



## **Cancer Waiting Times, February 2020 - 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 09/07/2020 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services - February 2020**

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

#### **Two week Wait:**

- 92.6% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (90.1% in January 2020)
- 87.2% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (83.6% in January 2020)

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

- 96.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (94.5% in January 2020)
- 97.3% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.6% in January 2020)
- 97.8% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.6% in January 2020)
- 96.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.7% in January 2020)
- 94.4% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.2% in January 2020)
- 95.9% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.9% in January 2020)

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

- 74.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (73.6% in January 2020)
- 86.7% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (86.7% in January 2020)
- 62.9% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (59.5% in January 2020)

- 64.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (60.7% in January 2020)
- 66.9% 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 (68.0% in January 2020)
- 93.0% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (91.7% in January 2020)

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

- 79.7% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (80.8% in January 2020)
- 76.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (78.9% in January 2020)

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

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

- 91.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (89.2% in January 2020)
- 99.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.0% in January 2020)
- 96.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (94.8% in January 2020)

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)

## **Annex: Missing and partial returns**

The cancer waiting times system excludes records from the 62 day standards which do not contain a first seen provider. For the Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (RRK) have submitted some records without this information.

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RD3) made a partial submission of CWT Data for One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy), and One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery).