Publication Summary

New Cancer Waiting Times to March 2011
Quarterly update of New Cancer Waiting Times statistics
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About this Release
Quarterly update of New Cancer Waiting Times statistics for the 62-day target for patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment; and for the 31-day target for patients regardless of the route of referral from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment. Includes data presented by NHS Board, Cancer Network and Cancer Type to 31 March 2011.

Key Points
During the period January – March 2011:

- 96.0% of patients started treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with suspicion of cancer; an increase of 0.3 percentage points compared to the period October - December 2010. Within the same period, 97.7% of patients started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat (regardless of the route of referral); an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared to the period October - December 2010. The target, for both the 31-day and 62-day, set by the Scottish Government is 95% by October – December 2011.

- For all cancer types combined, NHS Dumfries & Galloway reported that 98.9% of patients started treatment within 62 days, the highest of the mainland NHS Boards in Scotland. The lowest proportion of patients that started treatment within 62 days was found in NHS Borders, with 94.1%. Aside from Island Boards and the Golden Jubilee, the highest proportion of patients that started treatment within 31 days was found in NHS Ayrshire & Arran, with 99.4%; the lowest proportion was found in NHS Forth Valley, with 93.6%.

Background
In October 2008, the Scottish Government published Better Cancer Care - An Action Plan, where it announced it would:
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