



Cancer Waiting Times, May 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 14/01/2021 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. The May statistics are reported using an updated methodology reflecting updates to the cancer waiting times guidance and dataset. These changes are detailed in the published Information standard (DCB0147). The effect nationally is less than 0.1% for volume, and 0.02 percentage points or less for performance.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - May 2020

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

Two week Wait:

- 94.2% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (88.1% in April 2020)
- 93.8% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (81.6% in April 2020)

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

- 94.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (96.3% in April 2020)
- 90.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in April 2020)
- 97.0% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.9% in April 2020)
- 90.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.9% in April 2020)
- 91.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.4% in April 2020)
- 93.8% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.4% in April 2020)

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

- 70.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (74.4% in April 2020)
- 87.1% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (89.7% in April 2020)

- 55.6% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (65.3% in April 2020)
- 41.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (55.3% in April 2020)
- 61.5% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (71.2% in April 2020)
- 89.4% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (91.7% in April 2020)

62-day wait extensions

- 78.2% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (81.1% in April 2020)
- 47.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (81.3% in April 2020)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 88.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (91.1% in April 2020)
- 99.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.0% in April 2020)
- 96.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (95.3% in April 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/>

Contact address and email

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