

NORTHERN IRELAND WAITING TIME STATISTICS: CANCER WAITING TIMES July – September 2010

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 2010. It details information relating to the three Priorities for Action (PfA) cancer targets for 2010/11: (i) the 14 day target for a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist; (ii) the 31 day target for treatment following a decision to treat being taken; and (iii) the 62 day target for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. All data are provided by Health and Social Care Trust, and, where applicable, by Tumour Site.

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Cancer Waiting Times in Northern Ireland

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Background

The data contained within this release relates to waiting times for cancer services in Northern Ireland in July, August and September 2010. It reports on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts against the three Priorities for Action (PfA) cancer targets for 2010/11.

Key Points

- The 2010/11 PfA target relating to waiting times for a first assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist requires that 100% of urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days. In the month of July 2010, 83.0% of patients were seen within 14 days, with 81.1% and 85.2% seen in 14 days in the months of August and September respectively.
- The 2010/11 PfA target relating to waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat being taken requires that 98% of patients should commence treatment within 31 days of the decision to treat being taken. A total of 97.4% of patients were treated within 31 days in July 2010, 96.5% in August and 97.3% in September.
- The 2010/11 PfA target relating to waiting times for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer requires that 95% of patients should begin their first treatment within 62 days. In July 2010, 91.5% of patients were treated within 62 days, with 81.4% treated within 62 days in August, and 85.8% in September 2010.

Reader Information

Purpose	Report on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, measured against the three Priorities for Action (PfA) targets for cancer for 2010/11.
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Hospital Information Branch (HIB)

Hospital Information Branch is responsible for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and publication of timely and accurate information derived from a wide range of statistical information returns supplied by the HSC Trusts and Hospitals. Statistical information is collected routinely from a variety of electronic patient level administrative system and pre-defined EXCEL survey return templates. The Head of the Branch is the Principal Statistician, Mrs. Laura Smyth.

The Branch aims to present information in a meaningful way and provide advice on its uses to customers in the Health and Social Care Committee, Professional Advisory Groups and policy branches within the DHSSPS. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on corporate monitoring, Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS) performance tables, other comparative performance exercises, target setting, management frameworks and policy evaluation. In addition, the information is used in response to a significantly high volume of Parliamentary / Assembly questions and ad-hoc queries each year.

Information is disseminated through a number of key statistical publications, including: Inpatient Activity, Outpatient Activity, Emergency Care, Mental Health & Learning Disability and Waiting Time Statistics (Inpatient, Outpatient, Diagnostics and Cancer). A detailed list of these publications is available from:

Website: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2.htm

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Technical Notes

This statistics release presents information on the waiting times for patients accessing cancer services at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, relating to the three Priorities for Action (PfA) cancer targets for 2010/11 (detailed in the publication). Information is given on the number of patients seen/treated, and performance against the three targets. All data are provided by Health and Social Care Trust, and where applicable, by Tumour Site.

Data Collection

- The information presented in this bulletin derives from the departmental return SDR 2 and the Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS).

Rounding

Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

Data Quality

All information presented in this bulletin has been validated and quality assured by HSC Trusts and Hospitals prior to publication. For departmental returns, HSC Trusts are given a set period of time to submit the information to HIB. Data sourced from the Cancer Patient Pathway System are extracted two months after the end of each quarter to give HSC Trusts sufficient time to update their information. Following submission/extraction, HIB perform a series of validation checks to verify the number of patients waiting over the target and to highlight any inaccuracies in the data. Queries arising from validation checks are presented to HSC Trusts for clarification and if required returns may be amended and/or re-submitted, and changes made to the Cancer Patient Pathway System.

Finally, prior to the publication of this information the data is presented to HSC Trusts and Hospitals for final sign-off.

