

NORTHERN IRELAND WAITING TIME STATISTICS: CANCER WAITING TIMES April – June 2011

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 2011. It details information on (i) the waiting times for a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer; (ii) the waiting times for cancer treatment following a decision to treat being taken; and (iii) reports on performance against the 2011/12 Ministerial target that 95% of patients should begin their first treatment for cancer within 62 days 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 April, May and June 2011, and reports on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts against the 2011/12 Ministerial target for treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer.

Key Points

- In the month of April 2011, 98.3% of patients waiting for a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist following an urgent breast cancer referral, were seen within 14 days. There were 95.2% and 99.8% of patients seen within 14 days in the months of May and June respectively (Table 7).
- A total of 98.3% of patients in April were treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken. The percentage of patients treated within 31 days was 98.0% in May and 97.7% in June (Table 8).
- The 2011/12 Ministerial 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 of referral. In April 2011, 81.9% of patients were treated within 62 days, with 79.6% treated within 62 days in May, and 82.6% in June 2011 (Table 10).

Reader Information

Purpose	Details information on the waiting times for cancer services in Northern Ireland, and reports on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, measured against the 2011/12 Ministerial target for treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer.
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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 Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts and the HSC Board. 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 HSC Committee, Professional Advisory Groups, policy branches within the DHSSPS, other Health organisations, academia, private sector organisations, charity/voluntary organisations as well as the general public. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on the performance of the HSC system, other comparative performance exercises, target setting and monitoring, development of service frameworks as well as policy formulation and 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, and reports on the performance of Health and Social Care Trusts against the 2011/12 Ministerial target for treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. All data are presented 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 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.

Waiting Time Information Elsewhere in the United Kingdom

While it is our intention to direct users to waiting time information elsewhere in the UK, users should be aware that cancer waiting times in other administrations are not always measured in a comparable manner to those in Northern Ireland. Details of the cancer waiting times published elsewhere in the UK can be found as detailed below.

England

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Perfomancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/DH_077389

Scotland

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/6224.html>

Wales

<http://data.gov.uk/comment/reply/3485>

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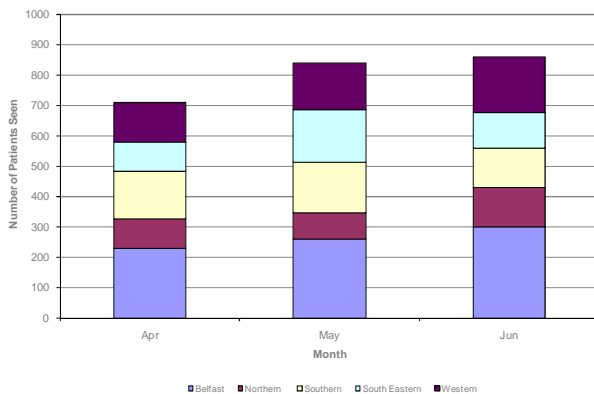
Tel: (028) 90 522506

Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times

Number of Patients Seen for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist¹

Figure 1 reports on the total number of people seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer in the months of April, May and June 2011, by HSC Trust.

Figure 1: Number of patients seen for a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer by HSC Trust: April to June 2011



In April 2011, a total of 708 patients were first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer. The greatest number of patients, nearly a third (32.1%, 227), were seen in the Belfast HSC Trust, who saw approximately this proportion of patients in each of the other two months also.

¹ See Table 7 for full reporting on the waiting times for first assessment with a breast cancer specialist. See Explanatory Notes 1-4.

The total number of patients seen rose to 838 in May 2011. All Trusts saw increases in the number of patients seen in this month, except for the Northern HSC Trust who saw a slight decrease in the number of patients seen (86 patients seen in May compared to 99 in April). The greatest increase in the number of patients seen between May and the preceding month was in the South Eastern HSC Trust, who saw 172 patients in May compared to 97 in April.

There was then a further, slight, increase in June 2011 in the number of patients seen in Northern Ireland as a whole, with 860 patients seen. The Belfast, Northern and Western HSC Trusts again all saw a rise in the number of patients seen compared to both May and April. The number of patients seen in the South Eastern HSC Trust was 117, a large drop from the 172 seen in May, but more comparable to the 97 seen in April 2011.

