

Question:

Data on the total number of patients who have waited 48-hours and the total number of patients who waited 24-hours or more in major Emergency Departments in Northern Ireland in February 2024, split by health trusts.

Response:

Information on the number of new and unplanned review attendances which resulted in a wait of 24 hours or more, and 48 hours or more at a Type 1 Emergency Department (ED), in each Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in February 2024 is presented in Table 1 below^{1,2}. It is important to note that this refers to the number of attendances, as a patient may attend emergency care departments more than once during a month.

A new attendance refers to the first unplanned attendance by a patient for a new clinical condition at an ED / Minor Injuries Unit (MIU).

An unplanned review attendance relates to any patient who returns to an ED / Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) without written instruction, for the same or related clinical condition within 30 days of the first (initial) attendance.

The length of time a patient waits refers to the time between entering the ED and being logged in at reception, until leaving the ED via discharge or admission to hospital.

Please note that emergency care data for clinical care episodes completed on or after 9th November 2023 in South Eastern HSC Trust are still being developed following the Trust's transition to completely digitised health records under the Encompass programme.

Table 1: Number of new and unplanned review attendances resulting in a wait of 24 hours or more and 48 hours or more in Type 1 EDs, by HSC Trust (February 2024)¹

Year	Month	Length of Wait	Belfast	Northern	Southern	Western	South Eastern ²	Northern Ireland
2024	February	24 Hours or More	1,035	936	871	957	-	3,799
		48 Hours or More	291	342	217	400	-	1,250

¹ Consideration should be given to changes to ED service provision and designation when making comparisons over time, including changes during the COVID 19 pandemic and the provision of urgent and emergency care services. Further details of these changes are detailed in Appendix 3 (page 81) of the 'Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Emergency Care 2022/23' publication, at the link below: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hs-emergency-care-22-23.pdf>

² Please note that emergency care data for clinical care episodes completed on or after 9th November 2023 in South Eastern HSC Trust are still being developed following the Trust's transition to completely digitised health records under the Encompass programme.

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