



Cancer Waiting Times, May 2025 - Provider Based - Provisional

Changes to Cancer Waiting Times Standards

Following a consultation on the cancer waiting times standards, NHS England had approval from government in August 2023 to implement changes to the standards from 1 October 2023.

In March 2022, NHS England published the recommendations for consultation. The [consultation paper](#) set out the proposed new standards, the rationale for the changes, and the evidence collected in support of those proposals. Annex B of the [consultation paper](#) showed the expected impact of the changes to performance standards.

In August 2023, NHS England published a [consultation response report](#).

The statistics on cancer waiting times have been updated to ensure that they follow the changed operating framework for cancer, and address responses to the consultation on disaggregation of the standards. NHS England will initially adopt an official statistics badge for all the updated statistical outputs.

The Office for Statistics Regulation have now completed their assessment of the Cancer Waiting Time statistics and have identified four requirements to be met in order to satisfy the requirement to become accredited official statistics. We will be addressing those during the remainder of 2025. The report is available here: [Statistics about cancer waiting times in England – Office for Statistics Regulation](#)

The latest monthly Official Statistics on cancer waiting times produced by NHS England were released on 10/07/2025 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

The key results for England show that:

28-day Faster Diagnosis:

- 74.8% of people were told if they had cancer, or if cancer was definitively excluded within four weeks (28-days) of an urgent referral (76.7% in April 2025)

31-day Combined:

- 91.0% of people treated began first or subsequent treatment of cancer within 31 days of receiving a decision to treat/earliest clinically appropriate date (91.3% in April 2025)

62-day Combined:

- 67.8% of people treated began first definitive treatment of cancer within 62 days of an urgent suspected cancer referral, breast symptomatic referral, urgent screening referral or a consultant upgrade (69.9% in April 2025)

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:

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Annex A: Missing and Partial Returns

HCRG Care LTD (NQT) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Urgent Breast Symptomatic Referrals Seen at a First Hospital Assessment or FDS.

Assura East Riding LLP (NYT) did not make a submission of CWT Data for Urgent Breast Symptomatic Referrals Seen at a First Hospital Assessment or FDS.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (RH5) made a partial submission of CWT Data for Urgent Breast Symptomatic Referrals Seen at a First Hospital Assessment.

Epsom and St Helier University Hospital (RVR) made a partial submission of CWT Data for Urgent Breast Symptomatic Referrals Seen at a First Hospital Assessment.

The cancer waiting times system excludes records from the 62 day standards which do not contain a first seen provider. For the Two Month Wait from an urgent suspected cancer or breast symptomatic referral, or urgent screening referral, or consultant upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RM1) and Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (RAJ) have submitted some records without this information.

The estimated shortfall of these missing and partial submissions on national activity volumes is given in the table below. The estimated impact on the three national performance standards is very small (on average it was 0.02 percentage points).

We are working with the providers concerned to resolve the issues and we will be publishing revisions later in the year.

Standard	Estimated shortfall in activity
Urgent Suspected Cancer Referrals Seen at a First Outpatient Attendance	0.00%
Urgent Breast Symptomatic Referrals Seen at a First Hospital Assessment	0.34%
Four Week (28-days) Wait from Urgent Referral to Patient Told they have Cancer, or Cancer is Definitively Excluded	0.10%
One Month (31-days) Wait from a Decision to Treat/Earliest Clinically Appropriate Date to First or Subsequent Treatment of Cancer	0.00%
Two Month (62-days) Wait from an Urgent Suspected Cancer or Breast Symptomatic Referral, or Urgent Screening Referral, or Consultant Upgrade to a First Definitive Treatment for Cancer	0.48%