An Official Statistics Publication

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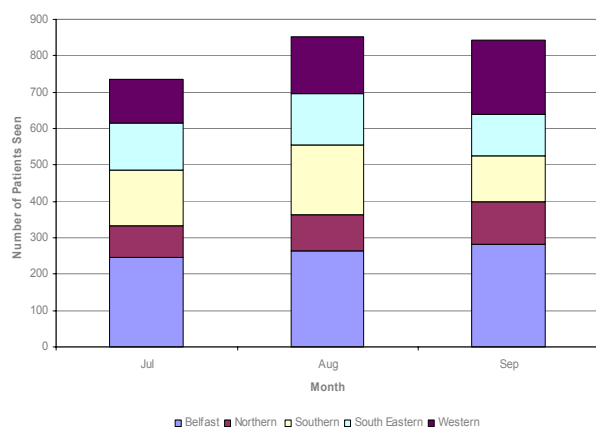
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Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times

Number of Patients Seen for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist (14 day PfA Target)¹

Figure 1 reports on the number of people seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer in the months of July, August and September 2010, by HSC Trust.

Figure 1: Number of patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer by HSC Trust: July to September 2010



In July 2010, a total of 735 patients were first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer. Approximately one-third of these (247) were seen in the Belfast HSC Trust, who also saw the largest proportion in August and September.

The total number of patients seen increased to 852 in August 2010. Both the Southern and Western HSC Trusts, in particular, saw large

¹ See Table 9 for full reporting on the 14 day waiting time target for first assessment with a breast cancer specialist

increases in the number of patients seen, with the Southern HSC Trust seeing 192 patients in August compared to 155 in July, and the Western HSC Trust seeing 157 and 119 patients in these respective months.

The number of patients seen in Northern Ireland as a whole remained fairly stable in September 2010, with 842 patients seen. Over half (57.5%, 484) of all patients were seen within either the Belfast or Western HSC Trusts. The Western HSC Trust once again saw a large rise in the number of patients seen compared to the previous month (202 compared to 157 in August).

Waiting Times for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist by HSC Trust¹

Achievement of the 2010/11 PfA target relating to waiting times for a first assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist requires that 'from April 2010, all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days'.

Table 1: HSC Trust Performance against the 14 day 2010/11 PfA target: July to September 2010

HSC Trust	Target Achieved?		
	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
Belfast	No	No	No
Northern	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southern	No	Yes	Yes
South Eastern	Yes	No	Yes
Western	No	No	No
Northern Ireland	No	No	No

The 14 day PfA breast cancer target was not met for Northern Ireland as a whole in any of the three months (Table 1).

The Northern HSC Trust was the only trust to meet the target in each of the three months. The Belfast and Western HSC Trusts both failed to meet the target in any of the three months. In particular, the Western HSC Trust saw 21.0% of its patients within 14 days in July, 11.5% in August 2010 and 43.1% in September.

Table 2: Percentage of patients seen in 14 days by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for breast cancer in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland: July to September 2010

	Percentage (%) seen in 14 days		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	91.9	92.0	96.5
Northern	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	92.9	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	100.0	99.3	100.0
Western	21.0	11.5	43.1
Northern Ireland	83.0	81.1	85.2

During July 2010, 83.0% of patients were seen within 14 days. Of the 125 patients who were not seen within the 14 day maximum waiting time set in the 2010/11 Pfa target, 94 were within the Western HSC Trust, 20 were in the Belfast HSC Trust and 11 were in the Southern HSC Trust.

During the month of August 2010, 81.1% of patients were seen within 14 days. There were 161 patients who were not seen within 14 days, 139 of which were in the Western HSC Trust. A further 21 patients were in the Belfast HSC Trust, and one was in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