Percentage of Patients Seen Within 14 days for a First Assessment with a Breast Cancer Specialist by HSC Trust¹

During April 2011, 98.3% of patients given an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer were seen within 14 days. There were 12 patients who were not seen within 14 days, eleven of whom were within the Belfast HSC Trust and one who was within the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 1).

During the month of May 2011, 95.2% of patients were seen within 14 days. There were 40 patients who were not seen within 14 days, 30 of whom were in the South Eastern HSC Trust, nine of whom were in the Belfast HSC

Trust, and one who was in the Southern HSC Trust.

During June 2011, 99.8% of patients were seen within 14 days. Of the two patients who were not seen 14 days, both were within the Belfast HSC Trust.

Table 1: Percentage of patients seen within 14 days by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland: April to June 2011

	Percentage (%) seen within 14 days		
	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	95.2	96.5	99.3
Northern	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	100.0	99.4	100.0
South Eastern	99.0	82.6	100.0
Western	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	98.3	95.2	99.8

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

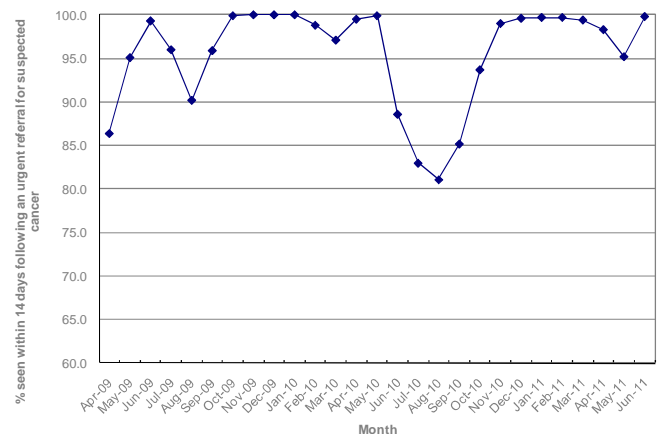
Figure 2 shows the monthly trends in the percentage of patients seen within 14 days from April 2009 to June 2011.

In the months between April 2009 to September 2009 there was considerable variation in the percentage of patients seen within 14 days with an improvement in performance in the first three months, followed by a deterioration in the waiting time position, and then another subsequent improvement.

The waiting time position then largely stabilised with 100% of patients being seen by a breast cancer specialist within 14 days in the months of October 2009 to January 2010.

However, performance began to decline 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. This was largely due to the deterioration in the Western HSC Trust's performance. However, since September 2010 the percentage of patients seen within 14 days has markedly improved, peaking at 99.8% of patients seen within 14 days in June 2011.

Figure 2: Percentage of patients seen by a breast cancer specialist within 14 days following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer – Monthly Trends: April 2009 to June 2011

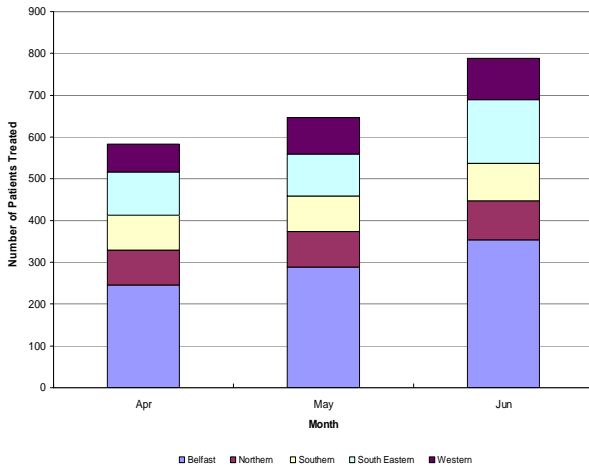


Number of Patients Treated following a Decision to Treat ²

Figure 3 shows the number of people who received their first definitive treatment for cancer in the months of April, May and June 2011, irrespective of the source or status of their referral, by HSC Trust.

