



Cancer Waiting Times, March 2021 - 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 - March 2021

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

Two week Wait:

- 91.3% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (90.3% in February 2021)
- 76.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (71.5% in February 2021)

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

- 94.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (94.8% in February 2021)
- 94.8% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.7% in February 2021)
- 96.2% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.5% in February 2021)
- 89.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.4% in February 2021)
- 93.3% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.8% in February 2021)
- 96.0% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.0% in February 2021)

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

- 73.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (69.9% in February 2021)
- 83.1% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (77.0% in February 2021)
- 67.3% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (64.4% in February 2021)

- 48.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (44.8% in February 2021)
- 69.4% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (67.0% in February 2021)
- 93.8% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (90.8% in February 2021)

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 (78.7% in February 2021)
- 75.0% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (72.2% in February 2021)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 86.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (87.7% in February 2021)
- 99.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.1% in February 2021)
- 97.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (98.2% in February 2021)

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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