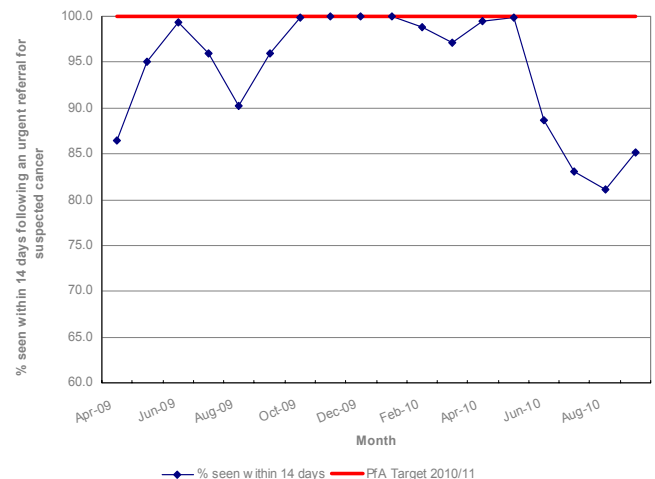
During September 2010, 85.2% of patients were seen within 14 days. A total of 125 patients did not meet the 14 day waiting time target. Of these, 115 patients were within the Western

HSC Trust and 10 were within the Belfast HSC Trust.

Waiting Times for a First Assessment with a Breast Specialist – Monthly Trends

Reporting of the current 14 day breast cancer waiting time target began in April 2009. Figure 2 shows the monthly trends in the percentage of patients seen by a breast specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer from April 2009 to September 2010.

Figure 2: Percentage of patients seen by a breast specialist within 14 days following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer – Monthly Trends: April 2009 to September 2010



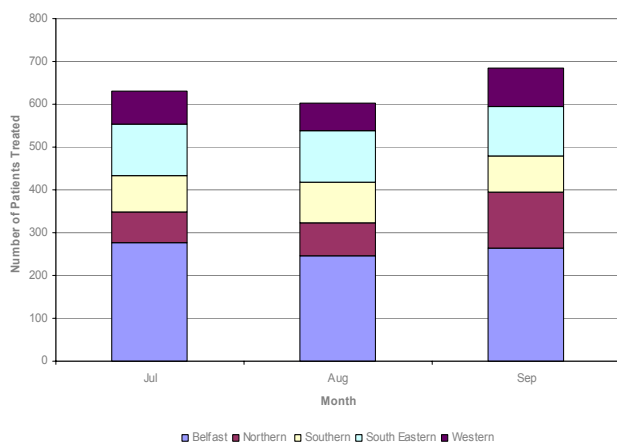
The percentage of patients seen within 14 days increased over the first three months of reporting of the target to a position in June 2009 where 99.3% of patients were seen within the target. Performance against the target decreased over the next two months, falling to 90.2% of patients being seen within 14 days. The waiting time position then improved with 100% of patients being seen by a breast specialist within 14 days in the months of October 2009 to January 2010. However, performance began to

deteriorate once again beginning in June 2010, with the waiting time position reaching its lowest point ever in August 2010, with only 81.1% of patients seen within 14 days. It then improved slightly in September 2010. These trends are outlined in Figure 2.

Number of Patients Treated following a Decision to Treat (31 day PfA Target)²

Figure 3 shows the number of people who received their first definitive treatment for cancer in the months of July, August and September 2010, irrespective of the source or status of their referral, by HSC Trust.

Figure 3: Number of patients receiving a first treatment for cancer following a decision to treat being taken by HSC Trust: July to September 2010



There were a total of 649 patients who received treatment for cancer in July 2010. The largest proportion (45.5%, 295) of these was seen in the Belfast HSC Trust, who treated the greatest amount of patients in all three months.

The number of patients treated in Northern Ireland as a whole decreased slightly to 624 in August 2010. The

² See Tables 10 and 11 for full reporting on the 31 day target for treatment following a decision to treat

Belfast and Western HSC Trusts, in particular, saw a fall in the number of patients treated in comparison to July 2010. The Belfast HSC Trust treated 295 patients in July compared to 267 in August, and the Western HSC Trust treated 78 and 63 patients respectively in these two months.

The total number treated then rose again to 704 in September 2010. There was an especially large increase in the number of patients treated in the Northern HSC Trust that month (134) compared to both of the previous two months (72 in July and 75 in August).

Waiting Times for Treatment following a Decision to Treat by HSC Trust²

Achievement of the 2010/11 PfA target relating to waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat being taken requires that 'from April 2010, 98% of patients should commence treatment within 31 days of the decision to treat'.

