

Publication Report



Cancer Waiting Times in Scotland

July – September 2014

Publication date – 16 December 2014

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Introduction

Waiting times are important to patients and are a measure of how the NHS is responding to demand for services. Measuring and regular reporting of waiting times highlight where there are delays in the system and enables monitoring of the effectiveness of NHSScotland's performance. Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland continues to be committed to improving the information on waiting times along with our key stakeholders, the NHS Boards and the Scottish Government.

This publication focuses on the two current cancer waiting times standards:

- 62-day target from receipt of referral to start of treatment for newly diagnosed primary cancers. This applies to:
 - Patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer by a primary care clinician
 - Screened positive patients referred through a national cancer screening programme
 - Direct referral to hospital (for example, self-referral to A&E)
- 31-day target from decision to treat to start of treatment for newly diagnosed primary cancers (whatever their route of referral).

Information for the 62-day standard is presented by NHS Board area of receipt of referral and information for the 31-day standard is presented by NHS Board of area of first treatment.

Details about previous cancer waiting times standards can be found [here](#). The cancer waiting times standards are applicable to adult (over 16 years of age at date of diagnosis) NHSScotland patients with a newly diagnosed primary cancer. Performance is monitored on the following 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)
- Cervical

A Non-Standard Technology is where highly specialised treatments by tumour site are not available in all three of the regional cancer networks. Such treatments cannot always be provided in all 3 regions from the outset due to a combination of factors, and where this occurs, waiting times adjustments can be made to the waiting time for the patient. The list of current Non-Standard Technologies and the adjustments that can be made is reviewed periodically. The list was last reviewed with effect from 1 April 2014, based on date of first treatment, and identifies type of treatment by tumour site and whether an adjustment can be applied.

The link to the guidance is available here <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Cancer/Guidance/>. The cancer types affected by this review are head & neck, upper

GI, and urology. This may affect the comparison of waiting times before and after 1 April 2014. The data submitted to ISD is not detailed enough for ISD to identify if any changes are due to this review, therefore, Boards have been asked to advise on this as part of the quality assurance stage. Any information provided by Boards has been included in the Data Quality section in Appendix 2.

The 5% tolerance level (i.e. 95% rather than 100%) is applied to these standards, as for some patients, it may not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within the standard's time.

When making comparisons across Scotland, it should be noted that in smaller NHS Boards, particularly Island Boards, substantial quarter-on-quarter fluctuations in the percentage of patients that started treatment may represent the pathway of only one or two patients. Further, 90th percentiles have only been calculated where there are forty or more eligible patients within a population, due to the statistical aberration resulting from percentiles based on very small numbers.

Some data may not yet be finalised by NHS Boards and may be subject to change in future publications. However, this publication is considered to give a reasonable reflection of the current position. The quality of these statistics is considered to be fit for publication, and data quality aspects are described in the publication. Previously released information can be revised to reflect ongoing work by NHS Boards to improve data quality. Overall, the revised figures for Scotland remain relatively unchanged when compared to the previous quarters published. Specific information on data quality and accuracy is listed within the Data Quality section in Appendix 2. Information on any revisions to previously published figures is provided in the Revisions relevant to this publication section of the metadata in Appendix 3.

Previous 31- and 62-day targets are both included as performance measures in HEAT for data up to 31st December 2011. Further information on the HEAT Performance Measures can be found on the [ISD NHSScotland Performance HEAT web pages](#) and the [Scottish Government Scotland Performs HEAT web pages](#).

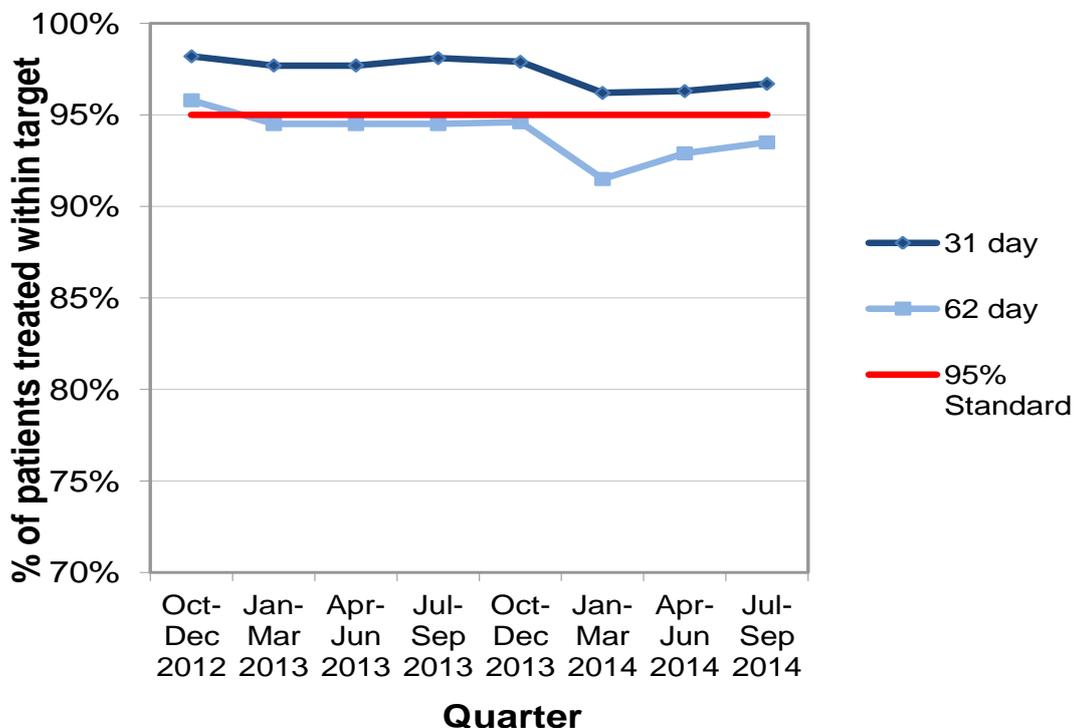
Key points

In the period July – September 2014:

