

Cancer Waiting Times, April 2018– Commissioner Based- Provisional

The latest monthly statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing services within the NHS were released by NHS England on 14/06/2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – April 2018

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 April 2018:

Two week wait:

- 90.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (93.2% in March 2018)
- 84.3% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (91.0% in March 2018)

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

- 97.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.5% in March 2018)

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 (84.5% in March 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 84.9% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (86.6% in March 2018)
- 88.3% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (90.6% in March 2018)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment for patients whose care was commissioned by the English NHS, during the period April 2018:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 94.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.9% in March 2018)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in March 2018)
- 97.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.9% in March 2018)

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

Note: A national breast cancer campaign for women over 70 years of age ran from 22 February to 31 March 2018. This campaign was expected to increase women referred for both breast cancer and breast symptoms during the campaign period and for a number of months after the campaign, and affect performance against the two week wait standards.

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

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