Table 3: HSC Trust Performance against the 31 day 2010/11 PfA target: July to September 2010

HSC Trust	Target Achieved?		
	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
Belfast	No	No	No
Northern	Yes	Yes	No
Southern	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Eastern	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Ireland	No	No	No

The 2010/11 PfA target was not met for Northern Ireland as a whole in July, August or September 2010.

All HSC Trusts met the target in the months of July, August and September 2010 except for the Belfast HSC Trust, who treated less than 98% of patients in each of the three months and the

Northern HSC Trust who did not meet the target in September 2010.

Table 4: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 31 days following a decision to treat being taken by HSC Trust: July to September 2010

	Percentage (%) treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	94.2	92.5	94.6
Northern	100.0	100.0	97.8
Southern	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	100.0	98.4	99.1
Western	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	97.4	96.5	97.3

During the month of July 2010, 649 patients commenced treatment for cancer following a decision to treat being taken, with 632 (97.4%) treated within 31 days. Of the 17 patients that exceeded the 31 day waiting time target, all were in the Belfast HSC Trust.

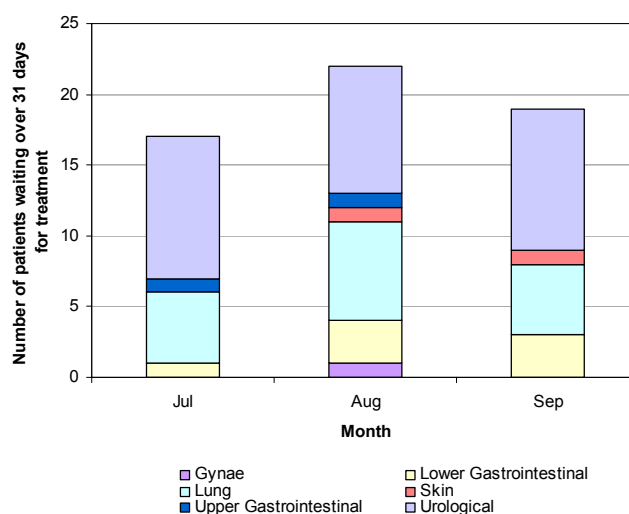
In August 2010, 602 (96.5%) of the total 624 patients were treated within 31 days. Of the 22 patients that were not treated within 31 days, 20 were in the Belfast HSC Trust and two were within the South Eastern HSC Trust.

In September 2010, 685 (97.3%) of the total 704 patients were treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken. Of the 19 patients that waited longer than 31 days for treatment, 15 were in the Belfast HSC Trust, three were in the Northern HSC Trust, and one was in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

Patients Waiting for Treatment following a Decision to Treat by Tumour Site²

Figure 4 and Table 5 together report on the waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat being taken by tumour site for the months of July, August and September 2010.

Figure 4: Number of patients waiting over 31 days for treatment following a decision to treat being taken: July to September 2010



During July 2010, 17 patients waited longer than 31 days for treatment following a decision to treat being taken. Of these, 10 were diagnosed with urological cancer, five with lung cancer, one with lower gastrointestinal cancer, and one with upper gastrointestinal cancer.

In August 2010, 22 of the total 624 patients were not treated within 31 days, of which nine had a diagnosis of urological cancer, seven with lung cancer, three with lower gastrointestinal cancer, one with gynaecological cancer, one with skin cancer, and one with upper gastrointestinal cancer.

In September 2010, 10 of the 19 patients waiting longer than 31 days had

urological cancer, five had lung cancer, three had lower gastrointestinal cancer, and one had skin cancer.

