

Cancer Waiting Times, February 2017 – 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 13th April 2017 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – February 2017

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period February 2017:

Two week wait:

- 95.4% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (94.0% in January 2017)
- 93.8% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (93.8% in January 2017)

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

- 97.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.6% in January 2017)
- 99.1% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.4% in January 2017)
- 98.4% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.2% in January 2017)
- 97.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.9% in January 2017)
- 95.8% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.3% in January 2017)
- 97.9% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in January 2017)

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

- 79.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (79.7% in January 2017)

- 95.9% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.2% in January 2017)
- 71.3% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (69.3% in January 2017)
- 67.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.0% in January 2017)
- 71.5% 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 (73.5% in January 2017)
- 96.2% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.8% in January 2017)

62-day wait extensions

- 87.6% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (87.8% in January 2017)
- 90.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (90.6% in January 2017)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period February 2017:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 95.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.1% in January 2017)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.9% in January 2017)
- 97.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.2% in January 2017)

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

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/monthly-prov-cwt/>

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