



Cancer Waiting Times, December 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 08/07/2021 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - December 2020

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

Two week Wait:

- 87.6% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (87.0% in November 2020)
- 67.5% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (67.7% in November 2020)

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

- 96.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (95.2% in November 2020)
- 97.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.8% in November 2020)
- 97.1% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.0% in November 2020)
- 95.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.6% in November 2020)
- 95.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.3% in November 2020)
- 94.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.0% in November 2020)

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

- 75.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (75.5% in November 2020)
- 84.7% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (86.7% in November 2020)
- 69.8% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (69.6% in November 2020)

- 53.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (55.3% in November 2020)
- 73.4% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (74.4% in November 2020)
- 91.6% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (91.5% in November 2020)

62-day wait extensions

- 83.6% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (83.1% in November 2020)
- 83.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (88.1% in November 2020)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 89.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (88.0% in November 2020)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.4% in November 2020)
- 97.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.2% in November 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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