

# Cancer Waiting Times in NHSScotland

October to December 2015

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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, for the two waiting times standards. Data are presented by NHS Board, Regional Cancer Network and cancer type and relate to the period quarter ending December 2015.

## Main Points

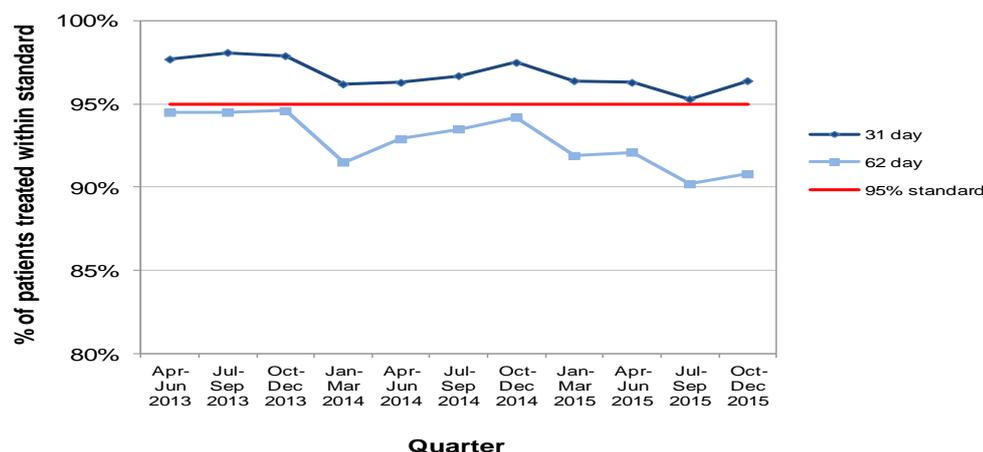
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment.

- 90.8% of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard. This is a 0.6% point increase compared to last quarter.
- The 62 day standard was met by three NHS Boards (NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Lanarkshire).
- Two of the ten cancer types successfully met the 95% standard – melanoma (96.4%) and ovarian (97.3%).

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.

- 96.4% of patients started treatment within this standard. This is a 1.1% point increase to the previous quarter. The standard was met by all NHS Boards.
- Nine of the 10 reported cancer types met the 31 day standard. Although only 90.2% of patients waiting were treated within 31 days for urological cancer, this has increased by 3.1% point to the previous quarter.

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.

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.

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