Table 5: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 31 days following a decision to treat being taken by Tumour Site: July to September 2010

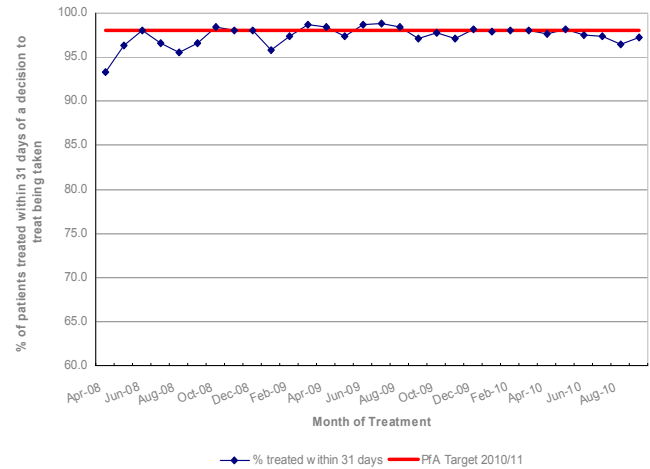
Cancer Site	Percentage (%) treated		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gynae Cancers	100.0	97.3	100.0
Haematological Cancers	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer			
	98.6	96.3	97.1
Lung Cancer	93.8	92.1	94.4
Sarcomas	100.0	100.0	100.0
Skin Cancers	100.0	98.9	99.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer			
	98.0	98.1	100.0
Urological Cancer	91.8	91.5	89.9
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	97.4	96.5	97.3

Patients Waiting for Treatment following a Decision to Treat – Monthly Trends

The reporting of the 31 day waiting time target began in April 2008. Figure 5 shows the monthly trends in the percentage of patients treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken from April 2008 to September 2010.

The percentage of patients treated within 31 days following a decision to treat being taken has fluctuated slightly over the years, but has never fallen below 95%, except in April 2008, the first month of reporting of the target. The waiting time position continues to remain fairly stable in 2010.

Figure 5: Percentage of patients treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken – Monthly Trends: April 2008 to September 2010



Number of Patients Treated following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer (62 day Pfa target)³

Figure 6 shows the number of people receiving their first definitive treatment for cancer in the months of July, August and September 2010, following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, by HSC Trust.

In July 2010, 213 patients were treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, across Northern Ireland. Over half of these patients (the equivalent of 120.5) were treated within the Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trusts.

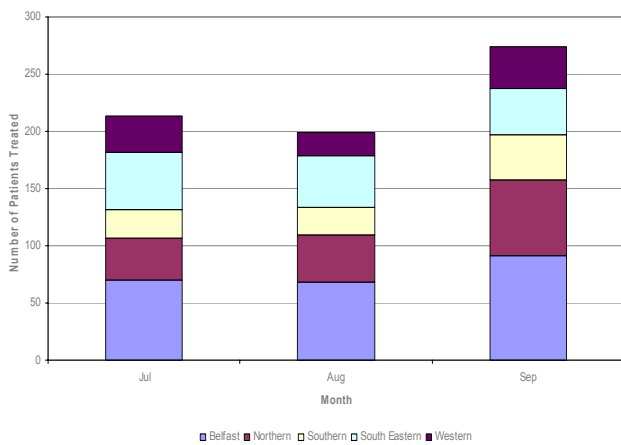
A total of 199 patients were treated in August 2010, with the number treated within the Western HSC Trust relatively lower than the previous month (20.0 compared to 31.5).

There was then a large rise in September in the number of patients

³See Tables 12 and 13 for full reporting on the 62 day target for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer

treated in Northern Ireland overall (274 treated), with substantial increases in the Belfast and Northern HSC Trusts in particular. The Belfast HSC Trust treated 91.5 patients in September compared to 68.5 in August, and the Northern HSC Trust treated 66.5 patients in September compared to 41.0 in the previous month.

Figure 6: Number of patients first treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer: July to September 2010



Waiting Times for Treatment following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer by Health and Social Care Trust³

Achievement of the 2010/11 Priorities for Action target relating to waiting times for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer requires that 'from April 2010, 95% of patients should begin their first treatment within 62 days'.

