

Treatment specialty for first, subsequent and all outpatient attendances, 2007-08

For the 2007-08 financial year, Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has collected more than 60 million records detailing outpatient appointments delivered by NHS hospitals in England or performed in the independent sector, and commissioned by the English NHS.

Outpatient Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data was collected for the first time in 2003-04. The NHS Information Centre first released outpatient data at the end of July 2006 and the data was originally released on an 'experimental' basis. Since then, the experimental label has been removed and in 2008 the outpatients published tables were accredited as a National Statistic. This means the data within these specific tables has been produced in accordance with the '*Code of Practice for Official Statistics*'.

The outpatients' data set contains individual records for all outpatient appointments occurring in England such as the type of attendance ie whether it was a first or follow up attendance or the source of referral ie whether or not the outpatient appointment was initiated by the consultant responsible for the outpatient attendance or not.

The latest HES data is available 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 via the Contact Centre on 0845 300 6016 or by email at enquiries@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).

Great care must be exercised 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.

Coverage and data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by almost 400 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data, and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

A Data Quality Dashboard is available on the Connecting for Health website [<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/reporting-services/data-quality>]. The Data Quality Dashboard is a national resource to support improvement and completeness of all Commissioning Data Set (CDS) data flows to the Secondary Uses Service (SUS), including the Outpatient CDS. The Dashboard can be used by organisations to review the data they've submitted to SUS and to ensure that the data is comprehensive, compliant with data standards, complete and accurate.

It is not mandatory for providers to code procedures and diagnoses on outpatient records and therefore the coverage is low. The poor coverage may in part be accounted for by the fact that there may be no appropriate OPCS-4 code available, or that the cause of morbidity was unknown. In 2007-08 around 2% of records had a known cause of morbidity and 3% of records had completed or appropriate OPCS-4 codes. However, it is not clear how representative the figures are as we have no reliable existing data source to validate the data against; Department of Health aggregate returns have never collected clinical codes. Please see the Outpatient Data Quality Reports from the *Processing the data* section of the HESonline website [www.hesonline.nhs.uk] for more information about coverage and data quality issues.

Known provider issues

Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust (REN) and Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust (RRF) were unable to submit complete 2007-08 outpatient data, which may account for shortfalls in the data. Data from these trusts should therefore be interpreted with caution. A data quality flag has been used to highlight this data (in grey shading) in the hospital provider table.

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, which may be different to the main specialty under which the consultant is registered. 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.

Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty or by groups of specialties (such as "acute") as trusts have different ways of managing specialties.

Table column definitions

This section contains descriptions of the column headers found in the freely available outpatient publication tables that can be downloaded 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 (inc. first/subsequent unknown)

This provides a count of all those who attended an outpatient appointment, including first/subsequent unknown, ie whether it was a first or follow-up appointment is not known.

Percentage of all attendances

This provides the all attendances count (see above) as a percentage of the total number of all attendances, including those where it's not known whether they were a first or follow-up attendance.

Treatment specialty for first, subsequent and all outpatient attendances

The NHS Information Centre, Hospital Episode Statistics for England. Outpatient statistics, 2007-08.
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Please see the HESonline website (<http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk>) for information on outpatients data quality.



