



## **Cancer Waiting Times, December 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 13/02/2020 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

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

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

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

- 91.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.3% in November 2019)
- 84.3% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (87.5% in November 2019)

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

- 95.97% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (95.9% in November 2019)
- 98.2% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.6% in November 2019)
- 97.5% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.1% in November 2019)
- 96.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.2% in November 2019)
- 93.8% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.4% in November 2019)
- 94.6% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.8% in November 2019)

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

- 78.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (77.4% in November 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 (91.3% in November 2019)
- 68.0% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (64.8% in November 2019)
- 66.7% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (65.0% in November 2019)
- 75.0% 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 (71.5% in November 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 (93.4% in November 2019)

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

- 82.9% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (81.8% in November 2019)
- 85.2% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (83.8% in November 2019)

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

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

- 91.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.7% in November 2019)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in November 2019)
- 96.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.9% in November 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)