

Cancer Waiting Times, September 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 09/11/2017 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – September 2017

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

Two week wait:

- 94.0% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (93.6% in August 2017)
- 93.2% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (93.1% in August 2017)

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

- 97.4% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.7% in August 2017)
- 98.3% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.6% in August 2017)
- 98.1% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.5% in August 2017)
- 98.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.2% in August 2017)
- 96.0% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.9% in August 2017)
- 97.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.9% in August 2017)

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

- 82.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (82.6% in August 2017)

- 93.3% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.1% in August 2017)
- 68.9% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.2% in August 2017)
- 72.3% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (73.2% in August 2017)
- 78.8% 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 (78.8% in August 2017)
- 94.8% 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 August 2017)

62-day wait extensions

- 86.9% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (88.1% in August 2017)
- 92.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (91.9% in August 2017)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 95.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (95.9% in August 2017)
- 99.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in August 2017)
- 96.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.4% in August 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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