



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

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services - October 2019**

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

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

- 91.4% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (90.1% in September 2019)
- 89.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (88.1% in September 2019)

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

- 96.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (95.5% in September 2019)
- 97.0% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.7% in September 2019)
- 97.5% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.7% in September 2019)
- 96.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.8% in September 2019)
- 94.0% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.5% in September 2019)
- 95.1% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.5% in September 2019)

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

- 77.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (77.0% in September 2019)
- 90.6% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (88.0% in September 2019)
- 66.6% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (68.8% in September 2019)

- 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 (66.5% in September 2019)
- 71.0% 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 (70.3% in September 2019)
- 92.9% 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 September 2019)

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

- 82.4% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (81.3% in September 2019)
- 83.3% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (87.0% in September 2019)

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

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

- 91.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (90.3% in September 2019)
- 99.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.1% in September 2019)
- 96.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (95.1% in September 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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