- Across Scotland, 93.5% of patients started treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with suspicion of cancer. This compares to 92.9% in the period April – June 2014.
- 96.7% of patients started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat, regardless of the route of referral. This compares to 96.3% in the period April – June 2014.
- 98.7% of the patients that were urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer from the breast screening programme, 95.8% from the cervical screening programme, and 88.4% from the colorectal screening programme were seen within 62 days of referral.
- Across all cancer types, 6 out of 14* NHS Boards (NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian, NHS Tayside, NHS Western Isles) met the 95% standard for starting treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer. This is one more NHS Board meeting the standard than in the period April – June 2014.
- 13 out of 15* NHS Boards met the 95% standard for starting treatment within 31 days of decision to treat. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Highland did not meet the 31-day standard for July – September 2014, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde were borderline with 94.9%. This is the same amount of NHS Boards meeting the standard as in the period April – June 2014.

*Golden Jubilee National Hospital is included for 31-day standard, but not for 62-day standard.

Scotland-level 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)

Results and Commentary

Performance against the 62-day standard: Time from urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer, to first cancer treatment

The 62-day waiting time standard from referral to first cancer treatment is applied to all patients referred urgently with a suspicion of cancer and for screened-positive patients. The quarterly statistics within this publication relate to the period July – September 2014, alongside data from the previous four quarters.

During the period July – September 2014, 93.5% of eligible patients who were urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer started their first cancer treatment within 62 days of referral (Table 1a, Chart 1a). This is an increase from the preceding period April – June 2014 (92.9%).

Table 1a. Performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment: all cancer types*, by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network

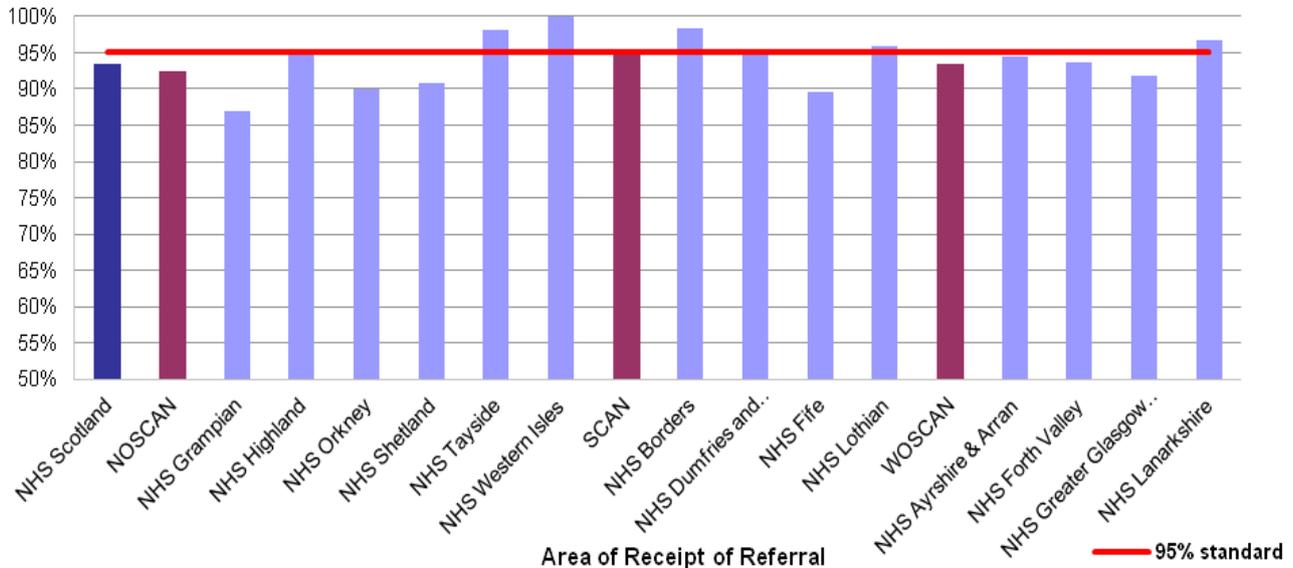
Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014

Area of receipt of referral	%
NHSScotland	93.5%
North of Scotland Cancer Network (NOSCAN) Total	92.4%
NHS Grampian	86.9%
NHS Highland	94.7%
NHS Orkney	90.0%
NHS Shetland	90.9%
NHS Tayside	98.2%
NHS Western Isles	100.0%
South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN) Total	94.6%
NHS Borders	98.4%
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	95.3%
NHS Fife	89.5%
NHS Lothian	95.9%
West of Scotland Cancer Network (WOSCAN) Total	93.5%
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	94.6%
NHS Forth Valley	93.8%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	91.9%
NHS Lanarkshire	96.7%

*All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI and urological

Chart 1a. Performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment: for all cancer types*, by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network

Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014



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

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

In the period July – September 2014, 6 NHS Boards met the 62-day standard. The 8 Boards that did not meet it were NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Fife, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Forth Valley, and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

Variations in the percentage of patients seen within the 62-day standard result from a combination of hospital capacity and patient circumstances. The [Data Quality](#) section in Appendix 2 (page 20) of this report includes information provided by NHS Boards on reasons for large changes in numbers or unusual patterns in the data or changes in trends.

In July – September 2014, 98.7% of screened positive breast cancer patients started treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with suspicion of cancer (Table 1b, Chart 1b), compared to 99.2% in the previous quarter. 95.8% of referrals from the cervical screening programme started treatment within 62 days of referral, compared to 93.5% in the previous quarter. The percentage of patients referred from the colorectal screening programme was 88.4% seen within 62 days of referral compared to 90.3% in the previous quarter.

