

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland

## Waiting Time Statistics:

### Diagnostic Waiting Times

### Quarter Ending September 2019



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustle

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

# Reader Information

---

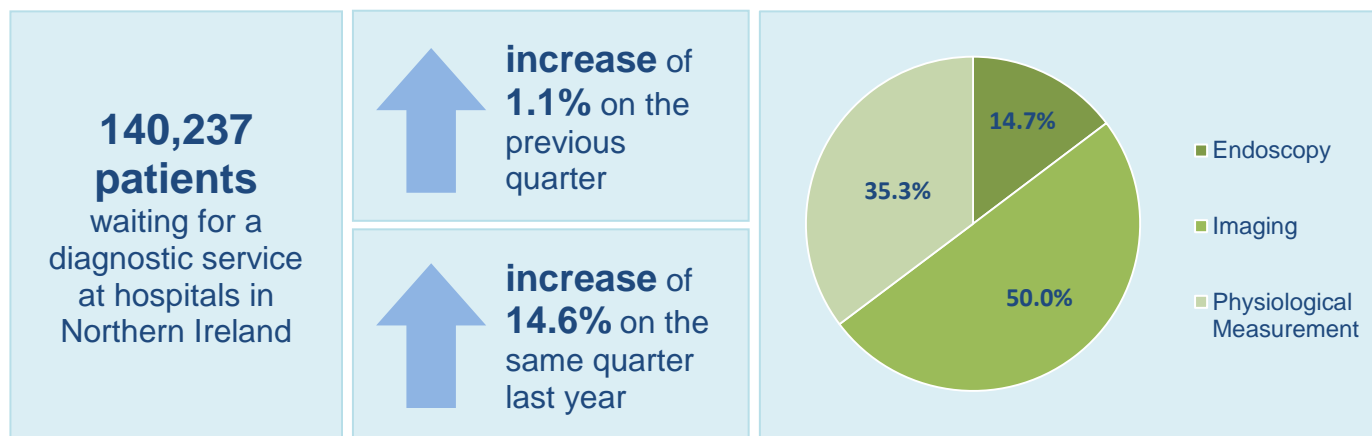
- Purpose:** This statistical release presents information on waiting times and reporting times for diagnostic services in Northern Ireland and reports on the performance of the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts against the draft 2019/20 Ministerial waiting time target and the draft 2019/20 Ministerial diagnostic reporting turnaround target:
- “By March 2020, 75% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a diagnostic test, with no patient waiting longer than 26 weeks”.*
- “By March 2020, all urgent diagnostic tests should be reported on within two days of the test being undertaken”.*
- This statistical release details information on waiting times and reporting times for diagnostic services in HSC Trusts at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Data are presented by HSC Trust, diagnostic category, diagnostic test, and time band. Further information on routine diagnostic reporting times is available in the accompanying CSV file.
- Statistical Quality:** The ‘*Diagnostic Waiting Times Publication – Supporting Documentation*’ booklet details the technical guidance and definitions used, as well as notes on how to use the data contained within this statistical release. This booklet is available to view or download from:  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-diagnostic-waiting-times-September-2019>
- Internet:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/diagnostic-waiting-times>
- Authors:** Mary Farrelly, Adam Robinson, Siobhán Morgan
- Publication Date:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Reporting Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- Issued by:** Hospital Information Branch  
Information & Analysis Directorate  
Department of Health  
Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ
- Contact:** [statistics@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@health-ni.gov.uk)
- Target audience:** Department of Health (DoH), Chief Executives of the HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, healthcare professionals, academics, and Health & Social Care stakeholders, the media and general public.
- Price:** Free
- Copyright:** This publication is Crown copyright and may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium. Any material used must be acknowledged, and the title of the publication specified.

