



Cancer Waiting Times, May 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 – May 2019

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

Two week wait:

- 90.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (89.8% in April 2019)
- 78.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (74.9% in April 2019)

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

- 96.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.4% in April 2019)
- 97.2% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.9% in April 2019)
- 97.2% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.1% in April 2019)
- 96.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.9% in April 2019)
- 92.9% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.5% in April 2019)
- 96.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in April 2019)

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

- 77.6% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (79.4% in April 2019)

- 87.4% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.2% in April 2019)
- 67.1% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.5% in April 2019)
- 69.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (71.1% in April 2019)
- 70.7% 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 (72.6% in April 2019)
- 94.9% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (95.5% in April 2019)

62-day wait extensions

- 83.2% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (84.0% in April 2019)
- 87.5% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (89.7% in April 2019)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 92.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.2% in April 2019)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.9% in April 2019)
- 96.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.6% in April 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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