

Post Covid Assessment Service (Long Covid)

Referrals

- During the 4-week period 22 November – 19 December 2021 there were a total of 5,539 referrals to NHS Post Covid assessment clinics, 458 (8%) fewer than in the previous 4 weeks.
- Of these referrals a total of 4,946 were accepted as clinically appropriate for assessment (89%). The proportion of accepted referrals has increased slightly (2%) on the previous 4-week period.

Activity

- There was a total of 4,750 initial specialist assessments completed during the period, an increase of 151 (3%) compared with the previous 4-week period. This is the highest figure reported for initial specialist assessments since the data publication commenced.
- An additional 8,695 follow up appointments were carried out, an increase of 608 (8%). This is also the highest figure reported for follow up appointments since the data publication commenced.

Access

- Of those who had an initial specialist assessment during the period:
 - 3,820 declared their ethnicity. Of those, 3,077 were white (81%).
 - 4,610 declared their sex. Of these 2,939 were female (64%) compared with 1,671 male (36%)
 - 4,616 declared their age. 1,516 of these (33%) were under the age of 45. 2,428 were aged between 45 and 64 (53%). 672 were aged 65+ (15%).
- Each of the demographic measures above show little variance with those reported in the previous 4-week period.
- Of the 4,750 initial specialist assessments, 1,011 (21%) were patients from the most deprived areas (as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation, IMD 1 and 2) an increase of 2% on the previous 4-week period.

Waiting times

- Of those who had their initial specialist assessment during the reporting period, 39% were seen within 6 weeks, and 47% within 8 weeks of referral. 35% of patients waited longer than 15 weeks.
- There is significant regional variation in the length of waits with 81% of patients in the North West being seen within 6 weeks of a referral, compared with 4% in the South East. 64% of patients in the South East were waiting over 15 weeks.