In the period July – September 2014, the 62-day standard was not met for cervical (screened excluded), colorectal, head & neck, lung, lymphoma, upper GI or urology cancer types (Table 1b, Chart 1b).

Information for each NHS Board split by cancer type can be found in tables 1a and 1b.

Table 1b. Performance in NHSScotland against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment, by cancer type (including screened positive patients)

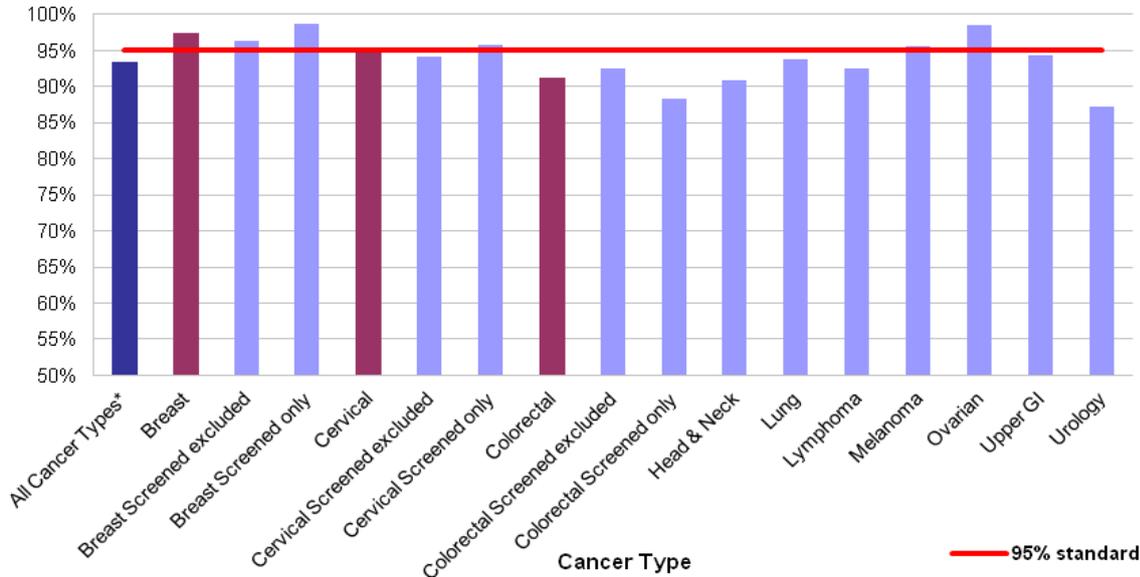
Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014

Cancer Type	%
All Cancer types*	93.5%
Breast	97.4%
Breast Screened excluded	96.3%
Breast Screened only	98.7%
Cervical	95.1%
Cervical Screened excluded	94.1%
Cervical Screened only	95.8%
Colorectal	91.3%
Colorectal Screened excluded	92.5%
Colorectal Screened only	88.4%
Head and Neck	90.8%
Lung	93.8%
Lymphoma	92.6%
Melanoma	95.7%
Ovarian	98.5%
Upper GI	94.4%
Urology	87.3%

*All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

Chart 1b. Performance in NHSScotland against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment, by cancer type (including screened positive patients)

Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014



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

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological

Across all of Scotland, the [median](#) wait was 39 days; 90% of all eligible patients were treated within 61 days of urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer. The median wait is similar to previous quarters.

Exclusions and Waiting Times Adjustments (62-day standard)

Of all urgent referrals with a suspicion of cancer submitted in Scotland during July – September 2014, 112 (3.4%) were excluded from the standard performance calculations due to clinical reasons, or because the patient died before treatment, or refused all treatment.

The number of exclusions has gradually reduced over the last five quarters from 3.8% in July – September 2013 to 3.4% in July – September 2014. This has had little impact on the performance against the 62-day standard for Scotland.

Waiting times adjustments are applied to take into account periods of patient unavailability and medical suspensions. During July – September 2014, there were 487 occurrences of patient unavailability and 745 occurrences of medical suspension. Further detail can be found in [Table 5](#).

Performance against the 31-day standard: Time from the date of decision to treat to first cancer treatment

The 31-day standard applies to all eligible patients, regardless of the route of referral. The quarterly statistics within this publication relate to July – September 2014.

96.7% of eligible patients who had a decision to treat had their first cancer treatment within 31 days of referral (Table 2a, Chart 2a), compared to 96.3% in the previous quarter.

Table 2a. Performance against the 31-day standard for all patients with a decision to treat that then went on to start treatment within 31 days of that decision: for all cancer types*, by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network

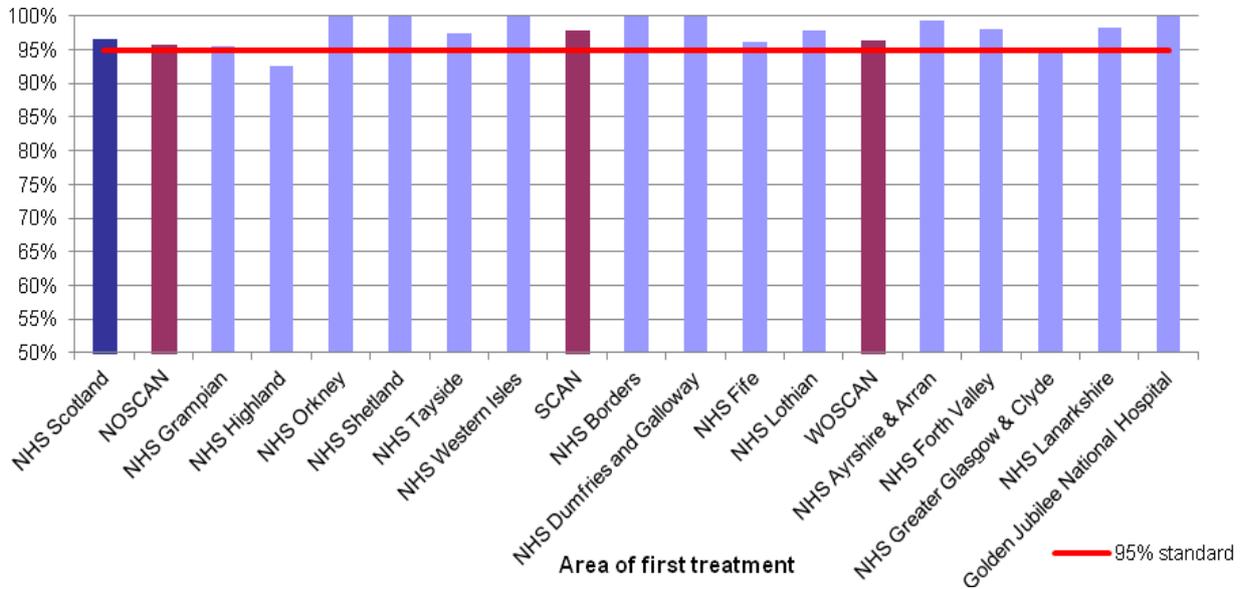
Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014

