

Publication of Cancer Waiting Times data **(Updated 15th April 2021)**

Introduction and background

Following a request from the Prime Minister in 2018, Professor Stephen Powis, NHS Medical Director, was asked to carry out a clinical review of standards across the NHS, with the aim of determining whether patients would be well served by updating and supplementing some of the older targets in use. His interim report was published in March 2019 and set out the initial proposals for testing changes to access standards in mental health services, cancer care, elective care and urgent and emergency care.

This interim report can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/clinical-review-nhs-access-standards/>

For cancer, as recommended by the independent cancer taskforce chaired by Sir Harpal Kumar, the then head of Cancer Research UK, the Powis report recommended the testing of the 28 day faster diagnosis standard to replace the urgent two week wait for suspected cancer, and breast symptomatic where cancer is not initially suspected to understand their impact on clinical care, patient experience and the management of services.

The following hospital trusts have worked with the NHS nationally to agree how they will safely test the proposed new standard for cancer diagnosis, and began the first phase of the trial from late August 2019:

- Mid Essex Hospital Services
- Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals
- Kingston Hospital
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital
- Northampton General Hospital
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals
- East Lancashire Hospitals
- Warrington and Halton Hospitals
- Hampshire Hospitals
- The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals
- Torbay and South Devon

These trusts will be testing the use of a faster diagnosis standard for people with suspected cancer – meaning that people can expect to be told whether or not they have cancer within 28 days of an urgent referral from their GP or a cancer screening programme – instead of the current standard of seeing a specialist within 14 days, which does not include a measurement of when someone should be told the result.

As of April 2020 Mid Essex Hospital was involved in a merger. From April 2020 onwards, the list of providers involved is:

- Torbay And South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- The Royal Bournemouth And Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust

- Doncaster And Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Mid And South Essex Hospital Foundation NHS Trust
- Epsom And St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Warrington And Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

As of October 2020 The Royal Bournemouth And Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was involved in a merger. From October 2020 onwards, the list of providers involved is:

- Torbay And South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
- Doncaster And Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Mid And South Essex Hospital Foundation NHS Trust
- Epsom And St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Warrington And Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Field testing and impact on published cancer waiting times data

Field testing started in late August 2019. Throughout field testing, two week wait data will continue to be collected and two week wait activity by waiting times bands will continue to be published for each of the CRS providers. However, from the publication of August 2019 data on 10 October 2019 and throughout the course of field testing, two week wait performance will not be calculated or published for these providers to reflect the change in the performance framework under which the CRS providers are operating. The same approach will be applied to those CCGs for whom a large proportion of two week wait activity is accounted for by the CRS providers. At the start of field testing these were:

NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG
 NHS East Lancashire CCG
 NHS Halton CCG
 NHS Warrington CCG
 NHS Bassetlaw CCG
 NHS Doncaster CCG
 NHS Nene CCG
 NHS Mid Essex CCG
 NHS Kingston CCG
 NHS Richmond CCG
 NHS Sutton CCG
 NHS North Hampshire CCG
 NHS West Hampshire CCG
 NHS Surrey Downs CCG

As a result of provider and commissioner mergers from April 2020, the list was updated as follows:

NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG
 NHS East Lancashire CCG

NHS Warrington CCG
NHS Bassetlaw CCG
NHS Doncaster CCG
NHS Mid Essex CCG
NHS Thurrock CCG
NHS North Hampshire CCG
NHS West Hampshire CCG
NHS Dorset CCG
NHS Northamptonshire CCG
NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG
NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG
NHS Southend CCG

Note, the merger involving The Royal Bournemouth And Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation from October 2020 did not affect the list of commissioners.

As a result of commissioner mergers from April 2021, the list was updated as follows:

NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG
NHS East Lancashire CCG
NHS Warrington CCG
NHS Bassetlaw CCG
NHS Doncaster CCG
NHS Mid Essex CCG
NHS Thurrock CCG
NHS Dorset CCG
NHS Northamptonshire CCG
NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG
NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG
NHS Southend CCG

While the performance figures will not be calculated for the CRS providers or affected CCGs, we will continue to calculate and publish performance at regional and England level using all data. Hence the performance of the CRS providers will continue to be included in the headline England position and therefore a fully comparable national time series will continue to be available.

Mark Svenson

NHS England and NHS Improvement