

Gynaecology Appointment Waiting Lists Costs British Economy Billions

Increasing waiting lists for gynaecological appointments are exacerbating costs to the British Economy as painful symptoms leave female employees unable to work.



Outside of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who have recently published a new report revealing the number of people waiting for appointments has doubled since 2020. Source: Elisabeth Montague

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27 November 2024

A new [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists \(RCOG\) report](#) has shown the number of women waiting for appointments in the UK has risen to over 750,000.

Gynaecology appointments are vital in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic conditions that can impact female employees' ability to work effectively.

According to the NHS Confederation, the cost of employees' reduced ability to work due to severe period pains and heavy bleeding stands at over [£700 million per annum](#).

Moreover, staff absenteeism caused by symptoms of menstrual conditions is costing the British economy approximately [£11 billion per annum](#).

With waiting lists rising to over a quarter of a million, these costs are likely to increase as employees are left waiting longer for diagnosis and treatment of disorders.

One in ten patients waiting for appointments for issues such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome have reported that their symptoms are impacting their ability to work.

Those living with painful periods, such as Women's Health and Wellbeing Coach Katerina Skapoullis, "have to take a couple of days off work because of period problems or pain".

"I used to fall asleep in business meetings, so that was really embarrassing. I used to be exhausted", said Skapoullis.

Trustee of the charity Endometriosis UK, Sanchia Alasia, confirmed that gynaecological conditions can impact peoples "relationships, their careers, their finances, their education and so much more."

Alasia said she faced significant difficulties going to work whilst having to "manage the chronic pain" simultaneously.

Gynaecological health charities and organisations across the UK are urging the UK government to commit more long-term funding to address the systemic issues that are increasing these appointment waiting times.

President of the RCOG, Dr Ranee Thakar, reaffirmed online that funding "will not only benefit thousands of individual women but the wider economy too, because the evidence shows that healthy women are the cornerstone of healthy societies."

Such increased government funding will enable employees to access treatments that allow them to work pain-free, which will in turn decrease staff absenteeism's cost to the British Economy.