



Cancer Waiting Times, January 2023 - 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 - January 2023

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period January 2023:

Two week Wait:

- 81.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (80.3% in December 2022)
- 76.7% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (71.7% in December 2022)

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

- 88.5% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (92.7% in December 2022)
- 86.2% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.9% in December 2022)
- 91.6% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.9% in December 2022)
- 86.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.1% in December 2022)
- 90.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.7% in December 2022)
- 83.4% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (87.9% in December 2022)

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

- 54.7% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (62.0% in December 2022)
- 67.8% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (74.4% in December 2022)

- 47.4% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (54.6% in December 2022)
- 34.9% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (43.1% in December 2022)
- 44.5% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (54.5% in December 2022)
- 78.9% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (81.0% in December 2022)

62-day wait extensions

- 71.7% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (77.5% in December 2022)
- 63.5% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (72.9% in December 2022)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period January 2023:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 76.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (81.9% in December 2022)
- 95.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (97.9% in December 2022)
- 86.9% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (90.7% in December 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 January 2023:

28-day Faster Diagnosis (All Routes):

- 66.9% 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 (70.4% in December 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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