



## **Cancer Waiting Times, September 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 - September 2022**

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

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

- 72.3% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (75.6% in August 2022)
- 67.9% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (70.9% in August 2022)

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

- 91.1% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (92.1% in August 2022)
- 90.1% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.4% in August 2022)
- 94.7% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.1% in August 2022)
- 89.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.0% in August 2022)
- 90.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.9% in August 2022)
- 88.2% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (88.8% in August 2022)

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

- 60.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (62.3% in August 2022)
- 71.2% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (74.0% in August 2022)

- 52.7% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (50.7% in August 2022)
- 39.3% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (42.5% in August 2022)
- 52.9% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (53.6% in August 2022)
- 82.1% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (85.1% in August 2022)

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

- 73.8% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (73.3% in August 2022)
- 67.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (68.7% in August 2022)

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

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

- 80.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (80.5% in August 2022)
- 98.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.2% in August 2022)
- 88.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (90.5% in August 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 September 2022:

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

- 67.0% 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 (69.5% in August 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

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)