## Contents

Total number of patients waiting for a diagnostic service.....	4
Patients waiting longer than 9 weeks for a diagnostic service.....	5
Patients waiting longer than 26 weeks for a diagnostic service.....	6
Total diagnostic tests reported and dispatched.....	7
Number of urgent diagnostic tests reported and dispatched within 2 days.....	8
Appendix 1: Tables.....	9
Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes.....	12

**By March 2020, 75% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a diagnostic test, with no patient waiting longer than 26 weeks.**

## Total number of patients waiting at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Source: SDR1

At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, a total of 140,237 patients were waiting for a diagnostic test, 1.1% (1,590) more than at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (138,647), and 14.6% (17,850) more than at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (122,387) (Table 1).

A number of diagnostic services may not be provided at all of the five HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. In this situation, patients from one HSC Trust area will be waiting to be seen at a service provided at another HSC Trust. Data users should therefore be cautious in how they use these data (see explanatory note 10).



More than a quarter (26.8%) were waiting for diagnostic tests in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 26.2% in the Northern HSC Trust, 22.8% in the Southern HSC Trust, 13.7% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 10.6% in the Western HSC Trust (Table 2).

Source: SDR1

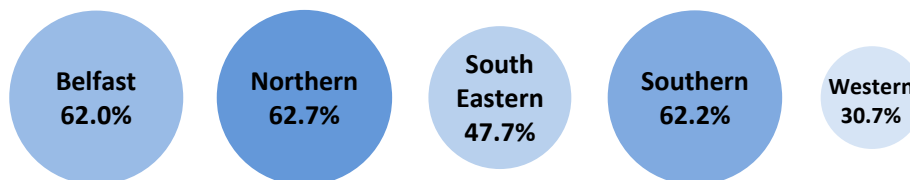
More than two thirds (71.4%, 100,083) of the 140,237 patients were waiting for a diagnostic test within one of the following seven diagnostic services: Non-obstetric Ultrasound; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Echocardiography; Computerised Tomography; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Pure Tone Audiometry and Gastroscopy. (Table 3).

## Patients waiting more than 9 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Achievement of the 9 week target requires that less than 25% of patients should be waiting over 9 weeks for a diagnostic test.

This element was **not achieved** by Northern Ireland as a whole

**56.9%**  
of patients were waiting longer than 9 weeks



### Percentage waiting over 9 weeks

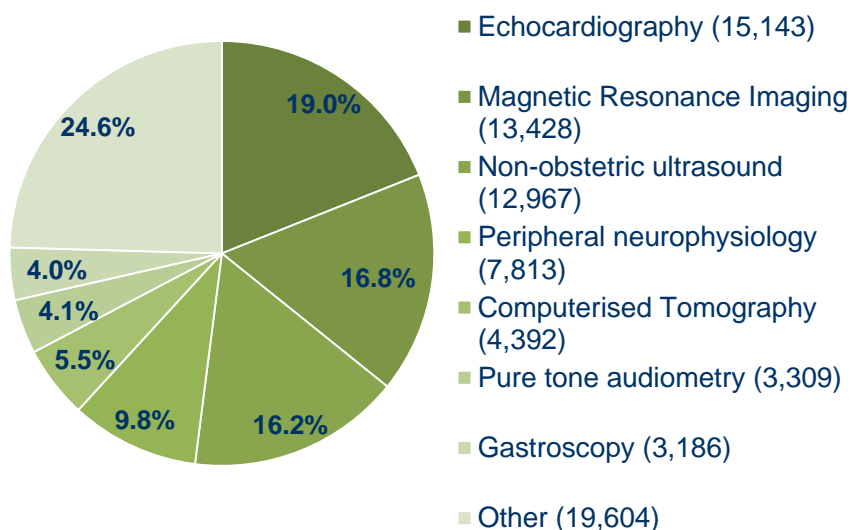
Source: SRD1

At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 56.9% (79,842) of patients were waiting more than 9 weeks for a diagnostic test, compared with 52.7% (73,087) at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and 51.1% (62,481) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (Table 1).

The 9 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole, or by any individual HSC Trust. Data users should be aware that not all diagnostic services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 10).

More than three fifths of patients were waiting longer than 9 weeks in the Northern (62.7%, 22,984), Southern (62.2%, 19,861) and Belfast (62.0%, 23,269) HSC Trusts, almost half (47.7%, 9,154) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and almost a third (30.7%, 4,574) in the Western HSC Trust (Table 2).

