

## **Cancer Waiting Times, April 2018 – 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 14/06/2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services – April 2018**

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, 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)
- 98.4% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.3% in March 2018)
- 97.4% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.8% in March 2018)
- 97.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in March 2018)
- 95.2% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.6% in March 2018)
- 98.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% 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 (84.7% in March 2018)

- 93.8% 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 March 2018)
- 71.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (76.8% in March 2018)
- 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 (78.1% in March 2018)
- 79.5% 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 (80.3% in March 2018)
- 95.7% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (96.7% in March 2018)

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

- 85.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (87.4% in March 2018)
- 88.2% 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 show that, in England, 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)
- 97.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.1% 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-prov-cwt/>

### **Contact address and email**

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## **Annex: Missing and partial returns**

Updated 13 September 2018

The cancer waiting times system excludes records from the 62 day standards which do not contain a first seen provider. A number of providers have submitted some records without this information. This issue affects data from April 2018. In most cases, the number of records affected is very small. The providers where more than five records are affected and where those records contribute more than 5% of the provider's activity are: for the Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RJ7).

The shortfall in activity volumes nationally is given in the table below. The expected impact of these partial submissions on national performance is very small (less than 0.2 percentage points).

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Shortfall in activity</b>
<b>Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	0.06%
<b>Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	2.20%