



Cancer Waiting Times, April 2019 – Provider Based - Provisional

The latest monthly Official Statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing NHS services, produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement, were released on 13/06/2019 (*Updated 09/07/2019*) according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

From April 2019 the allocation of patients on 62 day pathways which involve multiple providers is as set out in the National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Dataset Guidance v10. To March 2019 the allocation was equally divided between first seen and treatment providers. The document 'Technical Annex - Patient Allocation' accompanying this publication shows the impact of this change in April 2019. The national figures are unaffected by this change.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – April 2019

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period April 2019:

Two week wait:

- 89.9% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.8% in March 2019)
- 75.5% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (78.5% in March 2019)

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

- 96.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.5% in March 2019)
- 97.8% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.7% in March 2019)
- 98.1% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.6% in March 2019)
- 97.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in March 2019)
- 92.3% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.1% in March 2019)

- 96.8% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.2% in March 2019)

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

- 79.4% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (79.7% in March 2019)
- 91.2% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.8% in March 2019)
- 68.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.8% in March 2019)
- 71.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (73.6% in March 2019)
- 72.7% 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 (70.8% in March 2019)
- 95.5% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.9% in March 2019)

62-day wait extensions

- 84.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (85.0% in March 2019)
- 89.7% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (89.5% in March 2019)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period April 2019:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 91.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (92.3% in March 2019)
- 98.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in March 2019)
- 96.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.0% in March 2019)

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

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

Contact address and email

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Annex: Missing and partial returns

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (REF) did not make a submission for any of the Cancer Waiting Times standards.

Assura East Riding LLP (NYT) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, and Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer.

Epsomedical Group (NVM) had an overstated submission of CWT Data for Two Week Wait Referral to First Consultant Appointment due to duplicated records.

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RRV) did not make a submission of CWT Data for One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy) One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer, Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

The combined estimated effect of these missing, partial and duplicate submissions on national activity volumes is given in the table below. The estimated impact on national performance is small (for all measures it was 0.25 percentage points or less).

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

Standard	Estimated shortfall in activity
Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	0.84%
Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	1.07%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.14%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	4.56%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)	2.23%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	2.23%

Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.46%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.38%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.08%