



Cancer Waiting Times, October 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 – October 2018

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

Two week wait:

- 92.3% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.2% in September 2018)
- 91.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (91.8% in September 2018)

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

- 96.6% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.3% in September 2018)
- 97.9% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.1% in September 2018)
- 98.4% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.9% in September 2018)
- 97.7% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.7% in September 2018)
- 92.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.9% in September 2018)
- 97.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.4% in September 2018)

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

- 78.5% 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 September 2018)

- 91.7% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (90.9% in September 2018)
- 71.7% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (72.3% in September 2018)
- 67.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (67.8% in September 2018)
- 70.6% 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 (67.3% in September 2018)
- 94.4% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.3% in September 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 84.0% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (84.7% in September 2018)
- 87.5% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (89.0% in September 2018)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 92.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (92.6% in September 2018)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.5% in September 2018)
- 97.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.4% in September 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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