



## **Cancer Waiting Times, September 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 14/11/2019 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services – September 2019**

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

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

- 90.1% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (89.4% in August 2019)
- 88.0% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (85.9% in August 2019)

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

- 95.5% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.1% in August 2019)
- 96.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.6% in August 2019)
- 96.8% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.3% in August 2019)
- 95.7% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.3% in August 2019)
- 93.4% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.1% in August 2019)
- 94.6% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.3% in August 2019)

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

- 76.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (78.5% in August 2019)

- 88.0% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (89.0% in August 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 (65.6% in August 2019)
- 66.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (66.9% in August 2019)
- 70.3% 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 (74.4% in August 2019)
- 92.7% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (93.8% in August 2019)

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

- 81.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (83.5% in August 2019)
- 86.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (87.7% in August 2019)

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

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

- 90.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.4% in August 2019)
- 99.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in August 2019)
- 95.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.3% in August 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

You can obtain further details about the statistics published in this section or comment on the section by contacting the following address:

Paul McDonnell  
Cancer Waiting Times Team  
Room 5E15, Quarry House,  
Quarry Hill,  
Leeds.  
LS2 7UE  
Email: [england.cancerwaitsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.cancerwaitsdata@nhs.net)

## **Annex: Missing and partial returns**

The cancer waiting times system excludes records from the 62 day standards which do not contain a first seen provider. For the Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (RYJ) and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (RHM) have submitted some records without this information.

ASHFORD AND ST PETER'S HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (RTK) were delayed in uploading data until after the submission deadline thus no data is available in this publication for CWT Data for Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment, Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) 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 for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, and Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer.

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.

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 0.1 percentage points or less).

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

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Estimated shortfall in activity</b>
<b>Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment</b>	0.72%
<b>Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment</b>	1.37%
<b>One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	0.43%
<b>One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)</b>	0.08%
<b>One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)</b>	0.00%
<b>One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)</b>	0.13%
<b>Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	0.77%
<b>Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	0.54%
<b>Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer</b>	0.00%