Cancer Waiting Times, June 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 13/08/2020 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - June 2020

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

Two week Wait:
- 92.5% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (94.2% in May 2020)
- 90.6% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (93.7% in May 2020)

One month (31-day) wait from diagnosis to first definitive treatment:
- 93.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (93.9% in May 2020)
- 91.1% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.5% in May 2020)
- 97.6% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.9% in May 2020)
- 92.5% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.5% in May 2020)
- 87.0% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.7% in May 2020)
- 95.4% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.7% in May 2020)

Two month (62-day) wait from urgent GP referral to first definitive treatment:
- 75.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (69.9% in May 2020)
- 87.9% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (87.3% in May 2020)
- 62.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (55.7% in May 2020)

- 48.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (41.3% in May 2020)
- 56.4% 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 (60.9% in May 2020)
- 93.9% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (89.3% in May 2020)

62-day wait extensions
- 82.3% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (78.1% in May 2020)
- 12.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (47.9% in May 2020)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment
- 86.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (88.5% in May 2020)
- 98.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.0% in May 2020)
- 94.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.3% in May 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

Due to external technical circumstances, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (RY2) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Two Week Wait from GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), Two Month Wait GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, and Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (RCU) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Two Week Wait from GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), and Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust (RQ3) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Two Week Wait from GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-drug regimen), One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (radiotherapy), Two Month Wait GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, and Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer.

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 GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RBL) have submitted some records without this information.

The cancer waiting times dataset will be updated for data from July onwards. A number of providers have submitted some records using the new codes in the updated dataset for June data. These have been excluded from the published outputs. In most cases, the number of records affected is very small. Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RTE) had more than 10 records affected, where those records contribute to more than 10% of the provider's activity for the One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer, One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery), Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer standards.

The combined estimated shortfall of these missing and partial submissions on national activity volumes is given in the table below. The estimated impact on national performance is very small (for all measures it was 0.2 percentage points or less).

We are working with the providers concerned to resolve the issues and we will be publishing revisions later in the year.

Standard	Estimated shortfall in activity
Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	0.21%
Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	0.00%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.41%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	0.10%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)	0.00%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	0.71%
Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.54%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.27%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.10%