

## **Cancer Waiting Times, October 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 14/12/2017 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services – October 2017**

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

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

- 94.7% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (94.0% in September 2017)
- 95.4% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (93.2% in September 2017)

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

- 97.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.4% in September 2017)
- 98.9% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.3% in September 2017)
- 98.3% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.1% in September 2017)
- 97.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.1% in September 2017)
- 96.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.0% in September 2017)
- 97.9% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.0% in September 2017)

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

- 82.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (82.0% in September 2017)

- 94.0% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (93.3% in September 2017)
- 71.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.9% in September 2017)
- 71.3% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.3% in September 2017)
- 79.2% 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 September 2017)
- 94.9% 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 September 2017)

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

- 87.9% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (86.9% in September 2017)
- 89.3% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (92.1% in September 2017)

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

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

- 95.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (95.3% in September 2017)
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.2% in September 2017)
- 97.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.6% in September 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/>

## **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)