² See Tables 8 and 9 for full reporting on the waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat. See Explanatory Notes 1 & 5-7.

Figure 3: Number of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer following a decision to treat, by HSC Trust: April to June 2011



There were a total of 583 patients who received treatment for cancer in April 2011. Over four tenths (42.2%, 246) of these were seen in the Belfast HSC Trust, who treated the largest proportion of patients in all three months.

The number of patients treated in Northern Ireland as a whole increased to 647 in May 2011. This was largely due to an increase in the number treated in the Belfast HSC Trust, from 289 patients in May to 246 in April. There was also a relatively large increase in the numbers treated in the Western HSC Trust (from 67 patients in April to 88 in May), but there was comparative stability amongst the remaining HSC Trusts over these two months.

The total number treated then rose further to 788 in June 2011. All HSC Trusts saw an increase in the number of patients treated compared to May 2011, but the largest relative increase was in the South Eastern HSC Trust who treated 153 patients in June compared to 101 in May and 103 in April 2011.

Percentage of Patients Treated Within 31 days following a Decision to Treat, by HSC Trust²

During the month of April 2011, 583 patients commenced treatment for cancer following a decision to treat being taken, with 573 (98.3%) treated within 31 days. Of the ten patients that waited longer than 31 days, eight were in the Belfast HSC Trust, and two were in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

In May 2011, 634 (98.0%) of the total 647 patients were treated within 31 days. Of the 13 patients that were not treated within 31 days, nine were in the Belfast HSC Trust, three were in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and one was in the Western HSC Trust.

In June 2011, 770 (97.7%) of the total 788 patients were treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken. Of the 18 patients that waited longer than 31 days for treatment, 14 were in the Belfast HSC Trust, one was in the Northern HSC Trust, two were in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and one was in the Western HSC Trust.

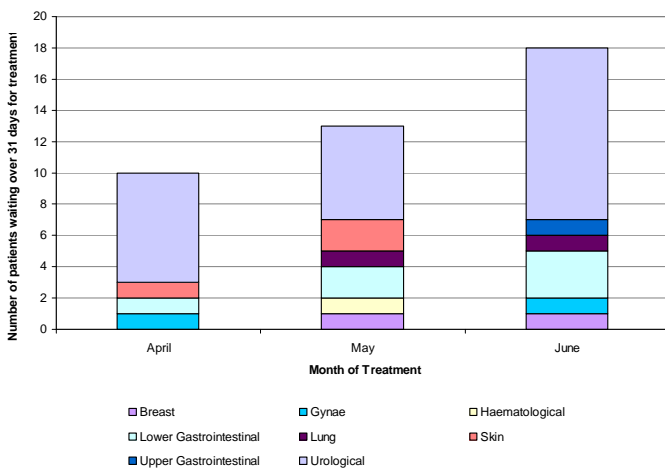
Table 2: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 31 days following a decision to treat, by HSC Trust: April to June 2011

	Percentage (%) treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken		
	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	96.7	96.9	96.0
Northern	100.0	100.0	98.9
Southern	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	98.1	97.0	98.7
Western	100.0	98.9	99.0
Northern Ireland	98.3	98.0	97.7

Percentage of Patients Treated Within 31 days following a Decision to Treat, by Tumour Site²

Figure 4 and Table 3 together report on the waiting times for treatment following a decision to treat being taken by tumour site, for the months of April, May and June 2011.

Figure 4: Number of patients waiting over 31 days for treatment following a decision to treat, by tumour site: April to June 2011



During April 2011, ten patients waited longer than 31 days for treatment following a decision to treat being taken. Of these, seven were diagnosed with urological cancer, one with gynaecological cancer, one with lower gastrointestinal cancer, and one with skin cancer.

In May 2011, 13 of the total 647 patients were not treated within 31 days, of which six had a diagnosis of urological cancer, two with lower gastrointestinal cancer, two with skin cancer, one with breast cancer, one with haematological cancer, and one with lung cancer.

