



Cancer Waiting Times, April 2019 – Provider Based – 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 09/01/2020 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – April 2019

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

Two week wait:

- 89.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.8% in March 2019)
- 74.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (78.1% in March 2019)

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

- 96.4% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.5% in March 2019)
- 97.9% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.6% in March 2019)
- 98.1% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.6% in March 2019)
- 96.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in March 2019)
- 92.5% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.2% in March 2019)
- 96.8% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.1% in March 2019)

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

- 79.4% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (79.7% in March 2019)
- 91.2% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.9% in March 2019)
- 68.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (69.3% in March 2019)
- 71.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (73.5% in March 2019)
- 72.6% 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 (70.6% in March 2019)
- 95.5% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.9% in March 2019)

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 (85.1% in March 2019)
- 89.7% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (89.5% in March 2019)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 91.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (92.3% in March 2019)
- 98.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in March 2019)
- 96.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.1% in March 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/>

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