



## **Cancer Waiting Times, October to December 2020 - Provider Based - Final**

The latest quarterly National Statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing NHS services, produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement, were released on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

In 2010, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority assessed and designated these statistics as National Statistics<sup>1</sup>, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>2</sup>.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services - Quarter Three 2020**

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

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

- 87.5% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (88.0% in Q2 2020/21)
- 70.4% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (81.9% in Q2 2020/21)

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

- 95.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (94.8% in Q2 2020/21)
- 97.1% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.3% in Q2 2020/21)
- 97.5% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in Q2 2020/21)
- 94.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.4% in Q2 2020/21)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/confirmation-of-designation-letters/letter-of-confirmation-as-national-statistics---assessment-report-43.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice>

- 94.8% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.1% in Q2 2020/21)
- 93.4% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.2% in Q2 2020/21)

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

- 75.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (76.8% in Q2 2020/21)
- 84.9% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (85.5% in Q2 2020/21)
- 70.2% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (76.2% in Q2 2020/21)
- 53.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (51.3% in Q2 2020/21)
- 72.5% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (68.8% in Q2 2020/21)
- 91.7% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (93.5% in Q2 2020/21)

**62-day wait extensions**

- 83.2% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (85.3% in Q2 2020/21)
- 85.6% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (63.9% in Q2 2020/21)

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

**31-day wait for subsequent treatment**

- 89.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (87.6% in Q2 2020/21)
- 99.4% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.2% in Q2 2020/21)
- 97.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (96.1% in Q2 2020/21)

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:

Paul McDonnell

Cancer Waiting Times Team

Room 5E15, Quarry House,

Quarry Hill,

Leeds.

LS2 7UE

Email: [england.cancerwaitsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.cancerwaitsdata@nhs.net)