

APODI MARKET INSIGHT

WAITING LISTS

October 2022

The NHS Today

NHS waiting lists have hit an all-time high, reaching 6.7 million in England in June 2022, an increase of a 52% since before the COVID-19 pandemic. If this rate continues, waiting lists across England will hit over 10 million by 2024. A number that the NHS will not be able to cope with.

These waiting lists vary hugely across therapy areas and geography. The worst therapy areas across England are currently orthopaedics and ophthalmology, with 760,000 and 640,000 patients waiting, respectively. Approximately 40% of these patients are waiting more than 18 weeks to be seen.

Regional waiting list data show that Stockport is the hardest hit area with over 17,000 per 100,000 waiting for treatments, four times higher than NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG (see Figure 1). Not only is the vast number of patients waiting for therapy an issue, but also the length of time they're having to wait.

6,725,633

people currently waiting for treatment

355,774

waiting > 52 weeks

On top of these numbers, data released by health service trusts states that there exists a 'hidden' backlog, expected to be an additional 10 million patients. These are those that have either not yet presented, have had referrals cancelled or due to the pandemic have not yet found their way into the health system.

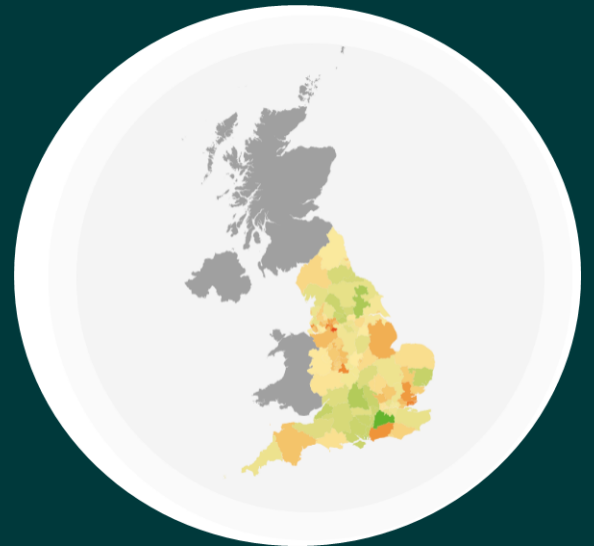


Figure 1: Number of Patients Waiting Per 100,000.
(NHS Waitlist LCP UK, 2022)

Key Access Learns

The vast number of patients on waiting lists and the prolonged length of time they are having to wait is having a detrimental effect on patient care, NHS treatment and pharmaceutical companies getting access to their medicine.

To drive access to medicines for all parties, the number of patients waiting and the time waiting for treatment must be minimised by creating capacity in areas where they need it most. A solution to these problems are **customisable capacity programmes**. Nearly 50% of Apodi's programmes are capacity programmes, customisable to suit the need of the locality/customer to successfully eliminate blocks caused by capacity issues. These programmes are critical to cut patient waiting lists, drive access to medicines and reduce the burden on the NHS.