

Cancer Waiting Times, August 2018 – Provider Based - Final

The latest monthly Official Statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing NHS services, produced by NHS England, were released on 10/01/2019 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – August 2018

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

Two week wait:

- 91.7% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.9% in July 2018)
- 90.7% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (88.4% in July 2018)

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

- 97.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.2% in July 2018)
- 98.5% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.7% in July 2018)
- 98.5% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.6% in July 2018)
- 97.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.6% in July 2018)
- 93.5% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.1% in July 2018)
- 97.4% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.2% in July 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 (78.3% in July 2018)

- 91.6% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.4% in July 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 (71.1% in July 2018)
- 71.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (69.7% in July 2018)
- 67.2% 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 (67.2% in July 2018)
- 96.0% 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 July 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 (86.8% in July 2018)
- 89.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (89.0% in July 2018)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 93.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.0% in July 2018)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in July 2018)
- 97.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.0% in July 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/quarterly-prov-cwt/>

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