



## **Cancer Waiting Times, March 2019 – 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 – March 2019**

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

#### **Two week wait:**

- 91.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (93.4% in February 2019)
- 78.1% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (82.4% in February 2019)

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

- 96.5% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.7% in February 2019)
- 98.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.0% in February 2019)
- 98.6% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.4% in February 2019)
- 96.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.1% in February 2019)
- 92.2% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.6% in February 2019)
- 97.1% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.0% in February 2019)

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

- 79.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (76.2% in February 2019)

- 91.9% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (88.9% in February 2019)
- 69.3% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.1% in February 2019)
- 73.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (66.3% in February 2019)
- 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 (67.8% in February 2019)
- 95.9% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.7% in February 2019)

#### **62-day wait extensions**

- 85.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (82.9% in February 2019)
- 89.5% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (84.4% in February 2019)

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

#### **31-day wait for subsequent treatment:**

- 92.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (92.8% in February 2019)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in February 2019)
- 97.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.3% in February 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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