### Patients waiting over 9 weeks by diagnostic service



Of the 79,842 patients waiting more than 9 weeks, three quarters (75.4%, 60,238) were waiting for one of the following diagnostic tests: Echocardiography; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Non-Obstetric Ultrasound; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Computerised Tomography; Pure Tone Audiometry and Gastroscopy. (Table 3).

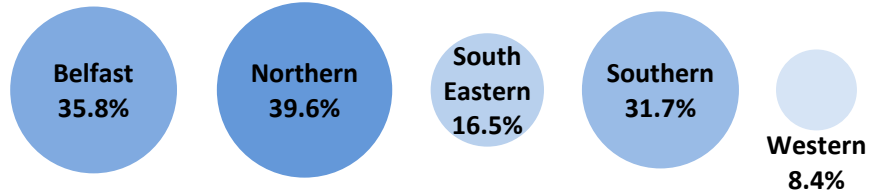
Source: SDR1

## Patients waiting more than 26 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Achievement of the 26 week target requires that no patients should be waiting over 26 weeks for a diagnostic test.

This element was **not achieved** by Northern Ireland as a whole

**30.3%** of patients were waiting longer than 26 weeks



### Percentage waiting over 26 weeks

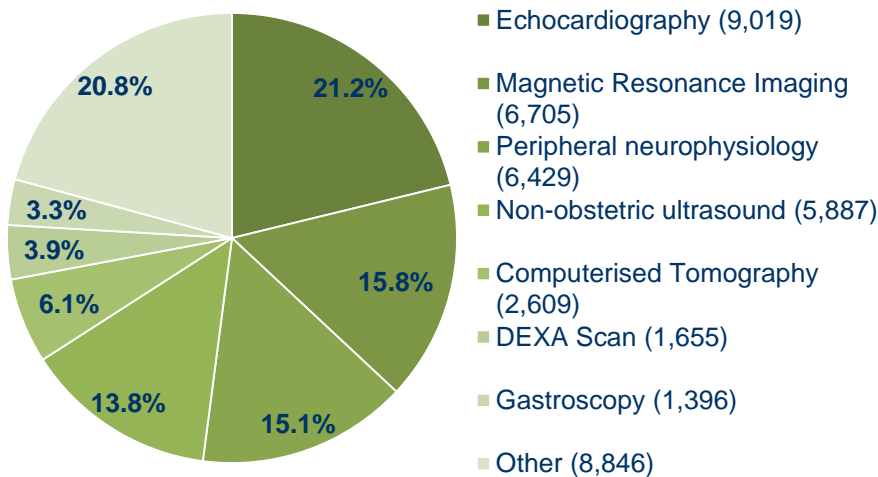
Source: SDR1

At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 30.3% (42,546) of patients were waiting more than 26 weeks for a diagnostic test compared with 25.6% (35,519) at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and 20.7% (25,332) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (Table 1).

The 26 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole or by any individual HSC Trust (Table 2). Data users should be aware that not all diagnostic services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 10).

Almost two fifths of patients in the Northern HSC Trust (39.6%, 14,530) were waiting longer than 26 weeks, around a third in the Belfast (35.8%, 13,449) and Southern (31.7%, 10,134) HSC Trusts, 16.5% (3,177) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 8.4% (1,256) in the Western HSC Trust (Table 2).

