



## **Cancer Waiting Times, October 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 - October 2020**

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

#### **Two week Wait:**

- 87.9% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (86.1% in September 2020)
- 76.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (77.4% in September 2020)

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

- 95.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (94.6% in September 2020)
- 96.8% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.2% in September 2020)
- 98.3% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.4% in September 2020)
- 95.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.3% in September 2020)
- 94.9% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.9% in September 2020)
- 93.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.2% in September 2020)

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

- 74.4% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (74.3% in September 2020)
- 83.4% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (83.5% in September 2020)
- 71.1% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (73.8% in September 2020)

- 53.3% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (49.0% in September 2020)
- 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 (69.5% in September 2020)
- 91.9% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (92.0% in September 2020)

### **62-day wait extensions**

- 82.8% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (84.1% in September 2020)
- 85.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (84.3% in September 2020)

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

### **31-day wait for subsequent treatment**

- 90.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (87.3% in September 2020)
- 99.5% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.2% in September 2020)
- 97.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.2% in September 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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