

Cancer Waiting Times, June 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 09/08/2018 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – June 2018

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

Two week wait:

- 91.1% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (92.1% in May 2018)
- 83.5% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (83.7% in May 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 (97.8% in May 2018)
- 98.4% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (99.3% in May 2018)
- 98.4% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.4% in May 2018)
- 97.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.8% in May 2018)
- 95.2% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.7% in May 2018)
- 97.7% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.2% in May 2018)

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

- 79.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (81.1% in May 2018)

- 92.2% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.9% in May 2018)
- 72.0% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (74.1% in May 2018)
- 70.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.0% in May 2018)
- 68.8% 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 (75.7% in May 2018)
- 96.8% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (96.1% in May 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 86.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (84.5% in May 2018)
- 89.3% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (88.1% in May 2018)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 94.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.6% in May 2018)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in May 2018)
- 96.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.2% in May 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

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Annex: Missing and partial returns

Updated 11 October 2018

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (RTP) made a partial data submission. A partial data return was submitted for the standards: One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen), Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer and Two Month Wait Following a Screening Referral.

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust (RT3) did not make a data submission by the advertised deadline for One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer and Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

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 GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (REF), Lewisham And Greenwich NHS Trust (RJ2), University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (RRK), and North Bristol NHS Trust (RVJ).

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 0.05 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
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.65%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	0.67%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	0.29%
Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.33%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.08%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.33%