Table 6: HSC Trust Performance against the 62 day 2010/11 PfA target: July to September 2010

HSC Trust	Target Achieved?		
	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
Belfast	No	No	No
Northern	No	No	No
Southern	Yes	No	No
South Eastern	Yes	No	No
Western	No	No	No
Northern Ireland	No	No	No

The 2010/11 PfA target was not met for Northern Ireland as a whole during the months of July, August and September 2010.

The target was met by the Southern and South Eastern HSC Trusts in July 2010, but they did not meet it in August or September 2010. The Belfast, Northern and Western HSC Trusts failed to meet the target in all three months.

Table 7: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer by HSC Trust: July to September 2010

	Percentage (%) Treated within 62 days from Receipt of Referral		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	86.5	78.8	78.1
Northern	91.7	78.0	85.0
Southern	100.0	83.7	92.4
South Eastern	95.0	82.2	91.3
Western	90.5	92.5	93.2
Northern Ireland	91.5	81.4	85.8

During the month of July 2010, of the 213 patients that commenced treatment for cancer following an urgent referral for suspect cancer (including routine referrals subsequently reclassified as urgent by a cancer specialist), 195 (91.5%) were treated within 62 days. Of

the 18 patients that were not treated within 62 days, there were the equivalent of 9.5 in the Belfast HSC Trust, three in the Northern HSC Trust, 2.5 in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and three in the Western HSC Trust. There were no patients waiting over 62 days in the Southern HSC Trust in July.

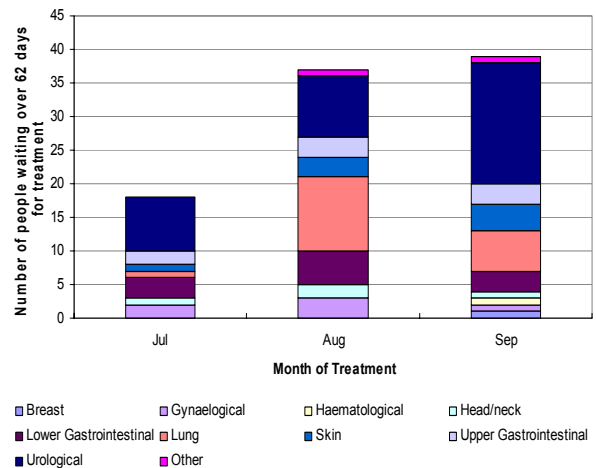
In August 2010, 162 (81.4%) of a total of 199 patients were treated within 62 days. Of the 37 patients that were not treated within 62 days, there was the equivalent of 14.5 in the Belfast HSC Trust, nine in the Northern HSC Trust, four in the Southern HSC Trust, eight in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 1.5 in the Western HSC Trust.

In September 2010, 235 (85.8%) out of 274 patients were treated within 62 days. Of the 39 patients that weren't treated within 62 days, the equivalent of 20 were in the Belfast HSC Trust, 10 in the Northern HSC Trust, three in the Southern HSC Trust, 3.5 in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 2.5 in the Western HSC Trust.

Waiting Times for Treatment following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer by Tumour Site³

Figure 7 and Table 8 together report the waiting times by tumour site during the months of July, August and September 2010.

Figure 7: Number of patients waiting over 62 days for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer by Tumour Site: July to September 2010



During the month of July 2010, 18 of the 213 patients waited longer than 62 days for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. There were eight of these patients who were diagnosed with urological cancer, three with lower gastrointestinal cancer, two with gynaecological cancer, two with upper gastrointestinal cancer, one with head/neck cancer, one with lung cancer, and one with skin cancer.

During August 2010, of the 37 patients who were waiting longer than 62 days, 11 were diagnosed with lung cancer, 9 with urological cancer, five with lower gastrointestinal cancer, three with gynaecological cancer, three with skin cancer, three with upper gastrointestinal cancer, two with head/neck cancer, and one with a cancer classified as 'Other'.

