



Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics

2020-2021



Acute Episode-Based Activity Statistics

Volume 1: Specialty

Reader Information

Purpose	<p>This publication presents information on acute, episode-based activity at Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland during the year ending 31 March 2021. It details key information on all activity and provides a breakdown of activity by specialty.</p> <p>The data contained in this publication have been compiled from the Hospital Inpatient System (HIS), introduced from 1st April 2009.</p> <p>Data detailed in this publication are available in spreadsheet format (Microsoft Excel) to aid secondary analysis, at the link https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/acute-episode-based-activity-downloadable-data-202021</p> <p>Explanatory notes and a glossary of terms are available from the link https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity</p>
Authors	Jennifer Hillen, Sean Mallon, Siobhán Morgan
Publication Date	16 th December 2021
Reporting Period	1 st April 2020 to 31 st March 2021
Publication Issue	9.1
Issued By	Hospital Information Branch Information & Analysis Directorate Department of Health Stormont Estate Belfast, BT4 3SQ
Statistician	Jennifer Hillen (028) 9052 8452
Email	Jennifer.Hillen@health-ni.gov.uk
Statistical Quality	Information detailed in this release has been quality assured with HSC Trusts prior to release.
Target Audience	DoH, Chief Executives of HSC Board and HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, healthcare professionals, academics, media, general public and other Health & Social Care stakeholders.
Further copies from	statistics@health-ni.gov.uk
Internet address	http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/index/statistics.htm
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.

Headline Figures

Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs)

	Count	Proportion
Total	496,628	100.0 %
<i>Proportion of the above episodes with a procedure or intervention</i>		79.7 %
Day Cases	102,773	20.7 %
<i>Proportion of the above episodes with a procedure or intervention</i>		79.8 %
Inpatients	295,764	59.6 %
<i>Proportion of the above episodes with a procedure or intervention</i>		74.0 %
Regular Day / Night Attenders	98,091	19.8 %
<i>Proportion of the above episodes with a procedure or intervention</i>		85.9 %
Patient's Age		
0-4 (includes babies born in hospital)	18,418	3.7 %
5-14	10,966	2.2 %
15-44	71,647	14.4 %
45-64	140,923	28.4 %
65-74	102,049	20.5 %
75-84	102,931	20.7 %
85 & Over	49,692	10.0 %
Unknown	2	0.0 %

Days

Average length of stay per inpatient FCE

3.2

Admissions

	Count	Proportion
Total	365,124	100.0 %
Day Cases	102,601	28.1 %
Inpatients	164,734	45.1 %
Regular Day / Night Attenders	97,789	26.8 %
Patient's Age		
0-4 (includes babies born in hospital)	16,785	4.6 %
5-14	10,700	2.9 %
15-44	55,563	15.2 %
45-64	107,165	29.4 %
65-74	76,035	20.8 %
75-84	70,554	19.3 %
85 & Over	28,321	7.8 %
Unknown	1	0.0 %

Days

Average length of stay per inpatient admission

5.7

Discharge Episodes

	Count	Proportion
Waiting List (including booked)	81,936	22.4 %
Planned (deferred for medical and social reasons)	139,892	38.3 %
Emergency	123,884	33.9 %
Others (including Maternity and births)	19,412	5.3 %

Explanatory notes and a glossary of terms are available from the link

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

Contents

Table 1: Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs), Admissions and FCE Duration by Specialty.	5
Table 2: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Gender	6
Table 3: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Admission Method.....	7
Table 4: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Age Group.....	8
Table 5: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty – Day Cases and Cases with Zero Bed Days	10
About the Hospital Information Branch (HIB).....	11
Additional Information	12

Table 1: Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs), Admissions and FCE Duration by Specialty