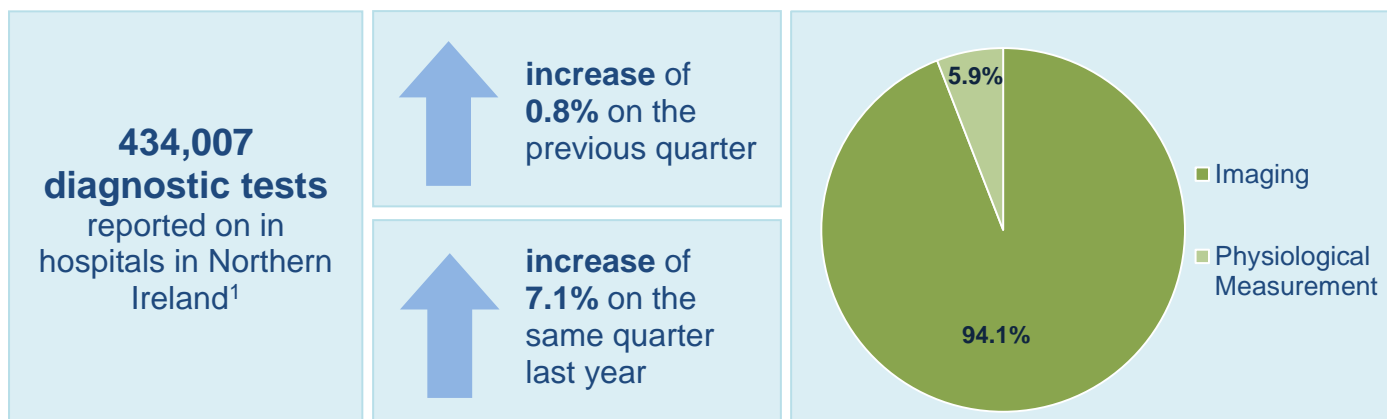
### Patients waiting over 26 weeks by diagnostic service



Source: SDR1

More than three quarters (79.2%, 33,700) of the 42,546 patients waiting more than 26 weeks were waiting for one of the following diagnostic tests: Echocardiography; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Non-Obstetric Ultrasound; Computerised Tomography; DEXA Scan and Gastroscopy. (Table 3).

## Total number of diagnostic tests reported on during quarter ending September 2019

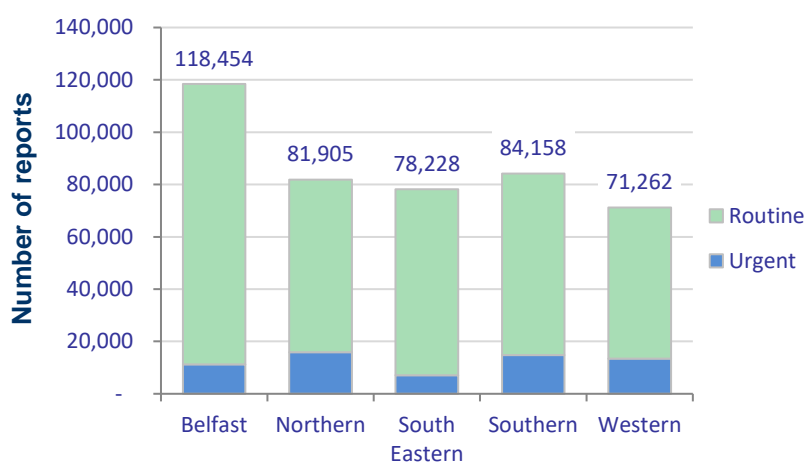


Source: DRTT Return

A total of 434,007 diagnostic tests were reported on and dispatched to the referring clinician at hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending September 2019, 0.8% (3,530) more than the quarter ending June 2019 (430,477), and 7.1% (28,769) more than the quarter ending September 2018 (405,238) (Table 4).

Of the 434,007 reported diagnostic tests, 94.1% (408,337) were reporting on an Imaging test and 5.9% (25,670) were reporting on a Physiological Measurement test (Table 4).

Approximately one in seven (14.4%, 62,417) of the diagnostic tests reported on during quarter ending September 2019 were urgent diagnostic tests, with the remaining 85.6% (371,590) being routine diagnostic tests<sup>1</sup> (Table 4).



More than a quarter (27.3%) of diagnostic tests were reported and dispatched in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 19.4% in the Southern HSC Trust, 18.9% in the Northern HSC Trust, 18.0% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 16.4% in the Western HSC Trust.<sup>2</sup>

Source: DRTT Return

<sup>1</sup> Reporting times of routine diagnostic tests are available in the accompanying CSV file.

<sup>2</sup> Diagnostic reporting turnaround times relate only to a selected subset of Imaging and Physiological Measurement tests. Day case endoscopies are reported on the day of the test and as such are not included.