Treatment specialty, 2007-08

		Attended		All (inc. first/subsequent unknown)	Percentage of all attendances
		First appointment	Subsequent appointment		
Total		16,535,501	37,787,423	54,415,758	100.00000%
& Not Known		290,722	574,708	870,807	1.60028%
100	General Surgery	926,013	1,552,702	2,482,815	4.56268%
101	Urology	518,408	1,170,548	1,690,381	3.10642%
102	Transplantation Surgery	5,971	71,538	77,509	0.14244%
103	Breast Surgery	234,261	353,781	589,326	1.08301%
104	Colorectal Surgery	126,693	136,664	263,556	0.48434%
105	Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery	1,913	6,374	8,289	0.01523%
106	Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery	29,919	30,014	59,937	0.11015%
107	Vascular Surgery	118,444	160,846	279,902	0.51438%
110	Trauma & Orthopaedics	2,176,006	4,087,523	6,281,154	11.54290%
120	Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	1,074,458	1,504,942	2,582,588	4.74603%
130	Ophthalmology	1,510,753	3,859,526	5,376,508	9.88042%
140	Oral Surgery	453,603	566,292	1,020,339	1.87508%
141	Restorative Dentistry	77,872	298,876	376,748	0.69235%
142	Paediatric Dentistry	28,571	70,111	98,682	0.18135%
143	Orthodontics	84,655	616,473	701,152	1.28851%
144	Maxillo Facial Surgery	100,059	144,605	244,690	0.44967%
150	Neurosurgery	64,070	121,250	185,548	0.34098%
160	Plastic Surgery	218,639	614,113	833,254	1.53127%
161	Burns Care	4,759	19,447	24,207	0.04449%
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	29,715	45,555	76,772	0.14108%
171	Paediatric Surgery	48,690	69,104	117,811	0.21650%
172	Cardiac Surgery	12,912	22,874	35,787	0.06577%
173	Thoracic Surgery	8,792	17,097	25,890	0.04758%
174	Cardiothoracic Transplantation	251	7,306	7,557	0.01389%
180	Accident & Emergency (A&E)	113,401	70,800	184,303	0.33869%
190	Anaesthetics	47,554	111,277	159,069	0.29232%
191	Pain Management	133,326	360,993	495,005	0.90967%

Treatment specialty, 2007-08

		Attended		All (inc. first/subsequent unknown)	Percentage of all attendances
		First appointment	Subsequent appointment		
192	Critical Care Medicine	934	823	1,757	0.00323%
199	Non-UK Provider; specialty function not known, treatment mainly surgical	3,401	9,575	12,976	0.02385%
211	Paediatric Urology	3,141	4,988	8,129	0.01494%
213	Paediatric Gastrointestinal Surgery	1	30	31	0.00006%
214	Paediatric Trauma and Orthopaedics	17,650	32,374	50,024	0.09193%
215	Paediatric Ear Nose and Throat	13,091	21,588	34,679	0.06373%
216	Paediatric Ophthalmology	7,759	18,129	25,888	0.04757%
217	Paediatric Maxillo-facial Surgery	364	799	1,163	0.00214%
218	Paediatric Neurosurgery	1,176	3,703	4,879	0.00897%
219	Paediatric Plastic Surgery	4,098	12,680	16,778	0.03083%
220	Paediatric Burns Care	652	4,876	5,528	0.01016%
221	Paediatric Cardiac Surgery	326	351	677	0.00124%
222	Paediatric Thoracic Surgery	52	100	152	0.00028%
241	Paediatric Pain Management	5	1	6	0.00001%
242	Paediatric Intensive Care	272	344	616	0.00113%
251	Paediatric Gastroenterology	3,423	9,738	13,161	0.02419%
252	Paediatric Endocrinology	3,204	14,820	18,024	0.03312%
253	Paediatric Clinical Haematology	5,990	18,483	24,473	0.04497%
254	Paediatric Audiological Medicine	3,648	4,127	7,775	0.01429%
255	Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy	2,416	3,808	6,224	0.01144%
256	Paediatric Infectious Diseases	320	1,514	1,834	0.00337%
257	Paediatric Dermatology	7,094	11,820	18,914	0.03476%
258	Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	3,582	17,409	20,991	0.03858%
259	Paediatric Nephrology	766	7,039	7,805	0.01434%
260	Paediatric Medical Oncology	730	14,346	15,076	0.02771%
261	Paediatric Metabolic Disease	299	1,591	1,890	0.00347%
262	Paediatric Rheumatology	1,385	4,295	5,680	0.01044%
290	Community Paediatrics	2,304	4,176	6,480	0.01191%
291	Paediatric Neuro-disability	563	2,562	3,125	0.00574%
300	General Medicine	580,842	1,383,180	1,966,674	3.61416%
301	Gastroenterology	273,718	564,114	839,401	1.54257%
302	Endocrinology	79,329	296,222	375,906	0.69080%
303	Clinical Haematology	148,049	1,204,489	1,353,736	2.48776%
305	Clinical Pharmacology	2,017	14,329	16,357	0.03006%
306	Hepatology	13,402	78,095	91,501	0.16815%
307	Diabetic Medicine	87,775	530,662	619,506	1.13847%
308	Bone & Marrow Transplantation	273	6,687	6,960	0.01279%
309	Haemophilia	4,023	42,970	46,993	0.08636%

