

# Publication Summary



## Cancer Waiting Times to September 2015

Quarterly update of Cancer Waiting Times statistics

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### 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 July to 30 September 2015.

### Key points

#### In the period July to September 2015:

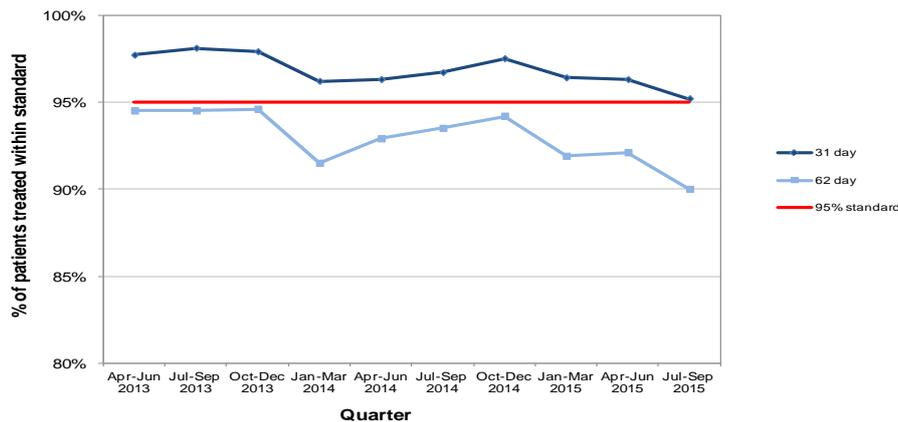
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment.

- Nine out of ten (90.0%) of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard. This is a reduction compared to 92.1% in the previous quarter.
- Four NHS Boards met the 62-day standard. This compares to eight NHS Boards meeting the standard in the previous quarter.
- Two of the ten cancer types successfully met the 95% standard – these were breast (97.3%) and melanoma (96.9%).

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.

- 95.2% of patients started treatment within this standard. This is a slight reduction to the figure for the previous quarter (96.3%). The standard was met by 11 NHS Boards. The NHS Boards who did not meet the standard were - NHS Grampian (92.3%), NHS Highland (94.5%), NHS Tayside (91.5%) and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (94.0%).
- The 31 day standard was met for eight of the ten main cancer types. Waiting times for treating urological cancer remains the most challenging, with 86.5% treated within 31 days, this is a reduction on the previous quarter which was 89.8%. The other cancer type below the standard was head and neck (94.1%).

## NHSScotland-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 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.

Please note that due to data quality issues data for NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside is subject to change for the quarter ending September 2015.

Golden Jubilee National Hospital is only able to supply data for the 31 day standard as they are not in a position to refer patients but are involved in the treatment stage.

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Waiting Times Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

## NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

### ISD and 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. Further information [about our statistics](#).