

Cancer Waiting Times in NHSScotland

July to September 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.

Main Points

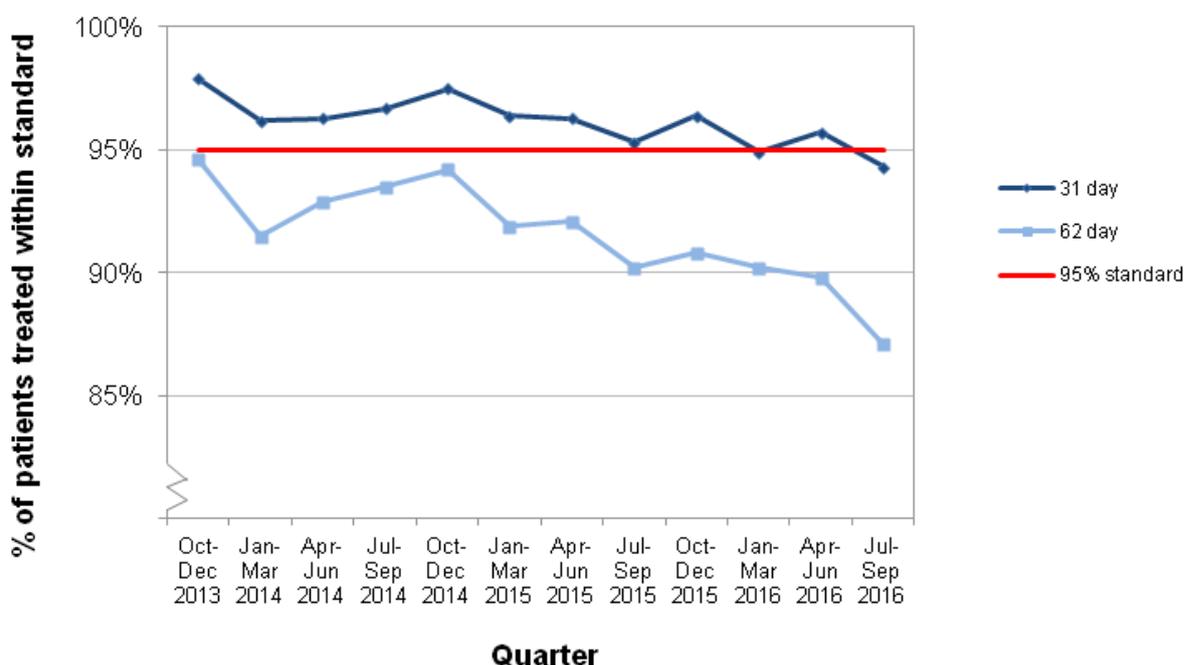
The **62 Day Standard** is that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment.

- 87.1% of patients started treatment within the 62 day standard, compared with 89.8% 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.

- 94.3% of patients started treatment within this standard, compared with 95.7% in the previous quarter.
- The 31 day standard was met by 10 of 15 NHS Boards.

NHSScotland 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 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. The figures presented are based on patient based data taken at snapshot (11 November 2016). The following NHS Boards advised slight changes to their data following snapshot, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Fife and NHS Dumfries & Galloway. It should be noted that these revisions make no difference to the reported overall Scotland figures for 31 and 62 day standards. Please see the main report for further details. Figures will be updated in the next publication (March 2017), as required.

Contact

Meryl Heggeland

Information Analyst

meryl.heggeland@nhs.net

0131 275 7878

Lianne Smith

Information Analyst

lianne.smith2@nhs.net

0131 314 1035

Elaine Parry

Principal Information Analyst

elaine.parry@nhs.net

0131 275 6655

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Waiting Times Report](#). You may also be interested in other [Cancer](#) and [Waiting Times information](#).

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

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