

Cancer Waiting Times, May 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 12/07/2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – May 2018

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period May 2018:

Two week wait:

- 92.1% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (90.8% in April 2018)
- 83.7% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (84.3% in April 2018)

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 (97.3% in April 2018)
- 99.3% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.4% in April 2018)
- 98.4% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.4% in April 2018)
- 97.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in April 2018)
- 95.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.2% in April 2018)
- 98.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.0% in April 2018)

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

- 81.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (82.3% in April 2018)

- 91.9% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (93.8% in April 2018)
- 74.1% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (71.8% in April 2018)
- 72.0% 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 April 2018)
- 75.7% 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 (79.5% in April 2018)
- 96.1% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.7% in April 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 84.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (85.1% in April 2018)
- 88.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (88.2% in April 2018)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 94.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.3% in April 2018)
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in April 2018)
- 97.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.0% in April 2018)

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

Annex: Missing and partial returns

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Epsomedical Group (NVM), Assura East Riding LLP (NYT), Virgin Care Ltd (NQT) and Concordia Community Outpatients Ltd (NHT) did not make a submission due to technical difficulties. Notice of an update to the cancer waiting times system was issued in October 2017. The four providers were unable to submit May 2018 data in line with that information standard.

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (RRK) did not make a submission.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (REF) made a partial data return for the standards:

62-Day (Urgent Gp Referral To Treatment) Wait For First Treatment

62-Day Wait For First Treatment From Consultant Upgrade

Two Week Wait

Two Week Wait-Exhibited Breast Symptoms (Cancer Not Initially Suspected)

31-Day (Diagnosis To Treatment) Wait For First Treatment

And no data was submitted for any of the other data standards.

Lewisham And Greenwich NHS Trust (RJ2) made a partial data submission for:

Two Week Wait

Two Week Wait-Exhibited Breast Symptoms (Cancer Not Initially Suspected)

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. No provider has more than five records affected where those records contribute more than 5% of the provider's activity.

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

We are working with the providers concerned to resolve the issues and we will be publishing revisions later this financial year.

Standard	Estimated shortfall in activity
Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	3.67%
Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	4.27%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	2.70%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	4.79%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)	2.99%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	5.38%
Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	2.42%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	2.62%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	3.95%