



## **Cancer Waiting Times, August 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 11/01/2024 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Services - August 2023**

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

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

- 74.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (77.5% in July 2023)
- 70.3% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (71.9% in July 2023)

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

- 90.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (91.8% in July 2023)
- 91.6% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.0% in July 2023)
- 92.7% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (93.8% in July 2023)
- 88.0% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.8% in July 2023)
- 91.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (90.8% in July 2023)
- 86.9% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (89.2% in July 2023)

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

- 62.9% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (63.0% in July 2023)
- 72.8% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (73.8% in July 2023)

- 50.5% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (48.6% in July 2023)
- 44.6% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (43.1% in July 2023)
- 54.8% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (52.6% in July 2023)
- 83.3% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (85.7% in July 2023)

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

- 74.5% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (73.5% in July 2023)
- 65.1% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (63.6% in July 2023)

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

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

- 78.0% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (79.0% in July 2023)
- 97.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (98.2% in July 2023)
- 88.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (88.6% in July 2023)

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 August 2023:

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

- 71.6% 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 (74% in July 2023)

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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