

Statistics Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O
**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

14 January 2010

Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times – July, August and September 2009

This statistics release gives details of the waiting times for patients accessing cancer services at hospitals in Northern Ireland during the months of July, August and September 2009.

Data contained within this release reports on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, measured against the three Priorities for Action (PfA) targets for 2009/10, and relates to waiting times for cancer services in Northern Ireland during July, August and September 2009.

Waiting Times for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist

Achievement of the 2009/10 PfA target relating to waiting times for a first assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist requires that ‘from April 2009, all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days’.

Table 1 reports on the performance of all Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland towards the target for all urgent referrals for the months of July, August and September 2009.

Table 1: Reporting on the 14 day waiting time target from referral to a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland¹

July – September 2009

	No. of patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist during the month following all urgent referrals for suspected cancer								
	No. that waited 14 days or less			Total Treated			Percentage (%)		
	July	Aug	Sept	July	Aug	Sept	July	Aug	Sept
Belfast	227	236	253	227	236	253	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern	61	75	58	61	75	58	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	119	133	159	119	133	159	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	102	78	119	102	78	119	100.0	100.0	100.0
Western	158	84	163	186	150	195	84.9	56.0	83.6
Northern Ireland	667	606	752	695	672	784	96.0	90.2	95.9

Source: Departmental Return SDR2

¹Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-4.

Waiting Times for Treatment

Achievement of the 2009/10 PfA target relating to waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat requires that 'from April 2009, 98% of patients should commence treatment within 31 days of the decision to treat'.

Tables 2 and 3 report on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, and the reporting of waiting times by tumour site respectively, towards this 31 day target for the months of July, August and September 2009.

Table 2: Reporting on the 31 day target from decision to treat to treatment for all cancers in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland²

July – September 2009

	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken			Total Treated			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	302	293	298	309	302	310	97.7	97.0	96.1
Northern	66	71	90	66	71	93	100.0	100.0	96.8
Southern	86	65	112	86	65	114	100.0	100.0	98.2
South Eastern	89	93	103	89	93	104	100.0	100.0	99.0
Western	69	65	98	69	65	101	100.0	100.0	97.0
Northern Ireland	612	587	701	619	596	722	98.9	98.5	97.1

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

²Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 5 & 6.

Table 3: Reporting on the 31 day target from decision to treat to treatment by tumour site³

July – September 2009

Cancer Site	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken			Total Treated			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	12	12	16	12	12	16	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	105	108	113	105	108	116	100.0	100.0	97.4
Gynae Cancers	46	45	48	46	47	48	100.0	95.7	100.0
Haematological Cancers	44	47	39	44	47	39	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	18	17	24	18	17	24	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	75	88	99	77	88	100	97.4	100.0	99.0
Lung Cancer	82	65	84	82	66	85	100.0	98.5	98.8
Sarcomas	2	3	0	2	3	0	100.0	100.0	N/A
Skin Cancers	87	65	97	87	65	99	100.0	100.0	98.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	27	34	39	27	35	40	100.0	97.1	97.5
Urological Cancer	105	99	130	110	104	143	95.5	95.2	90.9
Other	9	4	12	9	4	12	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	612	587	701	619	596	722	98.9	98.5	97.1

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

³Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 5-7.

Waiting Times for Treatment following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer

Achievement of the 2009/10 Priorities for Action Target relating to waiting times for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer requires that 'from April 2009, 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspected cancer should begin their first treatment within 62 days'.

Tables 4 and 5 report on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, and the reporting of waiting times by tumour site respectively, towards this 62 day target for the months of July, August and September 2009.

Table 4: Reporting on the 62 day waiting time target from an urgent referral for suspect cancer to treatment, for all cancers in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland⁴

July - September 2009

	No. of patients first treated for Cancer following an urgent GP referral for Suspected Cancer								
	Treated within 62 days from receipt of referral			Total Treated			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	66.0	63.5	66.5	78.5	75.0	82.5	84.1	84.7	80.6
Northern	22.5	29.0	27.5	30.5	30.5	37.0	73.8	95.1	74.3
Southern	33.5	30.0	35.5	34.5	31.0	41.0	97.1	96.8	86.6
South Eastern	37.5	31.5	36.0	38.5	36.5	41.0	97.4	86.3	87.8
Western	26.5	27.0	38.5	29.0	29.0	41.5	91.4	93.1	92.8
Northern Ireland	186	181	204	211	202	243	88.2	89.6	84.0

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁴Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 8-10.

