About this Release
This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during 2010 and 2011 (combined) for the three cancers included in DCE by type of cancer, stage of disease at diagnosis for NHS Board of residence. These figures will be used to provide a baseline for the HEAT target.

Key Points
- In Scotland for the two year period, 2010 and 2011, the percentage of people diagnosed with the earliest stage (stage 1) of breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) was 23.2%.  
- The equivalent National figures for the individual cancers are: breast 38.4%, colorectal 17.8% and lung 13.1%.  
- The two cancers with the highest percentage of stage 1 cancers (breast and colorectal) have national screening programmes in place.  
- The variation in the percentage of stage 1 cancers diagnosed may reflect, at least in part, variation in the percentage of not known stage both at cancer type and Health Board level. The national percentage of not known stage for the three cancers combined is 9.0%.  
- The equivalent National figures of not known stage in the individual cancers are: breast 6.3%, colorectal 14.8% and lung 6.9%.

R - Revised July 2014.  The colorectal and combined (breast, colorectal and lung) cancer figures for NHS Scotland, South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN) and NHS Dumfries and Galloway have been updated. This is a result of NHS Dumfries and Galloway resubmitting their colorectal cancer data for 2010 as the original file contained incorrect staging data. All other NHS Boards are not affected. The changes to the key points are:  
  - In Scotland for 2010 and 2011 (combined), the percentage of people diagnosed with stage 1 breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) increased from 23.0% to 23.2%.  
  - The percentage of people diagnosed with stage 1 colorectal cancer increased from 17.2% to 17.8%.  
  - The percentage not known stage for colorectal cancer increased from 14.6% to 14.8%. 

Detect Cancer Early Baseline.  
Stage at diagnosis for Breast, Colorectal and Lung cancer by NHS Board of residence for 2010 and 2011 combined.  
Publication date – 28 May 2013
Prior to this revision there was also a revision to the publication in February 2014. See Appendix A1 Revisions History of the Full Publication Report for more information.

**Background**

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2011, over 15,300 people died of cancer in Scotland and 30,000 people were diagnosed with cancer. The most common causes of cancer death and diagnosis are lung, colorectal and breast cancer.

In February 2012 the Cabinet Secretary formally launched the Detect Cancer Early (DCE) programme. One aim of the DCE programme is to increase the percentage of people who are diagnosed early in the disease process (with stage 1 disease) by 25% by the end of 2015. A HEAT (Health, Efficiency, Access and Treatment) target has been developed to monitor performance in meeting this objective. The target will concentrate on breast, colorectal and lung cancers, which collectively account for over 45% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2011.

Cancer staging is the process of determining the extent to which a cancer has developed and spread. For the majority of patients with cancer it is common practice to assign a number from 1 to 4 to a cancer, with 1 indicating the cancer is confined to the original organ in which it occurred and 4 being a cancer which has spread beyond the original organ and local lymph glands (regional lymph nodes). Patients diagnosed with stage 1 disease tend to have better outcomes and longer survival compared to patients diagnosed with stage 4 disease.

The percentage of patients with cancer diagnosed with stage 1 disease can vary because of a number of factors including the presence and uptake of national screening programmes.

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.