



Cancer Waiting Times, September 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 - September 2023

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

Two week Wait:

- 74% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent referral for suspected cancer (74.8% in August 2023)
- 70.8% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (70.3% in August 2023)

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

- 89.6% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (90.9% in August 2023)
- 89.5% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.6% in August 2023)
- 92.6% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (92.7% in August 2023)
- 87.7% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (88.0% in August 2023)
- 89.6% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (91.1% in August 2023)
- 84.5% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (86.9% in August 2023)

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

- 59.6% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer, all cancers (62.9% in August 2023)
- 66.0% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (72.8% in August 2023)

- 48.7% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (50.5% in August 2023)
- 42.2% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (44.6% in August 2023)
- 54.6% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (54.8% in August 2023)
- 79.7% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer (83.3% in August 2023)

62-day wait extensions

- 74.0% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (74.5% in August 2023)
- 64.8% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (65.1% in August 2023)

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

31-day wait for subsequent treatment

- 77.8% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (78.0% in August 2023)
- 97.7% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (97.7% in August 2023)
- 88.1% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (88.8% in August 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 September 2023:

28-day Faster Diagnosis (All Routes):

- 69.7% 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 (71.6% in August 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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