



Cancer Waiting Times, December 2018 – Provider Based – Revised Final

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 11/07/2019 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – December 2018

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

Two week wait:

- 93.7% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (92.5% in November 2018)
- 86.1% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (87.9% in November 2018)

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

- 97.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.6% in November 2018)
- 98.0% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.1% in November 2018)
- 98.8% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.4% in November 2018)
- 98.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in November 2018)
- 93.4% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.1% in November 2018)
- 97.5% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.4% in November 2018)

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

- 81.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (79.4% in November 2018)

- 91.5% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (92.0% in November 2018)
- 75.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.0% in November 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 (70.4% in November 2018)
- 74.7% 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 (71.6% in November 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 (94.6% in November 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 86.0% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (85.6% in November 2018)
- 88.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (88.6% in November 2018)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 93.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (93.0% in November 2018)
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in November 2018)
- 97.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.3% in November 2018)

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/>

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