Area of first treatment	%
NHSScotland	96.7%
North of Scotland Cancer Network (NOSCAN) Total	95.7%
NHS Grampian	95.5%
NHS Highland	92.6%
NHS Orkney	100.0%
NHS Shetland	100.0%
NHS Tayside	97.5%
NHS Western Isles	100.0%
South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN) Total	98.0%
NHS Borders	100.0%
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	100.0%
NHS Fife	96.1%
NHS Lothian	97.9%
West of Scotland Cancer Network (WOSCAN) Total	96.3%
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	99.2%
NHS Forth Valley	98.1%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	94.9%
NHS Lanarkshire	98.4%
National Waiting Times Centre	100.0%
Golden Jubilee National Hospital	100.0%

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological

Chart 2a. Performance against the 31-day standard for all patients with a decision to treat that then went on to start treatment within 31 days of that decision: for all cancer types*, by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network

Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014



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

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

In the period July – September 2014, only 2 NHS Boards did not meet the 31-day standard: NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde; NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde were borderline with 94.9%.

Variations in the percentage of patients seen within the 31-day standard result from a combination of hospital capacity and patient circumstances. The [Data Quality](#) section in Appendix 2 (page 20) of this report includes information provided by NHS Boards on reasons for large changes in numbers or unusual patterns in the data or changes in trends.

In July – September 2014, 92.9% of screened positive breast cancer patients started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat (Table 2b, Chart 2b), compared to 93.2% in the previous quarter. 100% of referrals from the cervical screening programme started treatment within 31 days of the decision to treat, compared to 96.8% in the previous quarter. The percentage of patients referred from the colorectal screening programme who started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat was 98.0%, compared to 96.6% in the previous quarter.

In the period July – September 2014, the 31-day standard was not met at the Scotland-level for referrals through the breast screening programme or urology cancer types (Table 2b, Chart 2b).

Information for each NHS Board split by cancer type can be found in tables 2a and 2b.

Table 2b. Performance in NHSScotland against the 31-day standard for all patients with a decision to treat that went on to start treatment within 31 days of decision, by Cancer Type (including screened positive patients)

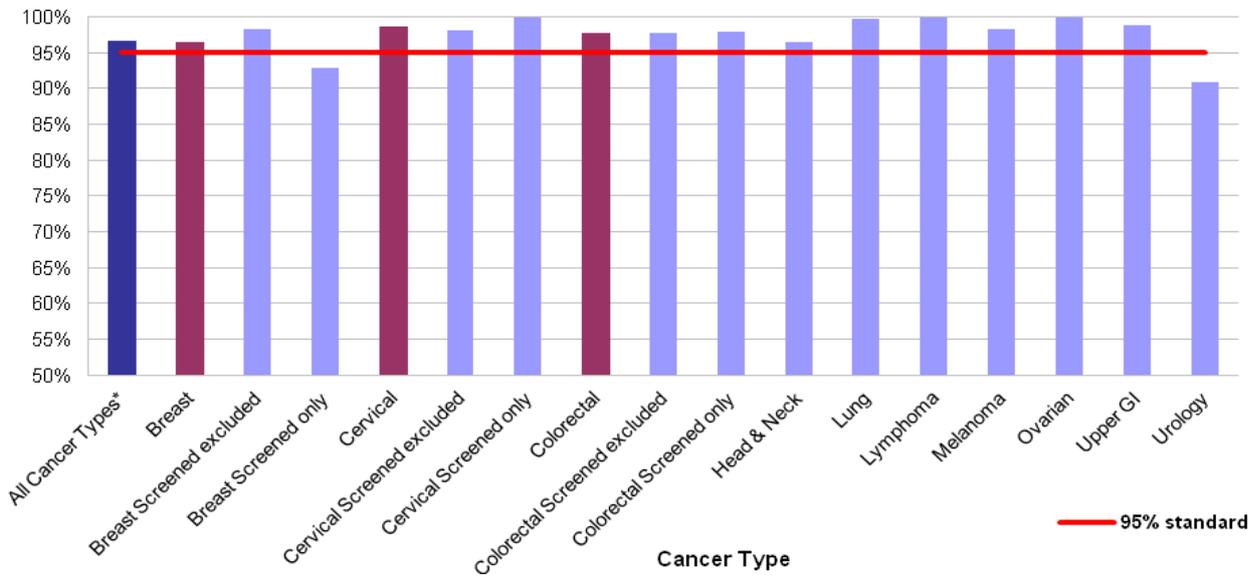
Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014

Cancer Type	%
All Cancer types*	96.7%
Breast	96.5%
Breast Screened excluded	98.3%
Breast Screened only	92.9%
Cervical	98.7%
Cervical Screened excluded	98.1%
Cervical Screened only	100.0%
Colorectal	97.8%
Colorectal Screened excluded	97.8%
Colorectal Screened only	98.0%
Head and Neck	96.5%
Lung	99.7%
Lymphoma	100.0%
Melanoma	98.4%
Ovarian	100.0%
Upper GI	98.9%
Urology	90.8%

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

Chart 2b. Performance in NHSScotland against the 31-day standard for all patients with a decision to treat that went on to start treatment within 31 days of decision, by Cancer Type (including screened positive patients)

Period of treatment: 1 July – 30 September 2014



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

* All cancer types for which waiting times data are recorded: breast, cervical, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

During the period July – September 2014, the [median](#) wait between the date of decision to treat and the first cancer treatment was 6 days; 90% of patients waited 26 days or less. These figures are similar to previous quarters' data.

