

Cancer Waiting Times, December 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 08/02/2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – December 2017

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

Two week wait:

- 94.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (95.1% in November 2017)
- 94.2% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (95.6% in November 2017)

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 2017)
- 98.5% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.7% in November 2017)
- 98.0% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.0% in November 2017)
- 98.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.0% in November 2017)
- 96.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.1% in November 2017)
- 97.6% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.0% in November 2017)

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

- 84.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (82.5% in November 2017)

- 95.0% 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 November 2017)
- 75.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (71.9% in November 2017)
- 76.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.6% in November 2017)
- 81.5% 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 (78.0% in November 2017)
- 95.5% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.4% in November 2017)

62-day wait extensions

- 88.7% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (88.4% in November 2017)
- 91.7% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (91.0% in November 2017)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 95.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (95.5% in November 2017)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in November 2017)
- 98.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.5% in November 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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