

Treatment specialty, 2003-04

For the 2003-04 financial year, Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has collected more than 60 million records detailing outpatient appointments, delivered by NHS hospitals in England.

The latest HES data are available via the internet from the Freely available data section of the HESonline website [www.hesonline.nhs.uk]. For data breakdowns beyond the scope of the tables available, such as a count of appointments split by strategic health authority (SHA), please contact the HES team: Tel. 0845 300 6016, email hes.questions@ic.nhs.uk.

Please note that in order to avoid undue delay in the publication of these tables, the counts have not been adjusted to account for shortfalls in the number of records received from NHS trusts, or for missing/invalid clinical data (ie diagnosis and operation codes) – hence the label 'Ungrossed data' in each table.

You must exercise great care when comparing HES figures for different years. Fluctuations in the data can occur for a number of reasons, eg organisational changes, reviews of best practice within the medical community, the adoption of new coding schemes and data quality problems that are often year specific. These variations can lead to false assumptions about trends. We advise users of time series data to carefully explore the relevant issues before drawing any conclusions about the reasons for year-on-year changes.

Data quality

The HES database is assembled from records originally generated by the patient administration systems within more than five hundred separate NHS trusts. While the HES team liaise closely with the NHS in order to maintain data quality and consistency, it is inevitable in such a complex undertaking that a few errors will occur. Users of the data who discover apparent anomalies should feel free to contact the HES team, so that they may investigate.

Treatment specialty

Treatment specialty reflects the specialty under which the consultant with prime responsibility for the patient is *working*. The treatment specialties, recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties, reflect broad ranges of skills and expertise, and provide a quick summary of areas of treatment. The specialty codes consist of three numbers, and are followed by a description.

Table column definitions

This section contains descriptions of the column headers found in the free data tables that you can download from the HESonline website.

Attended First Appointment

This provides a count of those who attended their first outpatient appointment.

Attended Subsequent Appointment

This provides a count of those who attended an outpatient appointment, but it was a follow up appointment rather than their first appointment.

All (including first/subsequent unknown)

This provides a count of all outpatient attendances, including first, subsequent appointments as well as appointments where it is unknown.

Percentage of all attendances

This provides the all attendances count as a percentage of the total number of all attendances (including first/subsequent and unknown).

| <i>Treatment Specialty</i> <i>NHS Hospitals, England, 2003-04</i> | | Attended | | All (inc. first, subsequent and unknown) | Percentage of all attendances |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | First appointment | Subsequent appointment | | |
| Total | | 12,401,743 | 29,935,504 | 42,462,917 | 100.0000% |
| & Not known | | 643,936 | 1,602,502 | 2,266,665 | 5.3380% |
| 100 General Surgery | | 1,247,559 | 1,978,145 | 3,230,401 | 7.6076% |
| 101 Urology | | 419,256 | 963,647 | 1,384,556 | 3.2606% |
| 110 Trauma & Orthopaedics | | 1,760,037 | 3,359,980 | 5,126,787 | 12.0736% |
| 120 Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) | | 866,255 | 1,329,141 | 2,197,280 | 5.1746% |
| 130 Ophthalmology | | 1,128,425 | 3,246,772 | 4,382,383 | 10.3205% |
| 140 Oral Surgery | | 421,614 | 637,154 | 1,059,436 | 2.4950% |
| 141 Restorative Dentistry | | 41,193 | 231,192 | 272,385 | 0.6415% |
| 142 Paediatric Dentistry | | 17,212 | 41,414 | 58,626 | 0.1381% |
| 143 Orthodontics | | 77,373 | 566,573 | 643,986 | 1.5166% |
| 150 Neurosurgery | | 41,723 | 84,697 | 126,422 | 0.2977% |
| 160 Plastic Surgery | | 183,080 | 523,158 | 706,337 | 1.6634% |
| 170 Cardiothoracic Surgery | | 40,472 | 81,583 | 122,120 | 0.2876% |
| 171 Paediatric Surgery | | 40,765 | 61,107 | 101,879 | 0.2399% |
| 180 Accident & Emergency (A&E) | | 60,978 | 71,747 | 132,755 | 0.3126% |
| 190 Anaesthetics | | 55,986 | 137,509 | 193,495 | 0.4557% |
| 191 Pain Management | | 54,670 | 151,860 | 207,023 | 0.4875% |
| 300 General Medicine | | 757,136 | 2,277,096 | 3,039,857 | 7.1589% |
| 301 Gastroenterology | | 182,999 | 373,158 | 556,161 | 1.3098% |
| 302 Endocrinology | | 50,354 | 230,259 | 281,412 | 0.6627% |
| 303 Haematology (Clinical) | | 107,009 | 1,344,210 | 1,460,425 | 3.4393% |
| 304 Clinical Physiology | | 293 | 1,088 | 1,381 | 0.0033% |
| 305 Clinical Pharmacology | | 2,696 | 23,206 | 25,902 | 0.0610% |
| 310 Audiological Medicine | | 51,403 | 94,370 | 146,128 | 0.3441% |
| 311 Clinical Genetics | | 9,160 | 6,133 | 15,293 | 0.0360% |
| 312 Clinical Cytogenetics & Molecular Genetics | | 311 | 214 | 525 | 0.0012% |
| 313 Clinical Immunology & Allergy | | 7,567 | 11,761 | 19,328 | 0.0455% |
| 314 Rehabilitation | | 20,814 | 79,784 | 100,603 | 0.2369% |
| 315 Palliative Medicine | | 5,557 | 13,977 | 19,551 | 0.0460% |
| 320 Cardiology | | 413,185 | 752,287 | 1,166,329 | 2.7467% |
| 330 Dermatology | | 716,531 | 1,384,428 | 2,105,375 | 4.9581% |
| 340 Thoracic Medicine | | 119,161 | 345,326 | 465,109 | 1.0953% |
| 350 Infectious Diseases | | 14,357 | 42,002 | 56,373 | 0.1328% |
| 360 Genito-urinary Medicine | | 15,248 | 20,577 | 35,866 | 0.0845% |
| 361 Nephrology | | 36,377 | 363,028 | 399,414 | 0.9406% |
| 370 Medical Oncology | | 46,580 | 398,773 | 445,412 | 1.0489% |