Exclusions and Waiting Times Adjustments (31-day standard)

129 (2.1%) patients were excluded from the 31-day standard performance calculations due to clinical reasons, or because the patient either died before treatment, or refused all treatment.

The number of exclusions has remained relatively stable over the last five quarters, therefore has had little impact on the performance against the 31-day standard for Scotland.

Waiting times adjustments are applied to take into account periods of patient unavailability and medical suspensions. In the period July – September 2014, there were 269 occurrences of patient unavailability and 310 occurrences of medical suspension. Further detail can be found in [Table 6](#).

Glossary

Eligible referral (62-day) – urgent referral submitted with a suspicion of cancer by a GP or GDP, or direct referral to hospital (self, GP, or NHS 24 referral to A&E or other), or referral from a National Cancer Screening Programme, excluding patients who had a clinically complex pathway, who died before treatment or refused treatment.

Eligible referral (31-day) - all referrals (urgent and non-urgent) submitted from all sources (regardless of route of referral), excluding patients who had a clinically complex pathway, who died before treatment or refused treatment.

Exclusion – patients who had a particularly complex clinical pathway, died before treatment or who refused treatment.

Median wait – the middle value of (Referral to Treatment days for 62-day standard or date of Decision to Treat to Treatment days for 31-day standard), with half of patients waiting less than that time, and half waiting more than that time. Medians are only calculated when there are three or more eligible patients.

Non-urgent referrals – referrals submitted where the source of referral is GP/GDP referral other or Other.

NOSCAN – North of Scotland CAncer Network.

Percentile – the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall. For example, the 90th percentile is the value (referral-to-treatment days) below which 90 percent of the waits may be found. The 50th percentile is also known as the median. 90th percentiles have only been calculated when there are forty or more eligible patients.

Referral – a request to a care professional, team, service, or organisation to provide appropriate care to a patient/client. A referral may be made by a person, team, service, or organisation on behalf of a patient/client, or a patient/client may refer him/herself.

SCAN – South East Scotland CAncer Network.

Total referrals submitted – all referrals (urgent and non-urgent) submitted from all sources, i.e. regardless of the route of referral.

Upper GI – Upper Gastrointestinal.

Urgent referral – referral submitted with a suspicion of cancer by a GP or GDP, or direct referral to hospital (self, GP or NHS 24 referral to A&E or other), or referral from a National Cancer Screening Programme.

Waiting times adjustment – an adjustment (in days) applied to take into account periods of patient unavailability (e.g. because the patient did not attend an appointment) and/or medical suspension (e.g. the patient had another condition requiring treatment before cancer treatment could be started). Waiting Times adjustments are not made when delays are caused by hospital operational circumstances.

WOSCAN – West of Scotland CAncer Network.

Further information on Cancer Waiting Times Data & Definitions can be found on the [Guidance](#) section of the website.

In addition, further details are also available in the ISD Data Dictionary of the Data [Definitions and References](#) section of the ISD website.

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1a	Performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [806kb]
1b	Performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by Cancer Type	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [831kb]
Fig. 1	Distribution of waits against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [545kb]
1c	Trend performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [851kb]
1d	Trend performance against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by indicator type	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [839kb]
2a	Performance against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [720kb]
2b	Performance against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by Cancer Type	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [725kb]
Fig.2	Distribution of waits against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [542kb]
2c	Trend performance against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [744kb]
2d	Trend performance against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by indicator type	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [700kb]
3	Distribution of waits against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral	Quarterly information from 1	Excel

	with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by Cancer Type	July 2013 - 30 September 2014	[852kb]
4	Distribution of waits against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by Cancer Type	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [730kb]
5	Exclusions and waiting times adjustments against the 62-day standard from receipt of an urgent referral with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [660kb]
6	Exclusions and waiting times adjustments against the 31-day standard from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network	Quarterly information from 1 July 2013 - 30 September 2014	Excel [497kb]

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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Appendix

A1 – Background Information

Data Collection and guidance

Cancer Waiting Times data are collected by cancer trackers and administrative staff (including medical secretaries) across NHSScotland, which are then recorded onto the NHS Boards' cancer tracking systems.

Each NHS Board submits a monthly file which contains episode-level records for each newly diagnosed primary cancer referral, which began treatment in the previous calendar month, for which they were the Board of receipt of referral. Each record contains demographic information about the patient; key time points in the pathway (date of receipt of referral, date of decision to treat and date of first treatment); information on diagnosis and treatment; main reason for any adjustments to the waiting time; and, main reason for any breaches of the 62- and 31-day standard.

The adjusted waiting time in days and the total of any waiting times adjustments in days is calculated by NHS Boards for each record. Each record also contains a flag whether it meets any of the exclusion criteria (complex clinical pathway, died before treatment or who refused treatment).

Each quarter NHS Boards can resubmit monthly data to allow the most up to date information to be used for publication. This information is then validated and loaded onto the Cancer Waiting Times database to allow data interrogation and reporting.