In June 2011, eleven of the 18 patients waiting longer than 31 days had urological cancer, three had lower gastrointestinal cancer, one had breast

cancer, one had gynaecological cancer, one had lung cancer, and one had upper gastrointestinal cancer.

Table 3: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 31 days following a decision to treat, by tumour site: April to June 2011

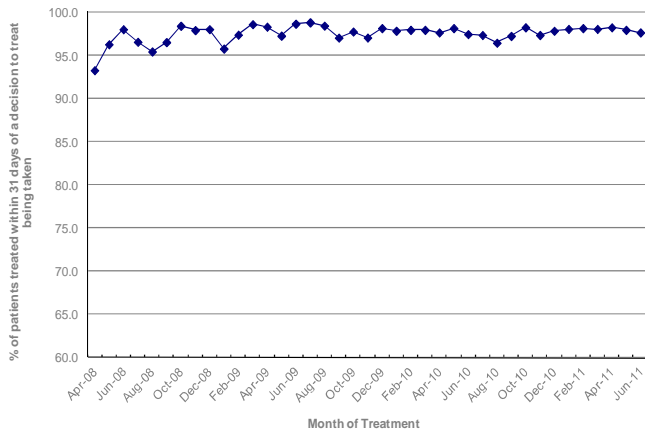
Cancer Site	Percentage (%) treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken		
	Apr	May	Jun
Brain Central Tumour	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	100.0	99.1	99.3
Gynae Cancers	96.3	100.0	98.1
Haematological Cancers	100.0	95.7	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	98.8	97.8	97.2
Lung Cancer	100.0	98.8	98.9
Sarcomas	100.0	100.0	100.0
Skin Cancers	98.7	97.4	100.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	100.0	100.0	98.1
Urological Cancer	93.1	94.5	92.6
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	98.3	98.0	97.7

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

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 June 2011.

The percentage of patients treated within 31 days, following a decision to treat, has fluctuated slightly over the years, but has never fallen below 95%, except in April 2008, the first month that the waiting time position was reported. Performance continues to remain fairly stable throughout the first half of 2011.

Figure 5: Percentage of patients treated within 31 days of a decision to treat – Monthly Trends: April 2008 to June 2011



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

Figure 6 shows the number of people receiving their first definitive treatment for cancer in the months of April, May and June 2011, following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, by HSC Trust.

In April 2011, 199 patients were treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, across Northern Ireland. The smallest proportion of patients in this month (11.6%, 23) were treated within the Western HSC Trust, who also treated the lowest amount of patients in May.

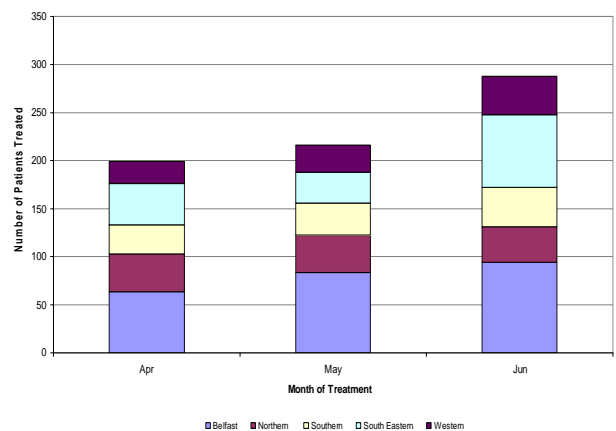
There was then a small increase in the number of patients treated in May 2011 (204). This was largely due to an increase in the number of patients treated in the Belfast HSC Trust (from 63.5 in April to 83.5 in May). The South

³See Tables 10 and 11 for full reporting on the 62 day target for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. See Explanatory Notes 1 & 8-13.

Eastern HSC Trust was the only Trust who saw a decrease in the number of patients treated between April and May (42.5 and 32.5 respectively).

The number of patients treated following an urgent GP referral increased further in June 2011, to 288. All HSC Trusts saw increases in the number of patients treated (with the exception of the Northern HSC Trust who saw a negligible decrease in the number of patients treated, from 39 in May to 37 in June 2011). However, the greatest proportional increase between the months of May and June was in the South Eastern HSC Trust, who treated over double the amount of patients in June (75.5) compared to May (32.5).