## Urgent diagnostic tests reported on within 2 days during quarter ending September 2019

By March 2020, all urgent diagnostic tests should be reported on within 2 days of the test being undertaken.

This element was **not achieved** by Northern Ireland as a whole

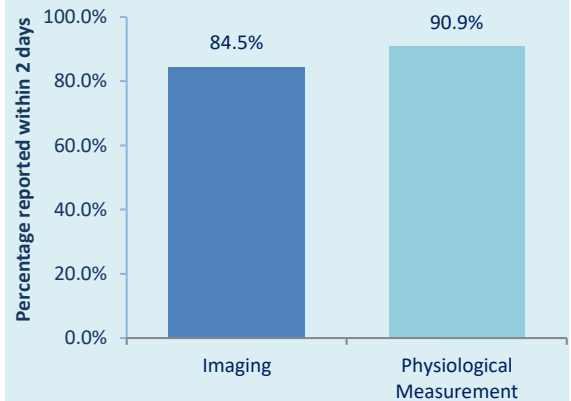


**increase of 1.0 percentage points** on the previous quarter

**85.1%** of urgent diagnostic tests reported on within 2 days



**increase of 0.9 percentage points** on the same quarter last year

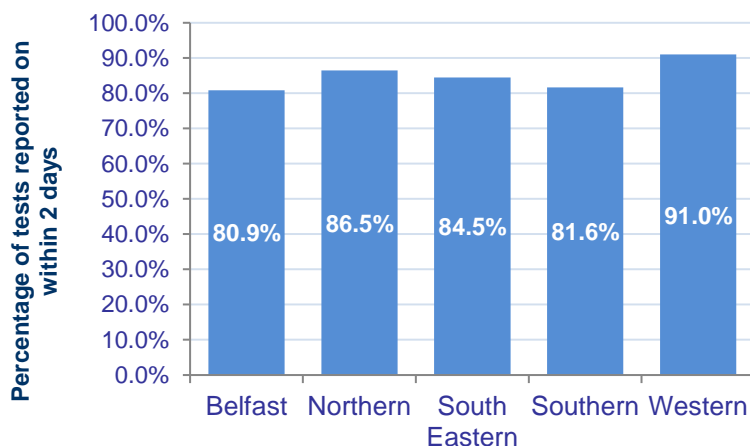


Source: DRTT Return

Achievement of the diagnostic reporting turnaround time target requires that all urgent diagnostic tests should be reported and dispatched within 2 days.

Of the 62,417 urgent diagnostic tests reported on during quarter ending September 2019, 85.1% (53,098) were reported on within 2 days, compared with 84.0% (51,511) during the quarter ending June 2019 and 84.1% (46,438) during the quarter ending September 2018 (Table 5).

Of the 62,417 urgent diagnostic tests, 56,430 were imaging reports and 5,987 were physiological measurement reports. A total of 84.5% of urgent imaging tests were reported on within 2 days compared with 90.9% of urgent physiological measurement tests (Table 6).



During the quarter ending September 2019, the 2 day target was not achieved by any HSC Trust, although the Western Trust reported on 91.0% of urgent diagnostic tests within two days (Table 7).

Source: DRTT Return



## Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1: Number of patients waiting for a diagnostic service by diagnostic category – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Diagnostic Category		Current Quarter (September 2019)	Previous Quarter (June 2019)	Same Quarter Last Year (September 2018)
<b>Imaging</b>	Total Patients Waiting	70,165	71,083	58,140
	Number waiting over 9 weeks	34,467	31,088	22,550
	<i>Percentage waiting over 9 weeks</i>	49.1%	43.7%	38.8%
	Number waiting over 26 weeks	16,999	12,803	5,043
<b>Physiological Measurement</b>	Total Patients Waiting	49,443	48,236	43,757
	Number waiting over 9 weeks	33,234	31,296	27,786
	<i>Percentage waiting over 9 weeks</i>	67.2%	64.9%	63.5%
	Number waiting over 26 weeks	19,358	17,657	14,538
<b>Endoscopy</b>	Total Patients Waiting	20,629	19,328	20,490
	Number waiting over 9 weeks	12,141	10,703	12,145
	<i>Percentage waiting over 9 weeks</i>	58.9%	55.4%	59.3%
	Number waiting over 26 weeks	6,189	5,059	5,751
<b>Total</b>	Total Patients Waiting	140,237	138,647	122,387
	Number waiting over 9 weeks	79,842	73,087	62,481
	<i>Percentage waiting over 9 weeks</i>	56.9%	52.7%	51.1%
	Number waiting over 26 weeks	42,546	35,519	25,332