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Admissions	Episode Duration		Total Bed Days
Code	Name			Mean	Median	
100	General Surgery	45,462	34,614	2.6	1	119,684
101	Urology	20,570	19,158	0.8	0	17,317
110	T&O	15,785	11,343	4.1	2	65,146
120	ENT	3,352	3,175	1.5	0	5,114
130	Ophthalmology	7,827	7,812	0.1	0	666
140	Oral Surgery	1,817	1,782	1.0	0	1,790
141	Restorative Dentistry	20	20	0.0	0	-
142	Paediatric Dentistry	228	228	0.1	0	24
150	Neurosurgery	2,065	1,485	5.5	3	11,320
160	Plastic Surgery	2,740	2,622	1.6	0	4,247
170	Cardiac Surgery	597	483	10.7	8	6,392
171	Paediatric Surgery	1,354	1,274	2.3	1	3,179
172	Thoracic Surgery	818	697	4.0	2	3,269
180	A&E	4,767	4,066	0.6	0	2,867
190	Anaesthetics	1,766	1,010	4.6	2	8,065
191	Pain Management	1,189	1,189	0.0	0	-
300	General Medicine	134,072	65,131	2.4	1	318,987
301	Gastroenterology	25,567	18,687	1.2	0	29,819
302	Endocrinology	3,202	1,151	2.6	1	8,212
303	Haematology Clinical	20,238	19,032	1.3	0	25,617
314	Rehabilitation	749	740	23.0	10	17,352
315	Palliative Medicine	248	219	16.5	9	4,099
320	Cardiology	30,583	21,918	2.1	1	65,636
330	Dermatology	3,053	3,050	0.0	0	27
340	Thoracic Medicine	26,866	10,740	3.4	1	92,294
350	Infectious Diseases	193	90	4.0	1	772
360	Genito-urinary Medicine	12	8	5.4	1	70
361	Nephrology	75,759	72,331	0.1	0	10,645
370	Medical Oncology	9,326	9,263	0.8	0	7,490
400	Neurology	3,759	3,438	3.9	0	14,649
410	Rheumatology	2,106	2,066	1.0	0	2,100
420	Paediatrics	19,551	17,975	2.4	1	47,367
421	Paediatric Neurology	320	302	3.4	1	1,083
502	Gynaecology	7,233	6,931	1.4	0	10,036
620	General Practice Other	2,911	2,735	7.3	0	21,136
800	Clinical Oncology	18,327	18,045	0.5	0	9,983
810	Radiology	314	314	0.0	0	13

Additional information on the data can be found in the Explanatory Notes, available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

Table 2: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Gender

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Male	Female	Gender Not Specified
Code	Name				
100	General Surgery	45,462	34,614	21,636	23,817
101	Urology	20,570	19,158	14,628	5,942
110	T&O	15,785	11,343	7,095	8,690
120	ENT	3,352	3,175	1,892	1,460
130	Ophthalmology	7,827	7,812	4,071	3,756
140	Oral Surgery	1,817	1,782	1,026	791
141	Restorative Dentistry	20	20	14	6
142	Paediatric Dentistry	228	228	125	103
150	Neurosurgery	2,065	1,485	1,017	1,048
160	Plastic Surgery	2,740	2,622	1,739	1,001
170	Cardiac Surgery	597	483	439	158
171	Paediatric Surgery	1,354	1,274	937	418
172	Thoracic Surgery	818	697	531	287
180	A&E	4,767	4,066	2,665	2,102
190	Anaesthetics	1,766	1,010	1,082	684
191	Pain Management	1,189	1,189	454	736
300	General Medicine	134,072	65,131	64,895	69,177
301	Gastroenterology	25,567	18,687	13,595	11,972
302	Endocrinology	3,202	1,151	1,677	1,525
303	Haematology Clinical	20,238	19,032	11,979	8,259
314	Rehabilitation	749	740	415	338
315	Palliative Medicine	248	219	128	121
320	Cardiology	30,583	21,918	18,976	11,607
330	Dermatology	3,053	3,050	1,447	1,606
340	Thoracic Medicine	26,866	10,740	14,175	12,691
350	Infectious Diseases	193	90	117	76
360	Genito-urinary Medicine	12	8	12	<5
361	Nephrology	75,759	72,331	45,595	30,164
370	Medical Oncology	9,326	9,263	3,913	5,413
400	Neurology	3,759	3,438	1,379	2,381
410	Rheumatology	2,106	2,066	635	1,471
420	Paediatrics	19,551	17,975	10,615	8,936
421	Paediatric Neurology	320	302	198	122
502	Gynaecology	7,233	6,931	5	7,229
620	General Practice Other	2,911	2,735	1,456	1,455
800	Clinical Oncology	18,327	18,045	6,160	12,167
810	Radiology	314	314	162	152