Figure 6: Number of patients requiring a first definitive treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer: April to June 2011



Percentage of Patients Treated Within 62 days following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer by Health and Social Care Trust³

The 2010/11 Ministerial target relating to waiting times for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer requires that from April 2011, 95% of patients should begin their first treatment within 62 days.

Table 4: HSC Trust Performance against the 62 day 2011/12 Ministerial target: April to June 2011

HSC Trust	Target Achieved?		
	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11
Belfast	No	No	No
Northern	No	No	No
Southern	No	No	No
South Eastern	No	No	No
Western	No	No	No
Northern Ireland	No	No	No

The 2010/11 Ministerial target was not met for Northern Ireland as a whole during the months of April, May and June 2011.

All HSC Trusts failed to meet the target in each of the three months, though it was only marginally missed by the South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts in April 2011 and by the Southern HSC Trust in June 2011.

Table 5: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer by HSC Trust: April to June 2011

	Percentage (%) Treated within 62 days from Receipt of Referral		
	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	74.0	77.2	76.6
Northern	83.3	78.2	85.1
Southern	71.0	81.8	94.0
South Eastern	94.1	87.7	84.1
Western	93.5	76.8	80.0
Northern Ireland	81.9	79.6	82.6

During the month of April 2011, of the 199 patients that commenced treatment for cancer following an urgent referral for suspect cancer (including routine referrals subsequently reclassified as

urgent by a cancer specialist), 163 (81.9%) were treated within 62 days. Of the 36 patients that were not treated within 62 days, there were the equivalent of 16.5 in the Belfast HSC Trust, 6.5 in the Northern HSC Trust, nine in the Southern HSC Trust, 2.5 in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and 1.5 in the Western HSC Trust.

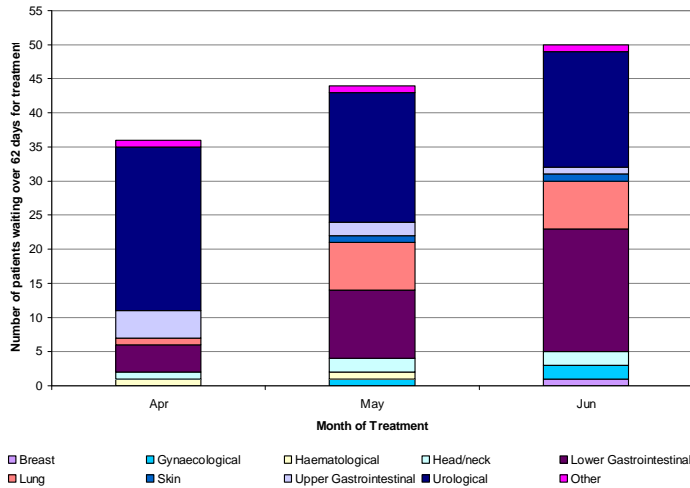
In May 2011, 172 (79.6%) of a total of 216 patients were treated within 62 days. Of the 44 patients that were not treated within 62 days, there was the equivalent of 19 in the Belfast HSC Trust, 8.5 in the Northern HSC Trust, six in the Southern HSC Trust, four in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 6.5 in the Western HSC Trust.

In June 2011, 238 (82.6%) out of 288 patients were treated within 62 days. Of the 50 patients that weren't treated within 62 days, the equivalent of 22 were in the Belfast HSC Trust, 5.5 in the Northern HSC Trust, 2.5 in the Southern HSC Trust, 12 in the South Eastern HSC Trust and eight in the Western HSC Trust.

Percentage of Patients Treated Within 62 days following an Urgent GP referral for Suspect Cancer by Tumour Site³

Figure 7 and Table 6 together report the waiting times by tumour site during the months of April, May and June 2011.

Figure 7: Number of patients waiting over 62 days for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, by tumour site: April to June 2011



During the month of April 2011, 36 of the 199 patients waited longer than 62 days for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. There were 24 of these patients who were diagnosed with urological cancer, four with lower gastrointestinal cancer, four with upper gastrointestinal cancer, one with haematological cancer, one with head/neck cancer, one with lung cancer, and one with a cancer classified as 'Other'.