Performance against the targets set out in [Better Cancer Care – An Action Plan](#) was achieved by December 2011; the timescale agreed by the Scottish Government. These targets are treated as [National Standards](#) from 1st April 2012 and continue to be monitored on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The Cancer Waiting Times Data and Definitions Manual is currently being reviewed to identify comparability with other sets of access definitions. This may result in future changes to the publication.

A2 – Data Quality

This section provides information on the quality of data supplied by NHS Boards to ISD. ISD routinely seeks clarification from NHS Boards among other things where there may be large changes in numbers, unusual patterns in the data or changes in trends. These changes may be influenced by a variety of factors, including service changes/reconfiguration or data recording changes. The information below highlights where NHS Boards have provided comments on their data quality to ISD for this publication at the quality assurance stage.

It should be noted that in some cases where the 62- or 31-day standards have not been met for some cancer types this is partially due to small number of cases within individual Boards.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

For both 62-day and 31-day targets, there were 69 days from referral to Glasgow to treatment, resulting in some cases of breach and long waits. One cause of breach was due to the consultant on leave. It was agreed to wait for consultant to return to review results and present at multidisciplinary-team (MDT) meeting. Other breaches have been addressed.

NHS Borders

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

There was a single breach during this period.

NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

Most fluctuations in waiting times can be accounted for by a normal margin of error, or small numbers of patient cases.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of lung cancer patients who have been treated in the past year. The Board are working with the team to streamline this complex pathway as much as possible.

NHS Fife

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

The Board note that main cause of breach is lack of capacity due to leave, vacancies, and/or lack of cover. Other causes include increased amounts of surgery as treatment, which can extend wait time, and also, administrative error in not placing the patient on the cancer treatment pathway. The Board also note that patient pathways are increasingly becoming more complex and additional tests are undertaken to inform best treatment. They aim to adjust where appropriate rather than exclude as clinically complex.

NHS Forth Valley

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

NHS Forth Valley are continuing to experience demand issues with endoscopy, outpatients appointments, theatre, and oncology. They continue to work on utilising the capacity more efficiently.

NHS Forth Valley are experiencing demand issues with clinic/photo-triage capacity. The photo-triage clinics have been reviewed and redesigned, providing improved capacity.

The upper GI pathway is currently under review. Discussions have taken place with the Beatson Oncology Centre with regards to oncology capacity and plans are being implemented to address the capacity issue.

NHS Forth Valley are still experiencing demand issues with the oncology clinic. NHS Forth Valley are in discussions with the Beatson around the challenges. NHS Forth Valley are reviewing the penile cancer pathway.

Breaches also occurred due to necessary treatment/procedures that require time-extensive planning, putting pressure on the pathway.

NHS Golden Jubilee Hospital

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

No comments required.

NHS Grampian

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

62-day breaches:

The Board note that performance has declined this quarter, but this is linked to a large piece of work being done to strengthen systems within the Board. This has meant that more patients than usual have experienced long waits have been treated in this quarter

Challenges continue within the Colorectal Service for Outpatients and Diagnostic test. Additional evening and weekend Outpatient clinics and Endoscopy lists have been introduced to increase capacity and help reduce the wait time.

The colorectal service is looking to formalise a process whereby the Endoscopy Team flags any patients referred for scope following an Emergency Admission to the Multidisciplinary-team coordinators so potential delays in their pathway can be highlighted and addressed immediately.

Breaches occurred due to reduced staff capacity in the area, installation of new equipment resulting in diagnostic equipment “down-time”, waits for referrals from other specialties, and waits for necessary further investigation to achieve definitive diagnosis. Administration error also occurred, so the patient was not listed on the 62-day cancer pathway, resulting in a breach of an extended wait.

31-day breaches:

The Board note that there has been much improvement in their delivery against this standard this quarter. This is linked to a project that is strengthening systems within the Board.

Breaches occurred in cases where the referral was initially not suspicious of cancer, where there were challenges in pre-assessment services and theatre capacity, where there were delays for complex surgery, and where there were waits for procedures from other departments.

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

The Board have advised that since the data was submitted, a patient-induced waiting times adjustment (thinking time) has now been applied. One case that was reported as breaching the 31-day target at the time of data submission has been updated and is no longer a breach.

General/Service Issues

The Board advised that their figures are showing improvement compared to Quarter 2 of 2014. Work is continuing to further improve waits. The holiday period affected pathways and getting patients seen due to staff leave. Pathways with multiple steps in the standard pathway were particularly affected.

The 62-day pathway can be challenging for some lung, prostate, and upper GI cancer patients, due to the number of investigations they may have to undergo and the potential treatment options available. These pathways are showing continuous improvement and

work will continue to secure further improvement. The Board also provided reasons why patients may have breached, for example:

- Patients, who present at A&E, may be referred to outpatient clinics for further tests, as it may not be apparent at the A&E attendance that their symptoms are caused by cancer; further tests are required.

NHS Highland

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

No comments were provided.

NHS Lanarkshire

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

The Board note that 62-day and 31-day targets were breached due to delays in scheduling initial appointments, consultant annual leave, and pressure on theatre time. Medical divisions have been informed and reviews of cervical, urology, colorectal, and lung cancers are underway.

NHS Lothian

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication

General/Service Issues

The Board note that departments faced challenges that affected the 62-day and 31-day targets.

Staff unavailability and inability to backfill a vacancy, as well as insufficient operating capacity, affected the 62- and 31-day head & neck targets. The head & neck management team are looking at ways to resolve this.

Delays due to peak periods of annual leave and emergency work flow affected 62-day lung targets. The service is working to ensure robust cross-cover arrangements where possible regarding Annual Leave. Early escalation of issues is discussed weekly at lung cancer meetings and any process problems are identified.

Delays due to the wait for other necessary preceding surgery affected 62-day urology targets. The service is working flexibly with the consultant team on a weekly basis to try and provide the required level of capacity; however, demand continues to exceed available capacity. The service manager has reviewed the escalation protocols with the cancer tracking team to ensure unnecessary delays are avoided.

