



Cancer Waiting Times, January 2020 – 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 12/03/2020 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – January 2020

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period January 2020:

Two week wait:

- 90.1% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (91.8% in December 2019)
- 83.6% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (84.3% in December 2019)

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

- 94.5% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (95.97% in December 2019)
- 95.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.2% in December 2019)
- 95.7% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in December 2019)
- 93.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.0% in December 2019)
- 93.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.8% in December 2019)
- 93.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.6% in December 2019)

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

- 73.6% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (78.0% in December 2019)

- 86.6% 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 December 2019)
- 59.1% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.0% in December 2019)
- 60.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (66.7% in December 2019)
- 68.1% 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 (75.0% in December 2019)
- 91.5% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (92.6% in December 2019)

62-day wait extensions

- 80.8% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (82.9% in December 2019)
- 78.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (85.2% in December 2019)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period January 2020:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 89.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.6% in December 2019)
- 97.99% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in December 2019)
- 94.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.6% in December 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

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