Source: SDR1

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15 & 22-25

**Table 2: Number of patients waiting for a diagnostic service, by HSC Trust – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Diagnostic Service by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	>21-26	>26	
Belfast	11,114	3,150	2,877	4,930	2,013	13,449	37,533
Northern	11,310	2,391	2,102	4,110	2,242	14,530	36,685
South Eastern	8,031	2,017	2,022	2,938	1,017	3,177	19,202
Southern	9,341	2,720	2,454	4,955	2,318	10,134	31,922
Western	8,354	1,967	1,275	1,494	549	1,256	14,895
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,150</b>	<b>12,245</b>	<b>10,730</b>	<b>18,427</b>	<b>8,139</b>	<b>42,546</b>	<b>140,237</b>

Source: SDR1

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15 & 22-25

**Table 3: Number of patients waiting for a diagnostic service by type of service and weeks waiting – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Diagnostic Test	Patients Waiting for Diagnostic Service by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	>21-26	>26	
Non-obstetric ultrasound	11,821	2,508	2,000	3,526	1,554	5,887	27,296
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	6,348	2,315	2,142	3,316	1,265	6,705	22,091
Echocardiography	3,639	1,260	1,402	3,148	1,574	9,019	20,042
Computerised Tomography	4,661	728	490	814	479	2,609	9,781
Peripheral neurophysiology	489	287	303	666	415	6,429	8,589
Pure tone audiometry	2,068	792	860	1,189	412	848	6,169
Gastroscopy	2,384	545	535	900	355	1,396	6,115
Colonoscopy	2,112	532	531	898	369	1,351	5,793
DEXA Scan	1,721	622	409	565	292	1,655	5,264
Ambulatory ECG monitoring (24 hr holter)	1,500	451	325	569	229	1,271	4,345
Plain Film Xrays	3,201	80	18	5	0	5	3,309
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	736	264	307	549	300	944	3,100
Cystoscopy	815	147	111	133	71	500	1,777
Sleep studies	803	288	178	121	38	85	1,513
Arthroscopy	69	46	44	163	79	1,051	1,452
Barium Studies/Fluoroscopy	574	135	100	229	101	115	1,254
Patient Activated Ambulatory Function	271	115	106	96	44	506	1,138
Ambulatory BP	527	100	112	249	58	61	1,107
EEG	228	79	88	192	71	356	1,014
Other	4,183	951	669	1,099	433	1,753	9,088
<b>All diagnostic tests</b>	<b>48,150</b>	<b>12,245</b>	<b>10,730</b>	<b>18,427</b>	<b>8,139</b>	<b>42,546</b>	<b>140,237</b>

Source: SDR1

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15 & 22-25

**Table 4: Number of diagnostic tests reported and dispatched by priority of report – QE September 2019<sup>2R</sup>**

Priority of Report	Diagnostic Category	Current Quarter (Sep 2019)	Previous Quarter (Jun 2019)	Same Quarter Last Year (Sep 2018)
<b>Urgent</b>	Imaging	56,430	56,073	50,379
	Physiological Measurement	5,987	5,220	4,817
<b>Routine</b>	Imaging	351,907	350,456	332,358
	Physiological Measurement	19,683	18,728	17,684
<b>Total</b>	Imaging	408,337	406,529	382,737
	Physiological Measurement	25,670	23,948	22,501