Delays also occurred due to medical cancellation to accommodate a more urgent cancer case.

Significant challenges in relation to managing the demand for cancer surgery which impacted on performance against the 31-day urology target. For some procedures, the service has noted increased demand from non-Lothian boards (and in some cases, non-SEAT referrals). A combination of other issues including increasingly complex patients (requiring extended operating time) and shortfalls in theatre capacity due to theatre staff pressures, as well as consultant unavailability, resulted in the services inability to consistently allocate surgical dates within the 31-day timeframe. The consultant team has continued to work flexibly by undertaking additional operating sessions specifically for cancer patients in an effort to minimise the delays.

It was also noted that Q3 (June – September) is the peak of the holiday season where there are more patient deferrals due to planned holidays. Additionally, for some surgical procedures, patients are choosing to wait for a named surgeon. NHS Lothian have measures in place to audit the usage of waiting time adjustments.

NHS Orkney

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

No comments required.

NHS Shetland

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

No comments required.

NHS Tayside

Accuracy Issues

The Board have identified that lymphoma cancers have not been included in their submissions since partway through October to December 2013. The Board are working to get this added in to their data submission.

General/Service Issues

The Board acknowledges where they have breached. Each service is alerted to breaches and potential breaches of the 31-day target, each week, so every action can be taken to avoid breaches and lengthy waits.

NHS Western Isles

Accuracy Issues

Figures give a complete and accurate account of data submitted for the publication.

General/Service Issues

No comments required.

A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	Cancer Waiting Times in Scotland: July – September 2014.
Description	Quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics for the 62-day standard for patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer to first cancer treatment and for the 31-day standard 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 30 September 2014.
Theme	Health and Social Care
Topic	Service Access
Format	Excel workbooks and PDF
Data source(s)	Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) data are collected by cancer trackers and administrative staff (including medical secretaries) across NHSScotland, and are based on locally available information drawn from sources such as patient administrative systems, laboratory systems, and medical records across the country; which are then recorded onto the NHS Boards' Tracking systems. Data are submitted to ISD on a monthly and quarterly basis, and are validated and loaded onto the Cancer Waiting Times database to allow data interrogation and reporting. Further information can be found on the Background and Data Quality pages of the CWT website.
Date that data are acquired	Deadline for data submission is around the 20th of each month. Submissions can be made at any time up to the publication submission deadline. Please see the submission timetable on the Guidance page of the CWT website for more information.
Release date	16 December 2014
Frequency	Quarterly
Timeframe of data and timeliness	The publication includes data for the last five quarters, 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2014.
Continuity of data	<p>To remain relevant to the changing set of targets (as published in Better Cancer Care - An Action Plan), the cancer waiting times statistics published previously by ISD were replaced with a new series of figures. The first set of these new figures relating to these targets were first published in June 2010. The table below* provides information on the various target cohorts and their date of first publication.</p> <p>Performance against these targets was achieved by December 2011; the timescale agreed by the Scottish Government. These targets are considered as National Standards from 1st April 2012 and continue to be published on a quarterly basis.</p>

	<p>When making comparisons across Scotland, it should be noted that some areas reported on contain small numbers. For example, in Island NHS Boards there may be a substantial quarter-on-quarter fluctuation in the percentage of patients that started treatment within 62/31 days, which may represent the pathway of only one or two patients. Due to the effects of small numbers, 90th percentiles have only been calculated where there are forty or more eligible patients within a population.</p>
<p>Revisions statement</p>	<p>Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future publications. See ISD Statistical Revisions Policy.</p>
<p>Revisions relevant to this publication</p>	<p>If NHS Boards discover that data submitted for publication is incorrect, or that data is missing, further re-submissions can be made up until the publication submission deadline date. Any revised figures will then be reflected within the current publication. Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future publications, as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data submissions.</p> <p>Detail of revisions to this publications:</p> <p>NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde have revised previously published figures for January-June 2014. The number of cases involved is relatively small, particularly for Greater Glasgow & Clyde, and the changes have had no major impact on performance.</p> <p>NHS Lanarkshire have resubmitted all cancer waiting times data from Jan 2014 onwards. For January – March the number of eligible referrals for the 31-day standard increased from 355 to 379. The number of eligible referrals treated within 31 days increased from 339 to 363 and the overall percentage treated within 31 days changed from 95.5% to 95.8%. The number of eligible referrals for the 62-day standard increased from 249 to 265. The number of eligible referrals treated within 62 days increased from 239 to 255 and the overall percentage treated within 62 days changed from 96.0% to 96.2%.</p> <p>There were small increases of 1-3 patients to the number of referrals and patients seen for some cancer types but most changes didn't alter the performance against the 31-day standard or the 62-day standard. The percentage of eligible referrals treated within 31 days increased from 80.3% to 80.8% for urology cancers as a result of the resubmission of data. The percentage of eligible referrals treated within 62 days increased from 97.4% to 98.0% for colorectal cancers and from 95.2% to 95.3% for lung cancer as a result of the resubmission of data.</p> <p>For April – May the number of eligible referrals for the 31-day standard increased from 460 to 471. The number of eligible referrals treated within 31 days increased from 449 to 460 and the overall percentage treated within 31 days changed from 97.6% to 97.7%. The number of eligible referrals for the 62-day</p>