During May 2011, of the 44 patients who waited longer than 62 days, 19 were diagnosed with urological cancer, ten with lower gastrointestinal cancer, seven with lung cancer, two with head/neck cancer, two with upper gastrointestinal cancer, one with gynaecological cancer, one with haematological cancer, one with skin cancer, and one with a cancer classified as 'Other'.

There were 50 patients that were not treated within 62 days of receipt of an urgent GP referral during the month of June 2011. Of these patients, 18 were diagnosed with lower gastrointestinal

cancer, 17 with urological cancer, seven with lung cancer, two with gynaecological cancer, two with head/neck cancer, one with breast cancer, one with skin cancer, one with upper gastrointestinal cancer, and one with a cancer classified as 'Other'.

Table 6: Percentage of patients receiving a first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer by tumour site: April to June 2011

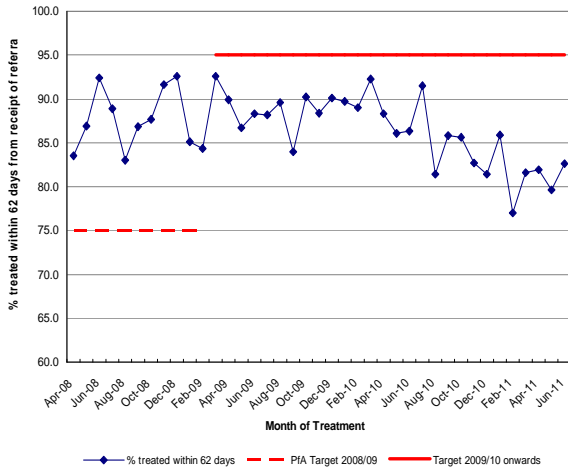
	Percentage (%) treated within 62 days from Receipt of Referral		
	Apr	May	Jun
Brain Central Tumour	N/A	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	100.0	100.0	98.7
Gynae Cancers	100.0	87.5	89.5
Haematological Cancers	85.7	66.7	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	85.7	86.7	60.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	80.0	41.2	50.0
Lung Cancer	95.8	75.0	74.1
Sarcomas	N/A	N/A	100.0
Skin Cancers	100.0	96.4	97.8
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	66.7	75.0	85.7
Urological Cancer	46.7	61.2	70.2
Other	66.7	80.0	80.0
Northern Ireland	81.9	79.6	82.6

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 2008 to June 2011.

Figure 8: Percentage of patients treated within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer – Monthly Trends April 2008 to June 2011



Reporting of a target for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer began in April 2008 and until July 2010 the percentage of patients seen within 62 days fluctuated between 83% and 93%, with no consistent trends emerging. However, from July 2010 the waiting time position has deteriorated, reaching its all-time lowest point in February 2011, with only 77.0% of patients seen within 62 days. Performance against the target has shown only minimal improvement in the subsequent months.

Moreover, Northern Ireland as a whole has never 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.

Table 7 Reporting on the waiting times from referral to a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland⁴

	No. of patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer								
	No. that waited 14 days or less			Total			Percentage (%)		
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun
Belfast	216	249	296	227	258	298	95.2	96.5	99.3
Northern	99	86	129	99	86	129	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	155	168	131	155	169	131	100.0	99.4	100.0
South Eastern	96	142	117	97	172	117	99.0	82.6	100.0
Western	130	153	185	130	153	185	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	696	798	858	708	838	860	98.3	95.2	99.8

Source: Departmental Return SDR 2.

⁴ Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1–4.

Table 8 Reporting on the waiting times from decision to treat to treatment for all cancers in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland⁵

	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	238	280	340	246	289	354	96.7	96.9	96.0
Northern	84	85	93	84	85	94	100.0	100.0	98.9
Southern	83	84	89	83	84	89	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	101	98	151	103	101	153	98.1	97.0	98.7
Western	67	87	97	67	88	98	100.0	98.9	99.0
Northern Ireland	573	634	770	583	647	788	98.3	98.0	97.7

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁵ Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1 & 5-7.