Table 5: Reporting on the 62 day waiting time target from an urgent referral for suspect cancer to treatment, by tumour site⁵

July - September 2009

Cancer Site	No. of patients first treated for Cancer following an urgent GP referral for Suspected Cancer								
	Treated within 62 days from receipt of referral			Total Treated			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	0	0	1	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	100.0
Breast Cancer	56	58	62	56	58	63	100.0	100.0	98.4
Gynae Cancers	12	13	16	13	14	17	92.3	92.9	94.1
Haematological Cancers	6	11	3	6	11	5	100.0	100.0	60.0
Head/Neck Cancer	4	3	7	4	5	7	100.0	60.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	12	17	13	15	21	20	80.0	81.0	65.0
Lung Cancer	18	15	25	24	18	31	75.0	83.3	80.6
Sarcomas	0	1	0	1	1	0	0.0	100.0	N/A
Skin Cancers	42	33	33	43	34	35	97.7	97.1	94.3
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	6	5	3	9	7	6	66.7	71.4	50.0
Urological Cancer	29	25	40	39	33	55	74.4	75.8	72.7
Other	1	0	1	1	0	3	100.0	N/A	33.3
Northern Ireland	186	181	204	211	202	243	88.2	89.6	84.0

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁵Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 8-11.

Technical Notes

1. The sources of data contained in this bulletin are the Departmental Return SDR 2 (Table 1) and the Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS) (Tables 2-5).
2. Data contained in Table 2 relates to all urgent referrals (excluding those that have been reclassified as routine by the breast specialist) for suspect breast cancer, and routine referrals that have subsequently been reclassified as urgent by a breast specialist. Figures also include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health and Social Care hospitals.
3. The completed waiting time in Table 1 is measured from the date an initial breast cancer referral is first received by the Provider HSC Trust, and ends on the date that the patient had attended their first outpatient appointment with a breast cancer specialist. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling or failing to attend a first outpatient appointment.
4. Figures provided in Table 1 reflect all urgent referrals for breast cancer both from GP's and other practitioners. The 2009/10 target states that from April 2009, all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days.
5. Data contained in Tables 2 and 3 relate to patients who received a first definitive treatment for cancer (having been given an 'International Classification of Diseases 10' diagnosis) during the months of July, August and September 2009, irrespective of their source of referral. Data include treatment for all cancers, with the exception of basal cell carcinoma. Figures also include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health and Social Care hospitals. Patients that have not been given an ICD 10 diagnosis are excluded.
6. The completed waiting time in Tables 2 and 3 is measured from the date a decision was taken to treat a patient for cancer and ends on the date that the patient received their first definitive treatment for cancer. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling or self deferring treatment or as a result of suspension for either medical or social reasons.
7. Table 3 reflects the number of patients that were treated in 31 days or less for each Tumour site. tumour sites are an aggregation of applicable ICD 10 codes.
8. Data contained in Tables 4 and 5 relate to all patients who received a first definitive treatment for cancer (having been given an ICD 10 diagnosis) during the months of July, August and September 2009, following an urgent referral for suspect cancer from a General Practitioner, and routine GP referrals that have subsequently been reclassified as urgent by a cancer specialist. Data relate to urgent GP referrals for all cancers with the exception of basal cell carcinoma. Figures also include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health and Social Care hospitals. Referrals from sources other than a GP, routine referrals from a GP and patients who have not been given an ICD 10 diagnosis are excluded.
9. The completed waiting time in Tables 4 and 5 is measured from the date an initial urgent referral for suspect cancer from a GP is received by the Provider Health and Social Care Trust and ends on the date the patient received their first definitive treatment for cancer. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling or self deferring treatment or as a result of suspension for either medical or social reasons.

10. The measurement of a patient's waiting time in Tables 4 and 5, from initial urgent GP referral to first definitive treatment, includes cases in which a patient was initially referred to a particular Health and Social Care Trust for consultant assessment but was then subsequently transferred to another Health and Social Care Trust for treatment. In such cases, the responsibility for reporting that patient is shared, with 0.5 allocated to the Trust where the patient was first seen for assessment and 0.5 to the Trust of first treatment. For example, if a patient is initially referred for assessment in the South Eastern HSC Trust and is then transferred to the Belfast HSC Trust where they receive treatment 50 days after their initial GP referral, both the South Eastern and Belfast HSC Trusts will report 0.5 of a patient waiting less than 62 days. Similarly, if such a patient waited over 62 days for treatment, both the Trust where the patient was first seen and the Trust where the patient was treated would report 0.5 of a patient waiting more than 62 days.
11. Table 5 reflects the number of patients that were treated in 62 days or less for each tumour site. Tumour sites are an aggregation of applicable ICD 10 codes.
12. Information on the grouping of ICD10 Codes by tumour site is available from Hospital Information Branch on request.
13. Information on waiting times for the months of October, November and December 2009 will be published on 01 April 2010.
14. Data contained within this publication are Official Statistics.

Additional Information

Further information on waiting lists in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager
Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

E-mail: statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2/waiting_times.htm