



Cancer Waiting Times, September 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 – 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)
- 88.1% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (86.0% 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)
- 96.7% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.6% in August 2019)
- 96.7% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in August 2019)
- 95.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.4% in August 2019)
- 93.5% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.1% in August 2019)
- 94.5% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.5% in August 2019)

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

- 77.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (78.7% 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)
- 68.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (65.9% in August 2019)
- 66.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (67.0% 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)
- 92.6% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.0% in August 2019)

62-day wait extensions

- 81.3% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (83.4% in August 2019)
- 87.0% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (87.9% 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:

- 90.3% 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 (96.2% 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/>

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