Treatment Specialty*NHS Hospitals, England, 2003-04*

| | Attended | | All (inc. first, subsequent and unknown) | Percentage of all attendances |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | First appointment | Subsequent appointment | | |
| 371 Nuclear Medicine | 1,534 | 5,892 | 7,536 | 0.0177% |
| 400 Neurology | 239,000 | 376,822 | 616,241 | 1.4512% |
| 401 Clinical Neurophysiology | 24,021 | 3,651 | 27,672 | 0.0652% |
| 410 Rheumatology | 253,999 | 944,537 | 1,200,672 | 2.8276% |
| 420 Paediatrics | 373,644 | 942,480 | 1,319,518 | 3.1075% |
| 421 Paediatric Neurology | 9,550 | 26,605 | 36,168 | 0.0852% |
| 430 Geriatric Medicine | 114,369 | 317,344 | 433,650 | 1.0212% |
| 450 Dental Medicine | 12,169 | 19,549 | 31,718 | 0.0747% |
| 460 Medical Ophthalmology | 701 | 3,520 | 4,221 | 0.0099% |
| 501 Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed or delivery facilities | 384,129 | 824,107 | 1,210,433 | 2.8506% |
| 502 Gynaecology | 892,312 | 1,270,708 | 2,165,838 | 5.1005% |
| 560 Midwife episodes | 26,678 | 30,874 | 57,565 | 0.1356% |
| 610 General Practice with maternity function | 4,448 | 2,857 | 7,305 | 0.0172% |
| 620 General Practice other than maternity function | 2,472 | 3,938 | 6,410 | 0.0151% |
| 700 Learning Disability (previously Mental Handicap) | 4,546 | 36,929 | 43,452 | 0.1023% |
| 710 Mental Illness | 115,329 | 636,591 | 778,175 | 1.8326% |
| 711 Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | 18,485 | 98,425 | 121,434 | 0.2860% |
| 712 Forensic Psychiatry | 772 | 1,220 | 2,026 | 0.0048% |
| 713 Psychotherapy | 3,091 | 19,592 | 23,241 | 0.0547% |
| 715 Old Age Psychiatry | 38,401 | 121,572 | 169,158 | 0.3984% |
| 800 Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy) | 117,106 | 848,474 | 966,277 | 2.2756% |
| 810 Radiology | 23,766 | 17,401 | 41,654 | 0.0981% |
| 820 General Pathology | 1,548 | 12,324 | 13,872 | 0.0327% |
| 822 Chemical Pathology | 10,012 | 45,610 | 55,895 | 0.1316% |
| 823 Haematology | 23,915 | 397,169 | 421,087 | 0.9917% |
| 824 Histopathology | 482 | 128 | 610 | 0.0014% |
| 830 Immunopathology | 5,492 | 9,341 | 14,833 | 0.0349% |
| 831 Medical Microbiology | 201 | 453 | 655 | 0.0015% |
| 900 Community Medicine | 8,323 | 18,792 | 27,223 | 0.0641% |
| 901 Occupational Medicine | 12,441 | 28,292 | 40,733 | 0.0959% |
| 950 Nursing | 21,535 | 40,449 | 64,665 | 0.1523% |