

## **Cancer Waiting Times, December 2015– Commissioner Based-Provisional**

The latest monthly statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing services within the NHS were released by NHS England on 11th February 2016 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services – December 2015**

#### **The key points from the latest release are:**

The key results for outpatient services and pathways ending with first definitive treatments show that, for cancer patients whose care was commissioned by the English NHS, during the period December 2015:

#### **Two week wait:**

- 94.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (94.8% in November 2015)
- 92.4% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (93.5% in November 2015)

#### **One month (31-day) wait from diagnosis to first definitive treatment:**

- 97.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.6% in November 2015)

#### **Two month (62-day) wait from urgent GP referral to first definitive treatment:**

- 85.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (83.3% in November 2015)

#### **62-day wait extensions**

- 90.0% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (90.2% in November 2015)
- 93.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (93.0% in November 2015)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment for patients whose care was commissioned by the English NHS, during the period December 2015:

**31-day wait for subsequent treatment:**

- 96.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (95.7% in November 2015)
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.6% in November 2015)
- 98.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.7% in November 2015)

More analyses are published as part of this statistical release on the NHS England website.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/category/statistics/provider-waiting-cancer/>

**Contact address and email**

You can obtain further details about the statistics published in this section or comment on the section by contacting the following address:

Paul McDonnell  
Cancer Waiting Times Team  
Room 5E15, Quarry House,  
Quarry Hill,  
Leeds.  
LS2 7UE  
[Email: cancer-waits@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cancer-waits@dh.gsi.gov.uk)