



Cancer Waiting Times, August 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 10/10/2019 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – August 2019

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

Two week wait:

- 89.4% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (90.9% in July 2019)
- 85.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (82.4% in July 2019)

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

- 96.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.5% in July 2019)
- 97.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in July 2019)
- 97.3% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.9% in July 2019)
- 96.3% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in July 2019)
- 93.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.2% in July 2019)
- 95.3% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.1% in July 2019)

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 (77.6% in July 2019)

- 89.0% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (88.8% in July 2019)
- 65.6% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (64.3% in July 2019)
- 66.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (70.8% in July 2019)
- 74.4% 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 (70.7% in July 2019)
- 93.8% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (93.9% in July 2019)

62-day wait extensions

- 83.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (83.4% in July 2019)
- 87.7% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (85.5% in July 2019)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 91.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (92.2% in July 2019)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.2% in July 2019)
- 96.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.1% in July 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

Due to technical issues, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Foundation Trust (RNL) submission of CWT data for the following standards has not been processed by the system: Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment; 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; One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment of surgery for Cancer; One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment of anti cancer drugs; Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer; Two Month Wait from a screening referral to a First Treatment for Cancer; and Two Month Wait from a consultant upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

The combined estimated shortfall of these missing and partial submissions on national activity volumes is given in the table below. The estimated impact on national performance is very small (for all measures it was 0.08 percentage points or less).

We are working with the providers concerned to resolve the issues and we will be publishing revisions in the next financial year.

Standard	Estimated shortfall in activity
Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	0.55%
Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	1.04%

One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.44%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	0.63%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)	0.00%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	0.38%
Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.62%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.37%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.11%