



Cancer Waiting Times, December 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 13/10/2022 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - December 2021

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

Two week Wait:

- 78.7% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (77.4% in November 2021)
- 50.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (52.3% in November 2021)

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

- 93.5% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (93.0% in November 2021)
- 93.5% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.5% in November 2021)
- 96.0% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (96.1% in November 2021)
- 91.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.3% in November 2021)
- 93.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.7% in November 2021)
- 90.3% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.3% in November 2021)

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

- 67.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (67.6% in November 2021)
- 73.4% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (80.0% in November 2021)
- 61.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (59.2% in November 2021)

- 46.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (45.0% in November 2021)
- 65.8% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (63.5% in November 2021)
- 84.4% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (85.8% in November 2021)

62-day wait extensions

- 79.1% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (78.9% in November 2021)
- 76.0% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (72.9% in November 2021)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 83.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (82.2% in November 2021)
- 99.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.9% in November 2021)
- 94.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (94.4% in November 2021)

The key results for waiting times for urgent referral to a patient being told they have cancer, or that cancer is definitively excluded show that, in England, during the period of December 2021:

28-day Faster Diagnosis (All Routes):

- 70.3% of people were told by a specialist if they had cancer, or if cancer was definitively excluded within four weeks (28-days) of an urgent referral (71.2% in November 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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Annex A: Faster Diagnosis Standard

Estimates have been made of the completeness of the Faster Diagnosis Standard data. The estimated shortfall in FDS clock stops from urgent suspected and breast symptomatic referrals is 8% of all FDS clock stops. This is estimated to increase national performance by 0.3 percentage points. Work is ongoing to assess the completeness for FDS clock stops for screening referrals. The following providers have made partial submissions of FDS clock stops for urgent suspected and breast symptomatic referrals.

Barking, Havering And Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (RF4)

Sandwell And West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (RXK)

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (RNA)

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (RBK)

Work is in progress with providers to improve levels of completeness.