

Publication Summary



New Cancer Waiting Times to December 2011

Quarterly update of New Cancer Waiting Times statistics

Publication date - 27 March 2012

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 December 2011.

Key Points

- The target, that 95% of all eligible patients should wait no longer than 31 or 62 days, has been achieved in the timescale agreed by the Scottish Government (December 2011).
- 96.9% of patients started treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with suspicion of cancer; an increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to the period July - September 2011. Within the same period, 98.2% of patients started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat (regardless of the route of referral); an increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to the period July - September 2011.
- For all cancer types combined, NHS Dumfries & Galloway reported that 100% 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 Grampian, with 92.2%. Aside from Island Boards and the Golden Jubilee, the highest proportion of patients that started treatment within 31 days was found in NHS Borders and NHS Dumfries & Galloway, with 100%; the lowest proportion was found in NHS Grampian, with 93.9%.

Background

In October 2008, the Scottish Government published [Better Cancer Care - An Action Plan](#), where it announced it would:

- Extend the 62-day urgent referral to treatment target to include screened positive and all patients referred urgently with a suspicion of cancer.
- Introduce a new 31-day target for all patients diagnosed with cancer (whatever their route of referral) from decision to treat to treatment.

A 5% tolerance level is applied to these targets, as for some patients it may not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within target. The target, that 95% of all eligible patients should wait no longer than 31 or 62 days, has been achieved in the timescale agreed by the Scottish Government (December 2011). These targets will be considered as [National Standards](#) from 1st April 2012 and will continue to be monitored on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) team, within the Information Services Division, works in partnership with the SG Cancer Performance Support Team and NHS Boards to measure NHSScotland's performance against these targets and provide a wide range of users with faster access to the statistics they need.

Contact

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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