



Cancer Waiting Times, December 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 13/07/2023 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services - December 2022

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

Two week Wait:

- 80.3% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (78.7% in November 2022)
- 71.7% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (74.7% in November 2022)

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

- 92.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (91.5% in November 2022)
- 92.9% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.0% in November 2022)
- 95.9% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (94.8% in November 2022)
- 92.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.9% in November 2022)
- 92.7% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.3% in November 2022)
- 87.9% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (87.4% in November 2022)

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

- 62.0% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (61.5% in November 2022)
- 74.4% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (70.6% in November 2022)

- 54.6% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (53.6% in November 2022)
- 43.1% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (40.7% in November 2022)
- 54.5% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (59.0% in November 2022)
- 81.0% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (78.1% in November 2022)

62-day wait extensions

- 77.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (75.5% in November 2022)
- 72.9% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (67.3% in November 2022)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 81.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (81.1% in November 2022)
- 97.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.1% in November 2022)
- 90.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (90.0% in November 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 December 2022:

28-day Faster Diagnosis (All Routes):

- 70.4% 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 (69.6% in November 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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