Additional information on the data can be found in the Explanatory Notes, available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

Table 3: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Admission Method

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Emergency	Waiting List	Planned	Other
Code	Name					
100	General Surgery	45,462	27,458	14,675	1,860	1,469
101	Urology	20,570	3,233	11,689	4,994	654
110	T&O	15,785	9,415	3,771	645	1,954
120	ENT	3,352	892	2,163	222	75
130	Ophthalmology	7,827	176	6,694	934	23
140	Oral Surgery	1,817	294	1,335	37	151
141	Restorative Dentistry	20	-	20	-	-
142	Paediatric Dentistry	228	-	223	<5	<5
150	Neurosurgery	2,065	897	428	403	337
160	Plastic Surgery	2,740	681	1,473	35	551
170	Cardiac Surgery	597	113	379	12	93
171	Paediatric Surgery	1,354	548	591	93	123
172	Thoracic Surgery	818	251	506	10	51
180	A&E	4,767	4,764	-	-	<5
190	Anaesthetics	1,766	1,412	68	26	260
191	Pain Management	1,189	<5	736	453	-
300	General Medicine	134,072	112,316	10,801	5,321	5,634
301	Gastroenterology	25,567	9,435	6,719	8,668	745
302	Endocrinology	3,202	2,845	159	56	142
303	Haematology Clinical	20,238	1,899	1,787	15,481	1,071
314	Rehabilitation	749	<5	37	279	433
315	Palliative Medicine	248	43	111	17	78
320	Cardiology	30,583	19,771	5,406	941	4,466
330	Dermatology	3,053	<5	2,591	459	<5
340	Thoracic Medicine	26,866	23,548	869	171	2,278
350	Infectious Diseases	193	117	6	54	16
360	Genito-urinary Medicine	12	<5	<5	<5	5
361	Nephrology	75,759	2,527	1,227	70,751	1,254
370	Medical Oncology	9,326	181	53	8,314	778
400	Neurology	3,759	545	1,075	1,986	154
410	Rheumatology	2,106	97	662	1,314	33
420	Paediatrics	19,551	13,246	540	1,107	4,658
421	Paediatric Neurology	320	103	108	82	27
502	Gynaecology	7,233	2,254	4,309	461	210
620	General Practice Other	2,911	259	1,572	19	1,061
800	Clinical Oncology	18,327	704	978	16,196	449
810	Radiology	314	-	240	74	-

Additional information on the data can be found in the Explanatory Notes, available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