	<p>standard increased from 323 to 331. The number of eligible referrals treated within 62 days increased from 309 to 318 and the overall percentage treated within 62 days changed from 95.7% to 96.1%.</p> <p>There were small increases of 1-3 patients to the number of referrals and patients seen for some cancer types but most changes didn't alter the performance against the 31-day standard or the 62-day standard. The percentage of eligible referrals treated within 31 days increased from 90.5% to 90.6% for urology cancer as a result of the resubmission of data. The percentage of eligible referrals treated within 62 days increased from 96.3% to 96.6% for colorectal cancers and from 83.3% to 85.1% for urology cancer as a result of the resubmission of data.</p>
<p>Concepts and definitions</p>	<p>Performance against the targets set out in <i>Better Cancer Care – An Action Plan</i> was achieved by December 2011; the timescale agreed by the Scottish Government. These targets are considered as National Standards from 1st April 2012 and continue to be published on a quarterly basis. The cancer waiting times standards are applicable to adult (over 16 at date of diagnosis) NHSScotland patients with a newly diagnosed primary cancer. To be included, the cancer type must fit into one of the listed cancer types in the Cancer Waiting Times Data and Definitions Manual. This manual, and further information, is available within the Guidance section of the website.</p>
<p>Relevance and key uses of the statistics</p>	<p>The CWT team, within ISD, works in partnership with the SG Cancer Performance Support Team and NHS Boards to measure NHSScotland's performance against current Cancer Waiting Times Standards. Other uses of the data include: support of NHS Boards, researchers, charities, media, and public, and to fulfil Freedom of Information requests and Parliamentary Questions.</p>
<p>Accuracy</p>	<p>The quality of these statistics is considered fit for publication; data quality aspects are described within each publication. Fitness for publication exercises have been carried out by ISD for the 62-day performance and have shown that completeness of the 62-day cohort is within an acceptable range and is fit for publication. Details of all FFP exercises can be found here. Case ascertainment is assessed each quarter for the 31-day standard. The latest figures can be found within Tables 2a and 2b in the list of tables above.</p> <p>ISD regularly carries out data quality exercises to ensure that data is recorded in an accurate and consistent manner across NHSScotland. Information on these exercises can be found on the Data Quality section of the website. In early 2012, ISD Cancer Waiting Times undertook a data quality project to assure that data submitted for Bowel Screening patients is recorded accurately and consistently. A paper highlighting the outcome of this project can be found here.</p>

	<p>Responsibility for collating and submitting the data to ISD lies with the NHS Board that received the patient's initial referral to secondary care. Information on data quality, service issues and accuracy specific to this publication can be found in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The Data Quality Assurance team within ISD carry out data quality exercises on cancer waiting times data. A report of the results from the latest exercise can be found here.</p>
<p>Completeness</p>	<p>A patient will be excluded from reporting against the Cancer Waiting Times standards for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The patient chooses to have any part of their pathway outwith NHSScotland. If this is before the decision to treat, they will be excluded from the 62-day standard; if after the decision to treat, they will be excluded from both standards. 2. The patient died before treatment 3. The patient refused all treatment 4. The patient was deemed a clinically complex case by the lead cancer clinician of the responsible NHS Board
<p>Comparability</p>	<p>Links to Cancer waiting time information published in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found below. There will be differences in the measures used and collection methods of cancer waiting times statistics, as well as differences in service structures between the administrations. Users need to carefully read the publications when making comparisons. Each of the four countries has measures for 62 and 31 days, however, the inclusion criteria, start/stop dates and cancer types included are not consistent across all 4 countries.</p> <p>England: http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/category/statistics/provider-waiting-cancer/</p> <p>Northern Ireland http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/waiting_times_main/waiting_times-cancer.htm</p> <p>Wales http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/nhs-cancer-waiting-times/?lang=en</p>
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines.</p>
<p>Coherence and clarity</p>	<p>Statistics are presented within Excel spreadsheets and PDF. Performance data are reported on a national, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network level, broken down by cancer type and quarter. Distribution of waits data are reported on a National level by cancer type and quarter. Exclusions and Adjustments are reported for All Cancer Types at national, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network level, broken down by</p>

	<p>quarter.</p> <p>Further features to aid clarity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance data, Distribution of Waits, and Exclusions and Adjustments are available in separate tables to enable users to select a single measure for analysis. 2. All tables are printer friendly. 3. All Scotland and All Cancer Types data for the latest quarter are presented first, with the option to view spreadsheets down to Board, Cancer Type level by quarter. 4. Key data presented graphically. 5. Tables use drop down menus to display data by a single Board, Regional Cancer Network, Quarter and Cancer Type.
Value type and unit of measurement	<p>Distribution of waits (%) for NHSScotland and all Cancer Types combined. Distribution of waits (%) for NHSScotland by Cancer Type. Number of eligible referrals, number and percentage of eligible referrals that started treatment within 62/31 days, Maximum Wait (Days), Median Wait (Days), 90th Percentile (Days) for NHSScotland, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network. Trends in performance for all Cancer Types combined at NHSScotland, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network level. Total number of referrals submitted, number and % of exclusions, number of patient and medical delays, median waiting time adjustment (days) for patient and medical delays; at NHSScotland, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network level for all cancer types combined.</p>
Disclosure	<p>The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.</p>
Official Statistics designation	<p>These statistics are classed as official statistics.</p>
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	<p>Awaiting assessment by the UK Statistics Authority.</p>
Last published	<p>30th September 2014</p>
Next published	<p>31st March 2015</p>
Date of first publication	<p>25th June 2010</p>
Help email	<p>nss.isdcancerwaitsnew@nhs.net</p>
Date form completed	

*

Target Cohort	New 62-day excluding screening and cervical patients	New 31-day excluding screening and cervical patients	New 31- and 62-day including screening but excluding non screened cervical patients	New 31- and 62-day including screening and all cervical patients
First Publication	Quarter 1 (January - March 2010) on 29 th June 2010	Quarter 2 (April - June 2010) on 28 th September 2010	Quarter 3 (July - September 2010) on 21 st December 2010	Quarter 4 (October - December 2010) on 29 th March 2011

A4 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department

NHS Board Chief Executives

NHS Board Communication leads

Extended Pre-Release Access

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)

A5 – ISD and Official Statistics

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world, combining high quality, consistency, national coverage, and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (i.e. assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (i.e. legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (i.e. still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).