

# Publication Summary



## Cancer Waiting Times to December 2014

### Quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics

Publication date – 31 March 2015

#### About this Release

This release presents the quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics. It reports on the time patients have waited for their first cancer treatment, covering two different waiting times standards. Data are presented by NHS Board, Regional Cancer Network and cancer type up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

#### Key Points

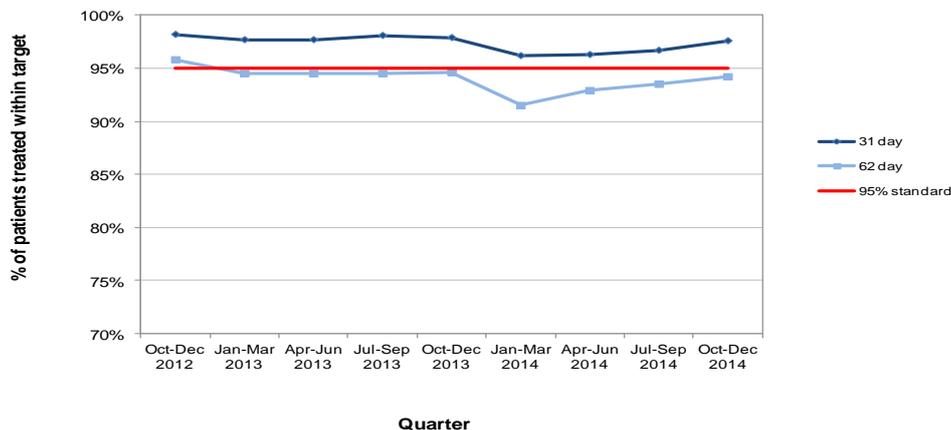
##### 62-day Standard

- 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.
- In the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, 94.2% of patients started treatment within 62 days of urgent referral with suspicion of cancer. This compares to 93.5% in the period July - September 2014.
- In the quarter ending 31 December 2014, the 62-day standard was not met for seven NHS Boards: NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Shetland, NHS Orkney, NHS Fife, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

##### 31-day standard

- The 31 Day Standard is that 95% of all patients, regardless of route of referral, will wait a maximum of 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment.
- In the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, 97.5% of patients started treatment within 31 days of decision to treat, regardless of the route of referral. This compares to 96.7% in the period July to September 2014.
- In the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, the 31-day standard was met by all NHS Boards.

#### 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).

## 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.

The Information Service 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.

## Contact

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## Further Information

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.

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

### 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 Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### 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.

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](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)