Table 4: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty and Age Group

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Mean Age	Age									Unknown
Code	Name			0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	
100	General Surgery	45,462	58	310	1,673	3,080	3,908	5,120	7,422	8,789	8,936	6,224	-
101	Urology	20,570	65	13	196	493	894	1,586	3,109	4,985	6,087	3,207	-
110	T&O	15,785	58	749	945	972	1,088	1,290	2,027	2,261	2,663	3,790	-
120	ENT	3,352	47	523	215	212	250	342	499	546	532	233	-
130	Ophthalmology	7,827	66	127	59	157	322	499	1,106	1,743	2,181	1,633	-
140	Oral Surgery	1,817	48	210	130	161	165	205	248	271	222	205	-
141	Restorative Dentistry	20	36	-	<5	8	<5	<5	5	-	-	-	-
142	Paediatric Dentistry	228	8	154	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
150	Neurosurgery	2,065	45	229	138	111	266	294	428	379	159	61	-
160	Plastic Surgery	2,740	50	279	158	248	283	260	370	334	417	391	-
170	Cardiac Surgery	597	64	-	5	7	17	34	136	181	191	26	-
171	Paediatric Surgery	1,354	6	905	449	-	-	-	-	<5	-	-	-
172	Thoracic Surgery	818	60	-	15	49	47	62	149	222	203	71	-
180	A&E	4,767	44	<5	328	1,016	896	799	717	482	263	264	-
190	Anaesthetics	1,766	53	99	43	122	158	209	315	408	340	70	<5
191	Pain Management	1,189	58	-	-	23	93	195	324	284	191	80	-
300	General Medicine	134,072	66	9	1,530	5,804	8,092	10,400	17,075	22,037	29,905	39,220	-
301	Gastroenterology	25,567	59	-	291	1,529	2,158	2,956	4,874	5,494	5,132	3,133	-
302	Endocrinology	3,202	61	-	117	254	254	239	504	559	603	672	-
303	Haematology Clinical	20,238	60	930	657	671	748	1,153	2,919	4,953	5,681	2,526	-
314	Rehabilitation	749	62	-	11	35	74	85	99	149	133	167	-
315	Palliative Medicine	248	72	-	-	-	<5	14	38	41	81	74	-
320	Cardiology	30,583	66	337	203	510	872	2,118	4,947	6,876	8,184	6,537	-
330	Dermatology	3,053	60	14	89	252	302	316	364	466	638	612	-
340	Thoracic Medicine	26,866	68	-	121	563	1,027	1,680	3,874	5,699	7,087	6,815	-
350	Infectious Diseases	193	59	-	-	11	30	37	20	21	44	30	-
	Genito-urinary	12	47	-	-	<5	<5	5	6	-	-	-	-
360	Medicine												
361	Nephrology	75,759	67	526	374	823	2,923	5,238	10,942	14,249	21,794	18,890	-
370	Medical Oncology	9,326	57	519	335	127	425	803	1,988	2,659	2,102	368	-
400	Neurology	3,759	48	<5	66	471	701	770	905	430	326	90	-
410	Rheumatology	2,106	52	88	141	74	183	326	426	479	277	112	-
420	Paediatrics	19,551	3	16,775	2,759	<5	-	-	-	<5	5	9	-

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Mean Age	Age								Unknown	
Code	Name			0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79		80+
421	Paediatric Neurology	320	6	237	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
502	Gynaecology	7,233	46	<5	120	1,043	1,693	1,363	1,503	750	546	215	-
	General Practice	2,911	40	1,259	262	33	16	42	79	109	333	778	-
620	Other												
800	Clinical Oncology	18,327	61	-	22	166	957	2,210	4,508	5,567	4,049	848	-
810	Radiology	314	48	61	11	12	22	26	41	45	68	28	-

Additional information on the data can be found in the Explanatory Notes, available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

Table 5: Finished Consultant Episodes by Specialty – Day Cases and Cases with Zero Bed Days

