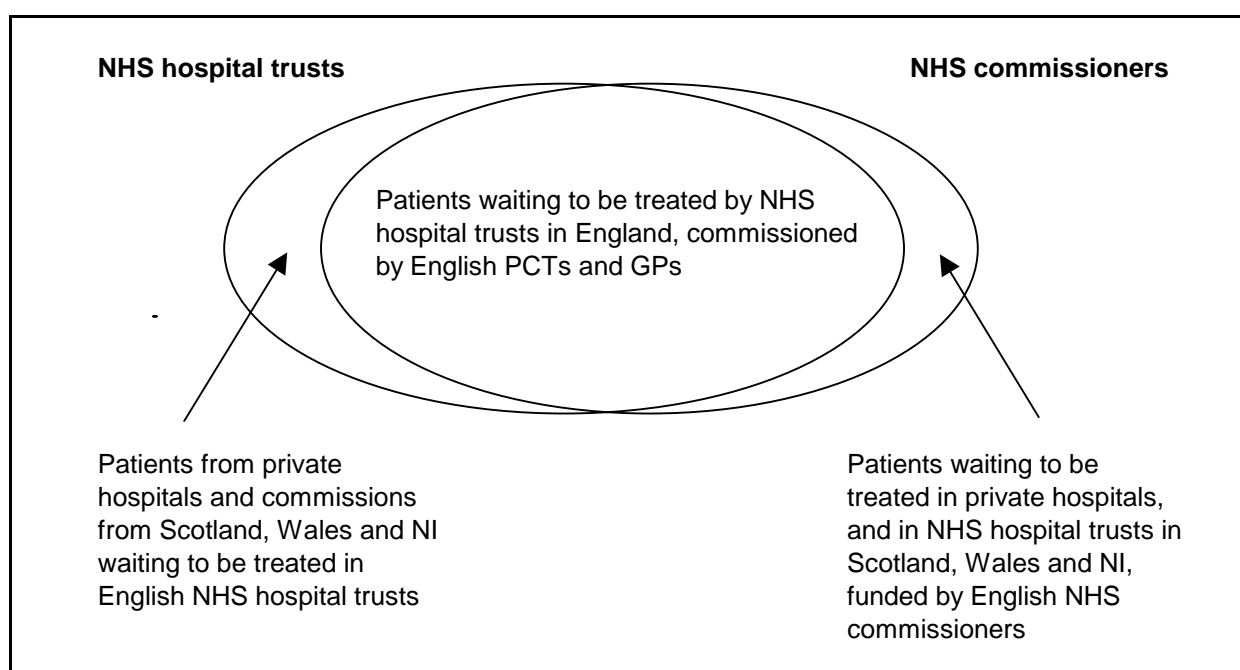
The number of admissions with a known clock start recorded by a provider in its RTT return is reduced by half the total number of pathways that the provider records in the RTT Performance Sharing Report. This figure is then increased by half the total number

of pathways that the provider is reported on in other providers' RTT Performance Sharing Reports.

2. Provider and Commissioner based data

There are fundamental differences in coverage between commissioner based and provider based information. Commissioner based returns exclude all patients living outside England and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in NHS hospitals. However they do include NHS funded patients, living in England, who are waiting for treatment in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, abroad, and at private hospitals; these patients are not included in the corresponding hospital based returns.

The differences are summarised in the diagram below:



Commissioner based returns reflect responsible based populations, which is defined as:

Responsible Population:

- all those patients resident within the PCT boundary; plus
- all patients registered with GPs who are members of the PCT, but are resident in another PCT; minus
- All patients resident in the PCT, but registered with a GP who is a member of another PCT

Additional Information

Full details of RTT data for individual organisations is available at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/18WeeksReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm>

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