



What the latest NHS heart care data tells us - and what it means for you

Every year, thousands of patients across the UK receive treatment for heart conditions in NHS hospitals. The National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) regularly collects and analyses data from hospitals to check how well patients are being cared for. Today (18/6), NICOR has published its latest findings, covering the period from April to September 2025.



Heart attacks: please call 999

The NHS is getting slightly faster at treating the most serious type of heart attack, known as a STEMI. This is good news. But there is a worrying pattern that is continuing: more and more people are driving themselves to hospital or being taken by car when they suspect they are having a heart attack, rather than calling 999. This results in them waiting longer for treatment, and that can affect their recovery. If you or someone with you thinks they might be having a heart attack, please call 999 immediately. Ambulances can begin treatment on the way to hospital, and the faster treatment starts, the better.



Waiting times for heart surgery

If you need planned heart surgery, waiting times have been coming down. After rising in recent years, the average wait is now just over 100 days. That said, there are still differences between hospitals in how long people wait, particularly for more urgent surgery. Work is ongoing to make care more consistent across the country.



Heart valve treatment

A treatment called TAVI, which allows replacement of a damaged heart valve without open-heart surgery, is being used more widely. An important finding in today's report is that patients from more disadvantaged areas are less likely to receive this treatment, and when they do receive it, they are often in a more serious condition. This means outcomes are sometimes worse for these patients. Better access to timely treatment for everyone, regardless of where they live or their background, is a priority.



Heart failure

Most people admitted to hospital with heart failure are now being seen by a specialist team, and more patients are being prescribed newer medications that protect the heart. However, practice still varies too much between hospitals, and not all patients have equal access to the best care.



What this report means overall

NHS cardiac care is generally of a high standard and is improving in many areas. This report also helps identify where care can be better, so hospitals and the NHS can take action. Not every hospital has submitted all its data yet, so the full picture will be clearer when the final annual report is published later this year.