



Cancer Waiting Times, January 2021 - 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 11/03/2021 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - January 2021

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period January 2021:

Two week Wait:

- 83.4% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (87.5% in December 2020)
- 62.7% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (67.0% in December 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 (96.0% in December 2020)
- 93.9% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.5% in December 2020)
- 95.0% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.0% in December 2020)
- 92.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.9% in December 2020)
- 94.2% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.1% in December 2020)
- 92.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.1% in December 2020)

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

- 71.2% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (75.2% in December 2020)
- 79.8% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (84.5% in December 2020)
- 62.4% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (69.6% in December 2020)

- 50.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (52.5% in December 2020)
- 68.4% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (73.4% in December 2020)
- 90.3% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (91.7% in December 2020)

62-day wait extensions

- 81.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (83.5% in December 2020)
- 79.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (83.6% in December 2020)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period January 2021:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 86.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (89.1% in December 2020)
- 98.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in December 2020)
- 96.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.5% in December 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

You can obtain further details about the statistics published in this section or comment on the section by contacting the following address:

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Annex A: 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 GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RM1) have submitted some records without this information.

The estimated shortfall of this partial submission on national activity volumes is given in the table below. The estimated impact on national performance is very small (for all measures it was 0.1 percentage points or less).

We are working with the provider 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	0.00%
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	0.00%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	0.00%
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)	0.00%

Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.62%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.00%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.00%