

Cancer Waiting Times, January to March 2018 – Commissioner Based

The latest quarterly statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing services within the NHS were released by NHS England on 10th May 2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – Quarter Four 2017/18

The key points from the latest release are:

The key results for outpatient services and pathways ending with first definitive treatments show that, for cancer patients whose care was commissioned by the English NHS, during the period January to March 2018:

Two week wait:

- 94.1% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (94.9% in Q3 2017/18)
- 92.3% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (95.1% in Q3 2017/18)

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

- 97.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.7% in Q3 2017/18)

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

- 82.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (82.8% in Q3 2017/18)

62-day wait extensions

- 86.2% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (87.6% in Q3 2017/18)
- 88.7% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (90.7% in Q3 2017/18)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period January to March 2018:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 94.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (95.5% in Q3 2017/18)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in Q3 2017/18)
- 96.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.4% in Q3 2017/18)

More detailed commentary and 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/quarterly-comm-cwt/>

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