Source: DRTT Return

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-3, 5 & 16–25

<sup>R</sup> Figures have been revised for June 2019

**Table 5: Number of urgent diagnostic tests reported and dispatched – QE September 2019<sup>2R</sup>**

Urgent Diagnostic Tests	Current Quarter (Sep 2019)	Previous Quarter (Jun 2019)	Same Quarter Last Year (Sep 2018)
Total reported	62,417	61,293	55,196
Number reported within 2 days	53,098	51,511	46,438
% reported on <i>within 2 days</i>	85.1%	84.0%	84.1%

Source: DRTT Return

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-3, 5 & 16–25

<sup>R</sup> Figures have been revised for June 2019

**Table 6: Number of urgent diagnostic tests reported and dispatched by diagnostic category and time in days– QE September 2019<sup>2R</sup>**

Diagnostic Category	Length of time reporting in days				Total Reported
	0 - 2 days	>2 - 14 days	>14 - 28 days	>28 days	
Imaging	47,658	7,593	974	205	56,430
Physiological Measurement	5,440	493	31	23	5,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,098</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>62,417</b>

Source: DRTT Return

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-3, 5 & 16–25

**Table 7: Number of urgent diagnostic tests reported and dispatched by HSC Trust and time in days – QE September 2019<sup>2R</sup>**

HSC Trust	Length of time reporting in days				Total Reported
	0 - 2 days	>2 - 14 days	>14 - 28 days	>28 days	
Belfast	9,092	1,638	392	122	11,244
Northern	13,712	2,105	39	4	15,860
South Eastern	5,957	953	130	12	7,052
Southern	12,046	2,239	399	71	14,755
Western	12,291	1,151	45	19	13,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,098</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>62,417</b>

Source: DRTT Return

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-3, 5 & 16–25

## Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the quarterly Departmental Returns SDR1 and the DRTT Return. Note that, prior to September 2018, diagnostic waiting time data was provided separately for 16 selected diagnostic services in the SDR1 Part 1, with all other diagnostic services provided by the HSCB on the SDR1 Part 2 return. The diagnostic reporting turnaround time information is provided by the HSCB on the DRTT return.
2. The 'Diagnostic Waiting Times Publication – Supporting Documentation' booklet details the technical guidance and definitions used, as well as notes on how to use the data contained within this statistical release. This booklet is available to view or download from: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/diagnostic-waiting-times>.
3. All of the data contained in the tables can be supplied by individual diagnostic service or HSC Trust if this level of detail is required. In addition, quarterly data relating to diagnostic waiting times and diagnostic reporting turnaround times has also been published in spreadsheet format (CSV), split by HSC Trust and diagnostic service, in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-diagnostic-waiting-times-September-2019>
4. From September 2018, the CSV file has a number of changes. Barium Studies and Fluoroscopy diagnostic waits have been combined together and Computerised Tomography has been split into General, Colonoscopy and Cardiac waits. In addition, all patients waiting >26 weeks have now been split into the following timebands >26-36, >36-52, >52-65, >65-78 and >78.
5. The diagnostic waiting times and diagnostic reporting turnaround times returns (SDR1 Parts 1 and 2, DRTT) include patients living outside Northern Ireland and privately funded patients waiting for diagnostic services in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.
6. HSC Trusts use the Northern Ireland Picture Archive and Communications System (NIPACS) as the mechanism for managing imaging services. The HSC Board has carried out a validation exercise with Trusts to address any data quality issues. The quality of imaging waiting times and reporting times has improved in recent years.
7. A **diagnostic service** provides an examination, test, or procedure used to identify a person's disease or condition and which allows a medical diagnosis to be made. There are three categories of diagnostic test: Imaging test; Physiological Measurement test; and Day Case Endoscopy.