There were 39 patients that were not treated within 62 days of receipt of an urgent GP referral during the month of September 2010. Of these patients, 18 were diagnosed with urological cancer, six with lung cancer, four with skin cancer, three with lower gastrointestinal cancer, three with upper gastrointestinal cancer, one with breast cancer, one with

gynaecological cancer, one with haematological cancer, one with head/neck cancer, and one was classified as having a tumour site classed as 'Other'.

Table 8: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer by Tumour Site: July to September 2010

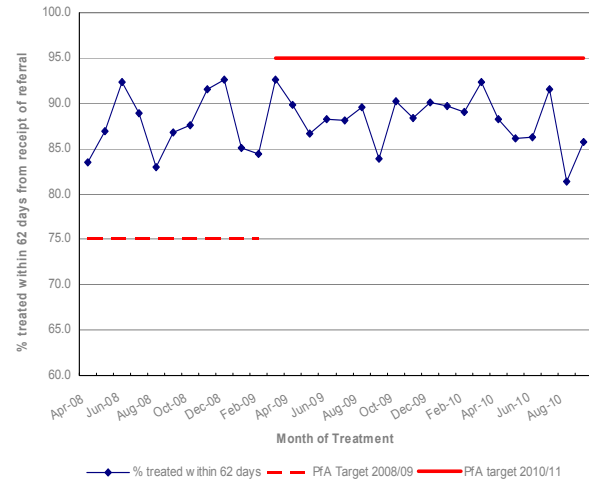
	Percentage (%) treated within 62 days from Receipt of Referral		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	N/A	N/A	N/A
Breast Cancer	100.0	100.0	98.7
Gynae Cancers	87.5	66.7	94.4
Haematological Cancers	N/A	100.0	90.0
Head/Neck Cancer	87.5	33.3	90.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	81.3	72.2	88.9
Lung Cancer	95.8	63.3	77.8
Sarcomas	N/A	100.0	N/A
Skin Cancers	97.3	93.0	90.5
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	81.8	66.7	76.9
Urological Cancer	83.0	77.5	60.9
Other	100.0	75.0	50.0
Northern Ireland	91.5	81.4	85.8

Waiting Times for Treatment following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer Trends – Monthly Trends

The reporting of the 62 day waiting time target began in April 2008.

Figure 8 shows the monthly trends in the percentage of patients treated within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer from April 2009 to September 2010.

Figure 8: Percentage of patients treated within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer – Monthly Trends April 2008 to September 2010



In the years since reporting of the target began, the percentage of patients seen within 62 days has fluctuated between 81% and 93%, with no consistent trends emerging. However, Northern Ireland as a whole has not met the performance target since it was increased in April 2009 from 75% to 95% of patients being seen within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer.

Moreover, during the recent quarter the waiting time position has reached its all-time lowest point, with only 81.4% of patients seen within 62 days In August 2010.

Table 9 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 Ireland

	No. of patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist during the month following an urgent referral for suspected cancer								
	No. that waited 14 days or less			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	227	243	272	247	264	282	91.9	92.0	96.5
Northern	85	98	117	85	98	117	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	144	192	126	155	192	126	92.9	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	129	140	115	129	141	115	100.0	99.3	100.0
Western	25	18	87	119	157	202	21.0	11.5	43.1
Northern Ireland	610	691	717	735	852	842	83.0	81.1	85.2

Source: Departmental Return SDR 2.

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 – 4.

Table 10 Reporting on the 31 day target from decision to treat to treatment for all cancers in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland

	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	278	247	265	295	267	280	94.2	92.5	94.6
Northern	72	75	131	72	75	134	100.0	100.0	97.8
Southern	84	96	84	84	96	84	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	120	121	115	120	123	116	100.0	98.4	99.1
Western	78	63	90	78	63	90	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	632	602	685	649	624	704	97.4	96.5	97.3

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

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

Table 11 Reporting on the 31 day target from decision to treat to treatment by tumour site

Cancer Site	No. of patients first treated for Cancer								
	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	10	2	8	10	2	8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	96	92	126	96	92	126	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gynae Cancers	48	36	43	48	37	43	100.0	97.3	100.0
Haematological Cancers	37	36	50	37	36	50	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	27	23	28	27	23	28	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	72	77	101	73	80	104	98.6	96.3	97.1
Lung Cancer	75	82	85	80	89	90	93.8	92.1	94.4
Sarcomas	1	5	1	1	5	1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Skin Cancers	93	87	95	93	88	96	100.0	98.9	99.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	50	53	52	51	54	52	98.0	98.1	100.0
Urological Cancer	112	97	89	122	106	99	91.8	91.5	89.9
Other	11	12	7	11	12	7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	632	602	685	649	624	704	97.4	96.5	97.3

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)
Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 5-7 & 14.