Specialty		Finished Episodes	Day Cases	Cases with zero bed days §		
Code	Name			Emergency	Elective	Other
100	General Surgery	45,462	11,029	1,955	397	24
101	Urology	20,570	14,000	180	703	18
110	T&O	15,785	2,183	509	322	63
120	ENT	3,352	1,690	144	136	9
130	Ophthalmology	7,827	7,498	68	13	14
140	Oral Surgery	1,817	1,091	39	55	28
141	Restorative Dentistry	20	20	-	-	-
142	Paediatric Dentistry	228	210	-	<5	-
150	Neurosurgery	2,065	223	9	19	5
160	Plastic Surgery	2,740	1,150	180	59	347
170	Cardiac Surgery	597	-	<5	<5	-
171	Paediatric Surgery	1,354	501	80	15	12
172	Thoracic Surgery	818	56	<5	5	-
180	A&E	4,767	-	1,986	-	<5
190	Anaesthetics	1,766	52	84	-	10
191	Pain Management	1,189	1,188	<5	<5	-
300	General Medicine	134,072	14,916	4,505	197	71
301	Gastroenterology	25,567	14,550	156	20	53
302	Endocrinology	3,202	20	57	<5	<5
303	Haematology Clinical	20,238	9,570	102	6,956	9
314	Rehabilitation	749	264	-	-	<5
315	Palliative Medicine	248	-	7	8	<5
320	Cardiology	30,583	3,889	3,671	1,088	1,091
330	Dermatology	3,053	3,050	-	-	-
340	Thoracic Medicine	26,866	681	258	18	17
350	Infectious Diseases	193	47	<5	-	-
360	Genito-urinary Medicine	12	<5	-	<5	-
361	Nephrology	75,759	1,595	40	69,205	118
370	Medical Oncology	9,326	1,084	5	7,015	5
400	Neurology	3,759	2,749	15	19	<5
410	Rheumatology	2,106	1,678	<5	19	<5
420	Paediatrics	19,551	650	5,794	489	350
421	Paediatric Neurology	320	129	8	5	-
502	Gynaecology	7,233	2,906	303	335	28
620	General Practice Other	2,911	1,567	<5	-	38
800	Clinical Oncology	18,327	2,233	95	14,517	<5
810	Radiology	314	303	-	6	-

§ - In the HIS data, there are a number of episodes that are not recorded as day cases but do not involve an overnight stay and do not result in another episode of care at the same provider. These are referred to as zero bed days. Zero bed days include a number of records which resulted in the death of the patient, or their transfer to another hospital provider; however, the vast majority are recorded as having been discharged from hospital.

Additional information on the data can be found in the Explanatory Notes, available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/explanatory-notes-and-technical-guidance-acute-episode-based-activity>

2020/21 Data Considerations:

When interpreting the statistics presented in this report, consideration should be given to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on hospital services. Users should be aware that the pandemic drastically altered the functions of hospitals during the reporting period, including the availability and location of services. This has had a direct impact on the acute episode-based activity observed.

2020/21 data can be compared with previous years but users should bear in mind that many of the changes observed will be influenced by and attributable to the impact of COVID-19.

This release does not include any specific COVID-19 data.

About the Hospital Information Branch (HIB)

Hospital Information Branch is responsible for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and publication of timely and accurate information derived from a wide range of statistical information returns supplied by the Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts and the HSC Board. Statistical information is collected routinely from a variety of electronic patient level administrative system and pre-defined EXCEL survey return templates.

The Branch aims to present information in a meaningful way and provide advice on its uses to customers in the HSC Committee, Professional Advisory Groups, policy branches within the DoH, other Health organisations, academia, private sector organisations, charity/voluntary organisations as well as the general public. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on the performance of the HSC system, other comparative performance exercises, target setting and monitoring, development of service frameworks as well as policy formulation and evaluation. In addition, the information is used in response to a significantly high volume of Parliamentary / Assembly questions and ad-hoc queries each year.

Information is disseminated through a number of key statistical publications, including: Inpatient Activity, Outpatient Activity, Emergency Care, Mental Health & Learning Disability and Waiting Time Statistics (Inpatient, Outpatient, Diagnostics and Cancer). These publications are available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>

Further information on the Acute Episode-Based Activity data, including definitions, is available from the website <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/episode-based-activity>

Additional Information

Further information on *Acute Episode-Based Activity Statistics* is available from:

Jennifer Hillen
Hospital Information Branch
Information & Analysis Directorate
Department of Health
Stormont Estate
Belfast, BT4 3SQ

☎ Tel: 028 9052 8452

☎ Fax: 028 9052 3288

✉ Email: Jennifer.Hillen@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/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>