8. The **diagnostic waiting time** relates to all tests with a diagnostic element. Included are tests that are part diagnostic and subsequently part therapeutic. A therapeutic procedure is defined as a procedure which involves actual treatment of a person's disease, condition or injury. Purely therapeutic procedures are excluded from the diagnostic waiting times target. Patients currently admitted to a hospital bed and waiting for an emergency procedure, patients waiting for a planned procedure and patients waiting for procedures as part of screening programmes are also excluded from the waiting times target.
9. The waiting time for a diagnostic service commences on the date on which the referral for the service is received by the Health Care provider and stops on the date on which the test is performed. Patients who cannot attend (CNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date they informed the HSC Trust that they could not attend, while patients who do not attend (DNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date of the DNA.
10. A number of diagnostic services may not be provided at all of the five HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. In this situation, patients from one HSC Trust area will be waiting to be seen at a service provided at another HSC Trust. Users should therefore be cautious in how they use these data. For example, they should not be used to calculate the total number of patients waiting per head of the population residing within each HSC Trust area. Neither should the actual number of patients waiting longer than the recommended waiting time be used as indicator of poor performance within an individual HSC Trust. Users who require an indication of the latter are advised to refer to the commentary section of the publication which provides an indication of the percentage of total waiters that have been waiting over the maximum recommended waiting times, within each HSC Trust.
11. A number of the diagnostic services, particularly endoscopies, reported on the SDR 1 (Part 1 & 2) returns are managed as an admission: either an inpatient admission or a day case. As such, they will be included in both the inpatient and day case waiting time and diagnostic waiting time figures. Due to the risk of multiple counting, these two sets of data should not be combined to give an estimate of the total number of patients waiting for admission or a diagnostic service.
12. Some people will be waiting on more than one waiting list or be on the same waiting list for more than one outpatient appointment/admission/diagnostic test at the same time due to having more than one condition.
13. The draft 2019/20 Ministerial diagnostic waiting time target, states that, by March 2020, 75% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a diagnostic test, with no patient waiting longer than 26 weeks.

14. For Tables 2 and 3, each diagnostic waiting time band relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for a diagnostic service. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week time band and a patient waiting 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-9 week (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks) time band.
15. Patients waiting 'longer than 9 weeks' for a diagnostic service includes all patients in the >9 - 13, >13 - 21, >21-26, >26-36, >36-52, >52-65, >65-78 and >78 week time bands. All patients waiting 'over 26 weeks' includes everyone in the >26-36, >36-52, >52-65, >65-78 and >78 week time bands.
16. The diagnostic reporting turnaround time is the time interval between the completion of the diagnostic test and the results of that test being verified or dispatched to the referring clinician in Northern Ireland, whichever is applicable.
17. Diagnostic reporting times apply to a selected subset of imaging and physiological measurement diagnostic services. These services are: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Computerised Tomography; Non-Obstetric Ultrasound; Barium Studies; DEXA Scan; Radio-Nuclide Imaging; Pure Tone Audiometry; Echocardiography; Perfusion Studies; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Sleep Studies; and Urodynamics Pressures and Flows and Plain Film X-rays.
18. Data for Plain Film X-rays is only available from April 2015 onwards, as such DRTT figures should not be compared prior to this date.
19. The draft 2019/20 Ministerial diagnostic reporting turnaround target, states that, by March 2020, all urgent diagnostic tests should be reported on within two days of the test being undertaken.
20. Further information on routine diagnostic reporting times are available in the accompanying CSV file at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-diagnostic-waiting-times-September-2019>
21. The information on diagnostic and reporting times contained within this publication is currently under review. The Department is looking at how this information is sourced and the validation procedures that are carried out with a view to improving the quality. All quality issues identified as part of this review are being addressed on an ongoing basis.

22. Resubmissions for Quarter Ending September 18 were received from Belfast and Northern HSC Trusts for the SDR1 return and from Northern HSC Trust for the DRTT return. These amendments have been reflected in this publication.
23. The Department of Health's policy is to publish revised figures with subsequent statistical releases unless it is decided that the magnitude of the change merits earlier notification.
24. The information contained within this publication is not National Statistics.
25. Figures relating to diagnostic waiting times and diagnostic reporting turnaround times for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 will be released on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Further information on Diagnostic Waiting Times in Northern Ireland is available from:**

Hospital Information Branch

Information & Analysis Directorate

Department of Health

Stormont Estate

Belfast, BT4 3SQ

✉ Email: [statistics@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@health-ni.gov.uk)

**This Statistical bulletin and others published by Hospital Information Branch are available to download from the DoH Internet site at:**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/type/statisticalreports>