Table 9 Reporting on the waiting times from decision to treat to treatment, by tumour site⁶

Cancer Site	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
Brain Central Tumour	6	13	13	6	13	13	100.0	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	86	115	144	86	116	145	100.0	99.1	99.3
Gynae Cancers	26	33	52	27	33	53	96.3	100.0	98.1
Haematological Cancers	52	22	47	52	23	47	100.0	95.7	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	20	36	28	20	36	28	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	81	90	105	82	92	108	98.8	97.8	97.2
Lung Cancer	77	84	86	77	85	87	100.0	98.8	98.9
Sarcomas	1	1	3	1	1	3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Skin Cancers	75	74	93	76	76	93	98.7	97.4	100.0
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	42	47	52	42	47	53	100.0	100.0	98.1
Urological Cancer	94	103	137	101	109	148	93.1	94.5	92.6
Other	13	16	10	13	16	10	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland	573	634	770	583	647	788	98.3	98.0	97.7

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁶Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1, 5-7 & 14.

Table 10 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 Ireland⁷

	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	47.0	64.5	72.0	63.5	83.5	94.0	74.0	77.2	76.6
Northern	32.5	30.5	31.5	39.0	39.0	37.0	83.3	78.2	85.1
Southern	22.0	27.0	39.0	31.0	33.0	41.5	71.0	81.8	94.0
South Eastern	40.0	28.5	63.5	42.5	32.5	75.5	94.1	87.7	84.1
Western	21.5	21.5	32.0	23.0	28.0	40.0	93.5	76.8	80.0
Northern Ireland	163	172	238	199	216	288	81.9	79.6	82.6

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁷Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1, 8-13.

Table 11 Reporting on the 62 day waiting time target from an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer to treatment, by tumour site⁸

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	3	2	0	3	2	N/A	100.0	100.0
Breast Cancer	48	52	75	48	52	76	100.0	100.0	98.7
Gynae Cancers	8	7	17	8	8	19	100.0	87.5	89.5
Haematological Cancers	6	2	8	7	3	8	85.7	66.7	100.0
Head/Neck Cancer	6	13	3	7	15	5	85.7	86.7	60.0
Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer	16	7	18	20	17	36	80.0	41.2	50.0
Lung Cancer	23	21	20	24	28	27	95.8	75.0	74.1
Sarcomas	0	0	1	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	100.0
Skin Cancers	25	27	44	25	28	45	100.0	96.4	97.8
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer	8	6	6	12	8	7	66.7	75.0	85.7
Urological Cancer	21	30	40	45	49	57	46.7	61.2	70.2
Other	2	4	4	3	5	5	66.7	80.0	80.0
Northern Ireland	163	172	238	199	216	288	81.9	79.6	82.6

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁸Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1 & 8-14.

Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Departmental Return SDR2 and the Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS).
2. Data contained in Tables 1 and 7 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, and that were first seen during the months of April, May and June 2011. 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 and 7 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 Tables 1 and 7 reflect all urgent referrals for breast cancer both from GP's and other practitioners.
5. Data contained in Tables 2, 3, 8 and 9 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 2011, 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, 3, 8 and 9 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. Tables 3 and 9 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, 5, 6, 10 and 11 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 2011, 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 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.
9. The completed waiting time in Tables 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 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, 5, 10 and 11, 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.

11. The Ministerial target, for cancer waiting times, as detailed in the Schedule which is an addendum to the requirement set out in the body of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Commissioning Plan direction itself states that from April 2011, 95% of patients should begin their first treatment for cancer within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer. The Commissioning Plan direction will need to be read alongside the Indicators of Performance direction which will be issued later this year.
12. Between April 2008 and February 2009, the target relating to waiting time for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer required that 'at least 75% of patients urgently referred with a suspect cancer should begin their first definitive treatment within 62 days of urgent GP referral'. From March 2009 onwards this target increased to 95% of patients. These different targets are reflected in the trend graph for the 62 day target (Figure 8).
13. Tables 6 and 11 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.
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 July, August and September 2011 will be published on 5 January 2012.
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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