



## **Cancer Waiting Times, May 2022 - 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 13/04/2023 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services - May 2022**

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period May 2022:

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

- 83.0% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (78.7% in April 2022)
- 72.2% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (62.2% in April 2022)

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

- 91.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (92.8% in April 2022)
- 91.0% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.4% in April 2022)
- 94.0% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.3% in April 2022)
- 88.8% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.4% in April 2022)
- 92.8% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.4% in April 2022)
- 89.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.6% in April 2022)

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

- 61.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (65.7% in April 2022)
- 69.8% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (69.3% in April 2022)

- 50.7% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (59.6% in April 2022)
- 44.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (46.0% in April 2022)
- 54.2% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (60.6% in April 2022)
- 87.2% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (88.1% in April 2022)

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

- 75.8% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (78.5% in April 2022)
- 68.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (72.9% in April 2022)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period May 2022:

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

- 81.6% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (82.5% in April 2022)
- 98.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.1% in April 2022)
- 91.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (92.0% in April 2022)

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 May 2022:

### **28-day Faster Diagnosis (All Routes):**

- 70.7% 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 (70.3% in April 2022)

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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