

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

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

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

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, 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 (94.7% 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:**

- 98.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.7% in November 2015 )
- 98.8% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.9% in November 2015 )
- 99.1% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (99.2% in November 2015 )
- 97.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.3% in November 2015 )
- 96.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.4% in November 2015 )
- 98.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in November 2015 )

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

- 85.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (83.5% in November 2015 )

- 96.5% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.4% in November 2015 )
- 75.4% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (75.4% in November 2015 )
- 77.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (76.4% in November 2015 )
- 81.4% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (79.0% in November 2015 )
- 95.6% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.2% in November 2015 )

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

- 90.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (90.8% 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 show that, in England, 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 (95.8% in November 2015 )
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in November 2015 )
- 98.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.8% 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/>

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