Table 12 Reporting on the 62 day waiting time target from an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer to treatment, for all cancers in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland

	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 (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Belfast	61.0	54.0	71.5	70.5	68.5	91.5	86.5	78.8	78.1
Northern	33.0	32.0	56.5	36.0	41.0	66.5	91.7	78.0	85.0
Southern	25.0	20.5	36.5	25.0	24.5	39.5	100.0	83.7	92.4
South Eastern	47.5	37.0	36.5	50.0	45.0	40.0	95.0	82.2	91.3
Western	28.5	18.5	34.0	31.5	20.0	36.5	90.5	92.5	93.2
Northern Ireland	195	162	235	213	199	274	91.5	81.4	85.8

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)
Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 9-11.

Table 13 Reporting on the 62 day waiting time target from an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer to treatment, by tumour site

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 (%)		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brain Central Tumour	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Breast Cancer	52	40	78	52	40	79	100.0	100.0	98.7
Gynae Cancers	14	6	17	16	9	18	87.5	66.7	94.4
Haematological Cancers	0	2	9	0	2	10	N/A	100.0	90.0
Head/Neck Cancer	7	1	9	8	3	10	87.5	33.3	90.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	13	13	24	16	18	27	81.3	72.2	88.9
Lung Cancer	23	19	21	24	30	27	95.8	63.3	77.8
Sarcomas	0	1	0	0	1	0	N/A	100.0	N/A
Skin Cancers	36	40	38	37	43	42	97.3	93.0	90.5
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	9	6	10	11	9	13	81.8	66.7	76.9
Urological Cancer	39	31	28	47	40	46	83.0	77.5	60.9
Other	2	3	1	2	4	2	100.0	75.0	50.0
Northern Ireland	195	162	235	213	199	274	91.5	81.4	85.8

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)
Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 9-11, & 13-14.

Appendix 4: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the departmental returns SDR2 and the Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS).
2. Data contained in Table 1 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 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 2010/11 target states that from April 2010, all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days. Between March 2008 and February 2009 this target only applied to referrals that were initially referred by a GP.
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 2010, 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 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. The PfA target stating that 98% of patients should wait no longer than 31 days from the date on which the decision to treat was taken to the date of first definitive treatment has remained unchanged since its introduction in March 2008.
9. 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 2010, following an urgent referral for suspect from a General Practitioner during the months of April, May and June 2010, and routine GP referrals that have subsequently been reclassified as urgent by a breast cancer specialist. Data relate to urgent GP referrals for all cancer 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.
10. 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.

11. The measurement of a patient's waiting time in Tables 4 and 5, from an initial urgent GP referral to first definitive treatment, includes cases in which a patient was initially referred to a particular Health and Social 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 both 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 first treated would report 0.5 of a patient waiting more than 62 days.
12. Between April 2008 and February 2009, the Priorities for Action target relating to waiting time for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer required that 'at least 75% of patients urgently referred with a suspect cancer should begin their first definitive treatment within 2 days of urgent GP referral'. From March 2009 this target increased to 95% of patients. These different targets are reflected in the trend graph for the 62 day target.
13. 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.
14. Information on the grouping of ICD 10 codes by tumour site is available from Hospital Information Branch on request.
15. Information on waiting times for the months of October, November and December 2010 will be published on 31 March 2011.
16. Data contained within this publication are Official Statistics.

Further information on cancer waiting times in Northern Ireland, is available from:

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