Treatment specialty, 2007-08

		Attended		All (inc. first/subsequent unknown)	Percentage of all attendances
		First appointment	Subsequent appointment		
310	Audiological Medicine	127,945	187,752	315,853	0.58044%
311	Clinical Genetics	17,973	8,632	26,606	0.04889%
313	Clinical Immunology & Allergy	13,668	21,802	35,542	0.06532%
314	Rehabilitation	86,847	238,537	327,491	0.60183%
315	Palliative Medicine	7,163	23,545	30,710	0.05644%
316	Clinical Immunology	5,843	10,423	16,266	0.02989%
317	Allergy	14,500	18,855	33,355	0.06130%
318	Intermediate Care	2,005	2,169	4,174	0.00767%
319	Respite Care	3	6	9	0.00002%
320	Cardiology	814,439	1,167,876	1,982,852	3.64389%
321	Paediatric Cardiology	19,161	44,460	63,623	0.11692%
322	Clinical Microbiology	131	544	675	0.00124%
323	Spinal Injuries	602	8,044	8,650	0.01590%
324	Anticoagulant Service	41,270	895,210	936,505	1.72102%
330	Dermatology	769,190	1,792,114	2,561,936	4.70808%
340	Respiratory Medicine (Thoracic Medicine)	277,643	586,057	865,031	1.58967%
341	Sleep Studies	13,154	33,605	46,772	0.08595%
350	Infectious Diseases	13,032	64,845	77,880	0.14312%
352	Tropical Medicine	4,745	2,105	6,850	0.01259%
360	Genitourinary Medicine	51,186	58,743	109,929	0.20202%
361	Nephrology	75,019	574,666	650,126	1.19474%
370	Medical Oncology	71,395	562,060	634,405	1.16585%
400	Neurology	373,712	505,052	879,245	1.61579%
410	Rheumatology	297,221	1,207,930	1,506,476	2.76846%
420	Paediatrics	513,382	1,039,088	1,553,154	2.85424%
421	Paediatric Neurology	14,030	35,469	49,499	0.09096%
422	Neonatology	6,359	12,271	18,642	0.03426%
424	Well Babies	3,441	1,278	4,721	0.00868%
430	Geriatric Medicine	157,325	325,163	482,996	0.88760%
450	Dental Medicine Specialties	19,090	37,350	56,440	0.10372%
460	Medical Ophthalmology	12,081	22,637	34,718	0.06380%
499	Non-UK Provider; specialty function not known, treatment mainly medical	641	1,513	2,154	0.00396%
501	Obstetrics	781,819	1,854,292	2,639,673	4.85093%
502	Gynaecology	1,158,430	1,445,340	2,606,548	4.79006%
503	Gynaecological Oncology	22,147	42,399	64,556	0.11863%
560	Midwife episode	197,392	359,008	556,447	1.02258%
650	Physiotherapy	246,602	677,589	929,378	1.70792%
651	Occupational Therapy	21,449	39,713	61,165	0.11240%

Treatment specialty, 2007-08

		Attended		All (inc. first/subsequent unknown)	Percentage of all attendances
		First appointment	Subsequent appointment		
652	Speech and Language Therapy	2,264	6,385	8,650	0.01590%
653	Podiatry	25,965	170,168	196,135	0.36044%
654	Dietetics	34,713	54,036	89,337	0.16417%
655	Orthoptics	26,168	85,507	111,675	0.20523%
656	Clinical Psychology	1,443	3,743	5,186	0.00953%
700	Learning Disability (previously MH)	4,936	47,944	52,928	0.09727%
710	Adult Mental Illness	141,825	785,922	942,516	1.73206%
711	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	26,920	168,406	196,701	0.36148%
712	Forensic Psychiatry	1,360	6,339	7,725	0.01420%
713	Psychotherapy	5,016	37,150	42,170	0.07750%
715	Old Age Psychiatry	69,146	230,666	303,986	0.55864%
720	Eating Disorders	25	72	97	0.00018%
721	Addiction Services	437	20,822	21,259	0.03907%
722	Liaison Psychiatry	157	475	632	0.00116%
724	Perinatal Psychiatry	127	500	627	0.00115%
800	Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	157,705	1,136,139	1,293,916	2.37783%
811	Interventional Radiology	48,061	54,359	102,631	0.18861%
822	Chemical Pathology	18,694	58,472	77,180	0.14183%