

16 February 2010

NHS Borders exceeds national cancer waiting time target

NHS Borders has achieved 100 % for people urgently referred and diagnosed with cancer - exceeding the national waiting time target by 5% - according to current figures.

Today Scotland's Chief Statistician published [Cancer Waiting Times Statistics for July to September 2009](#). The publication includes the number of cancer patients urgently referred for each of the geographic health boards and the proportion of these treated within 62 days of referral, broken down by tumour site.

NHS Borders has continued to perform well against the national target of 95%. Of the mainland Health Boards, NHS Borders had the highest proportion of patients starting treatment within 62 days of their referral, achieving 100% between July and September last year.

Ralph Roberts, Director of Integrated Health Strategy for NHS Borders welcomed the result, saying: 'We are committed to delivering first class health care and fast, responsive services that minimise anxiety for patients and their families. This achievement reflects our commitment and we are proud of the hard work of all our staff in delivering this result.'

Ends

Notes to Editors:

The main findings from the report are:

- 96.0% of reported urgently referred patients diagnosed with cancer in Scotland during July-September 2009 began treatment within 2 months (62 days). This is a small increase from 95.7% in the previous quarter and up from 91.6% in July-September 2007. The target set by the Scottish Government is 95%.
- The mainland NHS Board with the highest proportion of patients starting treatment within 62 days of urgent referral was NHS Borders (100%).
- The cancer types with the highest and lowest proportions of patients starting treatment within 62 days of urgent referral were cancer of the breast (97.3%) and colorectal cancers (93.4%), respectively.
- NHSScotland met the national target to treat 95% of urgently referred cancer patients within two months for the first time in the reporting period of October to December 2008, and this has continued through the period July-September 2009.

More..!

Contacts

For further information, contact Public Involvement & Communications NHS Borders on 01896 825589

Under the Scottish Government's action plan [Better Cancer Care](#) , the 62-day target will be applied to patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer and extended to include patients who are referred through the national cancer screening programmes. The action plan also sets a new target that by 2011, 95% of all patients diagnosed with cancer, whatever the route of referral, will start treatment within 31 days from the date of decision to treat.

Work is underway in defining and measuring the new cancer waiting time targets. The necessary changes to the official statistics data collection are being developed as part of this work, which is anticipated to begin reporting in June 2010. The statistics published here do not take account of these changes.

The consultation period for the publication of new cancer waiting times statistics closed on the 8th January 2010. Analysis of the feedback is now underway, and a Consultation Feedback Report will be published in March 2010.