

Cancer Waiting Times in NHSScotland

April to June 2016

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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 two waiting times standards used to measure the time patients have waited for their first cancer treatment. Data for the quarter ending June 2016 are presented by NHS Board, Regional Cancer Network and cancer type.

Main Points

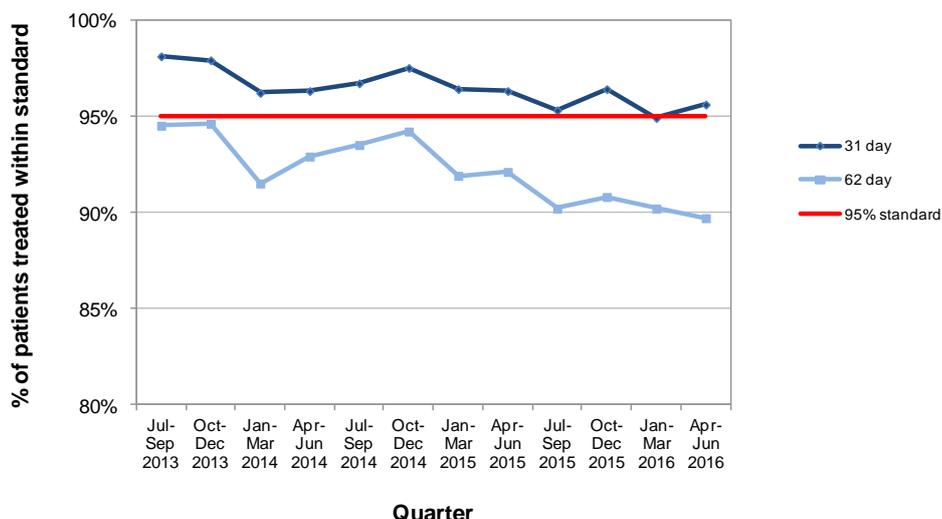
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment.

- 89.7% of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard, a decrease from 90.2% in the previous quarter.
- The 62 day standard was met by two NHS Boards (NHS Borders and NHS Lanarkshire).

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.

- 95.7%** of patients started treatment within this standard, an increase from 94.9% in the previous quarter.
- The 31 day standard was met by 13** of 15 NHS Boards.

NHSScotland performance against the 62 day and 31 day standards



** Following data snapshot, NHS Fife advised a data submission error which would change their 31 day target to 95.2% (instead of 94.9%). ISD have included the updated information in the Summary and Report to reflect this. This changes the Scotland figure from 95.6% to 95.7%. NHS Fife will resubmit the correct information and this will be updated in the next publication (December 2016). In the meantime please be aware of the slight difference from figures quoted in the excel spreadsheets.

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.

The standards are based on the ten main 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) and Cervical.

In March 2016 the Scottish Government published [Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action](#).

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 Stats

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](#).