

Guidance for completion of CDS survey

You must complete a Community Dental Services (CDS) survey for each CDS contract you hold.

Data collection will be requested every quarter and we will collect information on the following services:

- CDS
- sedation
- general anaesthetic (excludes IMOS)

Purpose of data collection

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) requires you to complete the survey to help them:

- understand CDS services clinical capacity
- waiting times for patients
- look at the backlog of care and the restoration of NHS dental services

Collection dates for 2023-24

You must submit data available in the month prior to the collection period. For example, the data you submit in July 2022 should be the data for June 2022, or your nearest complete month

| Data collection window | CDS data to submit |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 July to 14 July 2023 | June 2023 |
| 1 October to 14 October 2023 | Sept 2023 |
| 1 January to 14 January 2024 | Dec 2023 |
| 1 April to 14 April 2024 | Mar 2024 |

The survey will close at 11:59pm on the closing dates

Survey questions and notes

A description of the survey questions is below.

In the questions:

- Adult – references to ‘adults’ relate to special care patients
- Waiting list – a patient is considered ‘waiting’ as soon as they have been accepted for assessment / appointment.

| Survey Question | Guidance (June 2022) |
|--|--|
| Number of patients waiting for a first assessment (Adults) | Enter latest available number of adult patients waiting for first assessment |
| Number of patients waiting for a first assessment (Paeds) | Enter latest available number of paediatric patients waiting for first assessment |
| Number of patients assessed and waiting for a first appointment for treatment (Adults) | Enter current numbers for adult patients who have been assessed and are waiting for treatment |
| Number of patients assessed and waiting for a first appointment for treatment (Paeds) | Enter current numbers for paediatric patients who have been assessed and are waiting for treatment |
| Average waiting time for patients first appointment for an assessment (Adults) | Enter current average waiting time for adult patients still on the waiting list between date of referral and date of first appointment for an assessment |
| Average waiting time for patients first appointment for an assessment (Paeds) | Enter current average waiting time for paediatric patients still on the waiting list between date of referral and date of first appointment for an assessment |
| Average waiting time for patients first treatment appointment (Adults) | Enter current average waiting time for adult patients between date of referral and date of first appointment for treatment |
| Average waiting time for patients first treatment appointment (Paeds) | Enter current average waiting time for paediatric patients between date of referral and date of first appointment for treatment |
| Percentage of patients who receive and begin treatment within 18 weeks of referral | The latest figures available for percentage of patient who receive treatment within 18 weeks of referral (both adult and child patients) |

| Survey Question | Guidance (June 2022) |
|--|---|
| What is the longest waiting time for an assessment | Enter the latest figure available across the service delivered from the time of referral. If both special care and paediatric treatments are delivered, please enter the longest waiting time regardless of the patient group. |
| What is the longest waiting time for treatment | Enter the latest figure available across the service delivered from the time of referral. If both special care and paediatric treatments are delivered, please enter the longest waiting time regardless of the patient group. |
| What proportion of pre-pandemic clinical capacity do you estimate you are currently operating at | Add as percentage figure at the time the survey is being completed |
| How is the service prioritising patients for assessment and treatment? | Free text box |
| Additional Information | Free text box to provide any additional information or clarification notes for the responses provided. |

[Read more information around referral to treatment \(RTT\) on the NHS website.](#)