

Publication Summary



Cancer Waiting Times to June 2015

Quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics

Publication date – 29 September 2015

About this Release

This Information Services Division 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 and relate to the period 1 April to 30 June 2015.

Key Points

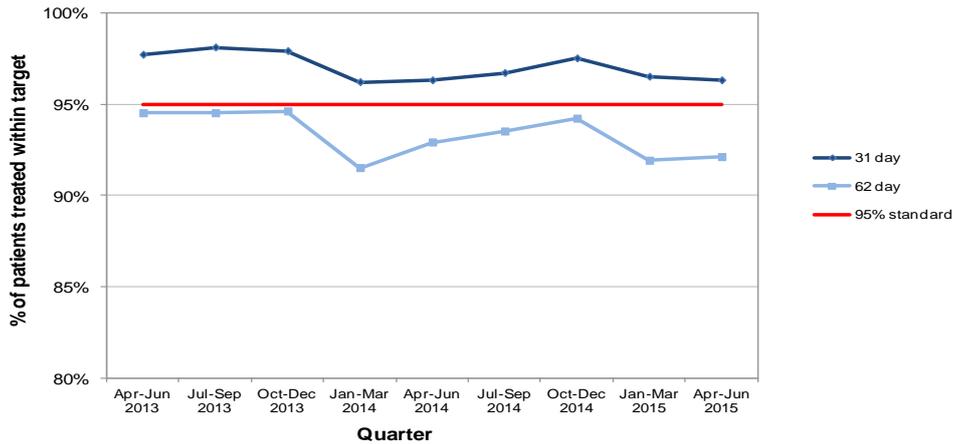
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment.

- In the quarter ending 30 June 2015, 92.1% of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard. This is similar to the 91.9% in the previous quarter.
- The 62-day standard was met by eight NHS Boards in the quarter ending 30 June 2015. This compares to four NHS Boards meeting the standard in the previous quarter.
- During the quarter ending the 30 June 2015, three of the ten cancer types successfully met the 95% target – they were breast (97.5%), lymphoma (96.2%) and ovarian (97.1%).

The **31 Day Standard** is that 95% of all patients will wait no more than 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment.

- In the quarter ending 30 June 2015, 96.3% of patients started treatment within this standard. This is similar to the figure for the previous quarter (96.5%). The standard was met by 13 NHS Boards. The NHS Boards who did not meet the target were - NHS Grampian (92.7%) and NHS Highland (94.5%).
- Nine of the main cancer types met the 31 day standard. 89.9% of patients waiting to be treated for urological cancers were treated within 31 days - this is consistent with the previous quarter.

NHSScotland level performance against the 62 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 Services 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.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Waiting Times Report](#) and the tables supporting the report can be found [here](#).

The Information Services Division publish a wide range of Waiting Times statistics that you can find at <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Publications/>

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/