

Statistics Release



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

24 September 2009

Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times – April, May and June 2009

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

Waiting Times for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist

Achievement of the 2009/2010 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 April, May and June 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

	April – June 2009								
	No. of patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist during the month following all urgent								
	No. that waited 14 days or less			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	244	219	244	244	219	244	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern	83	61	88	83	61	88	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	148	135	167	148	135	167	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	110	117	112	110	118	112	100.0	99.2	100.0
Western	106	123	148	215	156	153	49.3	78.8	96.7
Northern Ireland	691	655	759	800	689	764	86.4	95.1	99.3

Source: Departmental Return SDR2

¹Refer to Technical Notes – points 1-4.

Waiting Times for Treatment

Achievement of the 2009/2010 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 April, May and June 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

April – June 2009

	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	263	271	307	270	286	315	97.4	94.8	97.5
Northern	70	76	85	71	76	85	98.6	100.0	100.0
Southern	73	65	104	73	66	105	100.0	98.5	99.0
South Eastern	103	107	119	103	107	119	100.0	100.0	100.0
Western	92	62	75	94	62	75	97.9	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	601	581	690	611	597	699	98.4	97.3	98.7

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

April – June 2009

Cancer Site	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Brain Central Tumour	10	11	7	10	11	7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	101	93	128	101	93	128	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gynae Cancers	39	31	47	39	32	48	100.0	96.9	97.9
Haematological Cancers	36	32	41	36	32	41	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	23	20	35	23	21	35	100.0	95.2	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	67	84	92	68	84	92	98.5	100.0	100.0
Lung Cancer	78	82	69	79	82	69	98.7	100.0	100.0
Sarcomas	0	0	3	0	0	3	N/A	N/A	100.0
Skin Cancers	87	75	106	88	75	106	98.9	100.0	100.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	38	37	45	38	37	46	100.0	100.0	97.8
Urological Cancer	109	101	106	116	115	113	94.0	87.8	93.8
Other	13	15	11	13	15	11	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	601	581	690	611	597	699	98.4	97.3	98.7

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 2008/2009 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 April, May and June 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

April - June 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			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	52.5	45.0	75.0	62.0	58.0	89.0	84.7	77.6	84.3
Northern	32.5	24.5	35.5	37.0	28.5	41.0	87.8	86.0	86.6
Southern	20.5	16.0	34.5	20.5	16.0	37.0	100.0	100.0	93.2
South Eastern	35.0	32.0	46.5	38.0	35.5	52.0	92.1	90.1	89.4
Western	28.5	19.5	19.5	30.5	20.0	20.0	93.4	97.5	97.5
Northern Ireland	169	137	211	188	158	239	89.9	86.7	88.3

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

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

Table 5: Reporting on the 62 day target from decision to treat to treatment by tumour site⁵

April - June 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			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Brain Central Tumour	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Breast Cancer	47	34	61	47	34	61	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gynae Cancers	10	9	12	11	9	13	90.9	100.0	92.3
Haematological Cancers	3	1	7	4	1	8	75.0	100.0	87.5
Head/Neck Cancer	6	2	10	6	3	12	100.0	66.7	83.3
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	14	15	17	16	19	20	87.5	78.9	85.0
Lung Cancer	16	19	19	21	19	24	76.2	100.0	79.2
Sarcomas	0	0	1	0	0	2	N/A	N/A	50.0
Skin Cancers	28	29	46	29	29	46	96.6	100.0	100.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	7	5	8	7	10	11	100.0	50.0	72.7
Urological Cancer	36	21	27	45	30	38	80.0	70.0	71.1
Other	2	2	3	2	4	4	100.0	50.0	75.0
Northern Ireland	169	137	211	188	158	239	89.9	86.7	88.3

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 Tables 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 April, May and June 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 has been included this quarter to reflect 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 April, May and June 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 has been included this quarter to reflect 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 July, August and September 2009 will be published on 14 January 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