



Cancer Waiting Times, March 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 - March 2020

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

Two week Wait:

- 91.9% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (92.6% in February 2020)
- 86.0% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (87.2% in February 2020)

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

- 96.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.3% in February 2020)
- 97.7% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.3% in February 2020)
- 97.7% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.8% in February 2020)
- 96.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.4% in February 2020)
- 95.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.4% in February 2020)
- 96.4% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.9% in February 2020)

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

- 78.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (74.0% in February 2020)
- 92.3% 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 February 2020)
- 69.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (62.9% in February 2020)

- 70.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (64.0% in February 2020)
- 70.6% 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 (66.9% in February 2020)
- 95.3% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (93.0% in February 2020)

62-day wait extensions

- 83.0% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (79.7% in February 2020)
- 84.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (76.1% in February 2020)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 92.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.2% in February 2020)
- 99.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.1% in February 2020)
- 96.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.8% in February 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

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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).