

Cancer Waiting Times in NHSScotland

October to December 2016

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About this release

This publication from Information Services Division presents the quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics. It reports on the two waiting times standards used to measure the time patients have waited for their first cancer treatment. Data for the quarter ending December 2016 are presented by NHS Board, Regional Cancer Network and cancer type.

Main Points

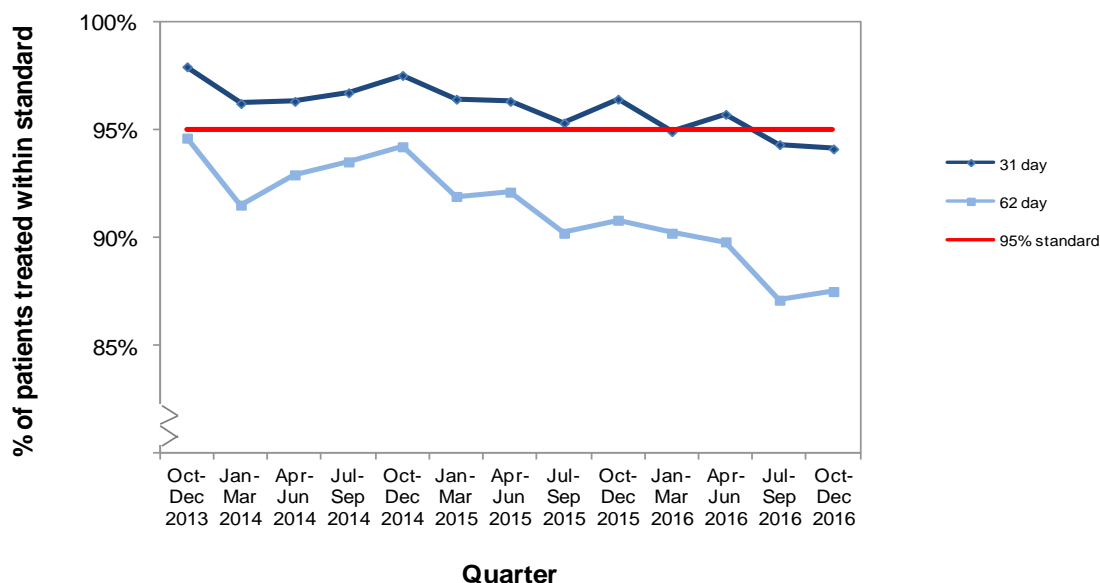
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment

- 87.5% of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard, compared to 87.1% in the previous quarter.
- The 62 day standard was met by five NHS Boards (NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Orkney and NHS Shetland).

The **31 Day Standard** is that 95% of all patients will wait no more than 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment

- 94.1% of patients started treatment within the 31 day standard, a slight decrease from 94.3% in the previous quarter.
- The 31 day standard was met by 11 of 15 NHS Boards.

NHSScotland performance against the 62 day and 31 day standards



Please note that the vertical axis on this chart does not start at the origin (zero)

Background

In October 2008, the Scottish Government published [Better Cancer Care – An Action Plan](#). The statements in the [Action Plan](#) formed the basis for the current standards for cancer waiting times where 95% of all eligible patients should wait no longer than 31 or 62 days. A 5% tolerance level was applied to these targets as, for some patients, it may not have been clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within target.

Information Services Division works in partnership with the Scottish Government Cancer Performance Support Team and NHS Boards to measure NHSScotland's performance against the National Standards and to provide a wide range of users with faster access to the statistics they need.

The standards are based on the 10 main cancer types: breast, colorectal, head & neck, lung, lymphoma, ovarian, melanoma, upper gastro-intestinal (hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) and oesophago-gastric (OG)), urological (prostate, bladder, other) and cervical.

In March 2016, the Scottish Government published [Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action](#).

It should be noted that Golden Jubilee National Hospital is only able to supply data for the 31 day standard as they are not in a position to refer patients but are involved in the treatment stage.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Waiting Times Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics](#).