

## CANCER PERFORMANCE REPORT

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### 1. Summary

1.1. The NHS Constitution includes a number of targets relating to treatment for cancer patients. These include the right to be seen within two weeks when referred for a suspected cancer and that patients will start a first definitive treatment for a new primary cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer within 62 days of the urgent referral date.

1.2. During the period April 2017 to March 2018 five of the nine operational cancer standards were delivered for Somerset patients; the standards not met include the 2 week and 62 Day operational standards as shown in the table below:

Year to Date - Cancer Waiting Times Standard achievement by Provider	Target	Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation	Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	Other Providers	Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Seen within two weeks of urgent GP or GDP referral of suspected cancer	93%	91.3%	95.2%	93.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.9%
Seen within two weeks of breast symptom GP referral	93%	90.5%	95.4%	87.3%	92.3%	90.9%	91.3%
Patients first treatment within 31 days of decision to treat	96%	97.5%	98.0%	98.0%	98.9%	94.8%	97.1%
Patients second or subsequent treatments by anti cancer drug within 31 days of decision to treat	98%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.0%	98.8%	99.8%
Patients second or subsequent treatments by surgery within 31 days of decision to treat	94%	96.3%	95.1%	100.0%	100.0%	92.9%	94.9%
Patients second or subsequent treatments by radiotherapy within 31 days of decision to treat	94%	96.4%	100.0%	100.0%	-	96.2%	96.7%
Patients first definitive treatment within 62 days of urgent GP or GDP referral	85%	76.9%	83.2%	84.1%	68.1%	84.1%	80.1%

Patients first definitive treatment within 62 days of cancer screening programme referral	90%	95.8%	93.8%	94.9%	0.0%	91.8%	94.7%
Patients first definitive treatment within 62 days of consultant upgrade	90%	81.8%	89.5%	50.0%	71.9%	-	85.8%

**1.3.** The key performance challenges during 2017-18 have been within the 2 week suspected cancer and 62 day first definitive treatment standards, across all Providers.

## **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

**2.1.** The Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire (SWAG) Cancer Alliance have been awarded £750,000 to improve and recover 62 day performance during Q2 2018-19 (July 2018 to September 2018) and for this to be sustained for the remainder of the year.

**2.2.** Both Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust submitted bids to support performance improvements; these have been assessed by the Cancer Alliance and will be ratified by NHS England and Somerset CCG awaits the final outcome.

## **3. Background**

**3.1.** The three key cancer waiting times standards are the 2 week suspected cancer, 31 day first treatment and 62 day treatment standards.

**3.2.** Somerset CCG has also experienced challenges in delivering the 2 week breast symptom standard; a high proportion of the breaches within this 2 week pathway relate to patient choice.

**3.3.** Somerset CCG met the second or subsequent treatment 31 data standards during 2017-18.

**3.4. 2 Week Wait for Suspected Cancer:** Somerset CCG has experienced a 4.2% increase in cancer demand during 2017-18 with notable increase in the number of suspected breast, head and neck, lower gastrointestinal and lung cancer referrals. Whilst there has not been an overall increase in the number of diagnosed cancer cases there has been increased prevalence of cancer within head and neck, lower gastrointestinal and lung.

**3.5.** Somerset CCG narrowly missed the 2 week operational standard with performance of 92.9% against the 93.0% standard during 2017-18; the standard was recovered from November 2018 but as a consequence of the adverse weather performance deteriorated to 90.2% in March 2018 which led to the nondelivery of the standard on a cumulative basis during 2017-18.

- 3.6.** The Provider who had the most significant impact upon Somerset CCG's commissioned performance was Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust where the predominant reason for breach was a combination of patient initiated delay (patient choice) and capacity constraints (superficially CT capacity).
- 3.7. First Definitive Treatment Within 31 Days of Cancer Diagnosis:** Somerset CCG met the 31 day wait for a first treatment for cancer after a decision to treat in 2017-18 with performance of 97.1% against the 96% standard. With the exception of county Providers (classified as 'Other Providers'\*) all Providers met the operational standard.
- \*Other Providers include: University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust*
- 3.8. 62 days From Urgent GP Referral for Suspected Cancer to First Treatment:** Somerset CCG did not meet the 62 day waiting time standard during 2017-18; performance was 80.1% against the 85% standard and no local Provider met the standard on a cumulative basis during the year.
- 3.9.** The Providers with the most significant under performance during 2017-18 were Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Weston Area Health NHS Trust.
- 3.10.** Delays during the diagnostic phase of the pathway have impacted upon Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's ability to meet the 62-day cancer standard. In some cases these diagnostics are undertaken at other specialist cancer centres and have the potential to elongate the patient pathway. In addition to diagnostic complexity other factors impacting upon the pathway duration include patient choice, complex planning, specialist MDT discussions and genetic testing.

The Trust has a 62 Day Improvement Plan in place which has a strong focus upon lung, colorectal, head and neck and urology pathways (where there is the highest concentration of breach and actions have been grouped under the following key themes:

- Improving Diagnostic Pathway for Suspected Cancer Patients
- Managing 2-Week Wait Demand
- Improving Cancer Pathways
- Improving Administrative Management of Suspected Cancer Patients

In addition, the Trust is undertaking a benchmarking of pathways with other Providers to identify any potential pathway improvements that could be made by the Trust.

- 3.11.** Somerset CCG actions to improve cancer performance and recovery of the operational standards include:
- A Cancer Roadshow for clinicians to include new pathway developments and early diagnosis is being scheduled for July 2017. The roadshow is open to both Primary and Secondary clinicians in order to exchange

clinical information to improve pathways which in turn will inform the future work programme.

- Somerset CCG's lead GP is working with Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to implement a straight to test colorectal pilot.
- A pilot of direct to test for CT colon commenced in April 2018 in 2 practices in Somerset. The CCG's GP clinical and cancer management leads are working with the colorectal team at Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to support the implementation.
- FIT testing for symptomatic patients is going live across Somerset in June 2018.
- Somerset CCG is working with the Cancer Alliance to deliver the colorectal, prostate and lung timed cancer pathways.

**3.12.** In May 2018 it was reported in the national media that up to 309,000 women nationally aged between 70 and 79 years would be offered the opportunity for a catch up NHS breast screening test during 2018. The decision follows analysis by Public Health England which identified that a number of invitations for a final test had not been sent out to women between their 68<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. Public Health England have recently reported that all affected women have been written to and advised to contact their breast screening unit to schedule an appointment and anticipate that the effected women will be dealt with within 6 months.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

4.1. Not applicable

#### **5. Implications**

5.1. Early diagnosis is key to ensuring effective treatment, improving patient experience and clinical outcomes. A new 28-day faster diagnosis standard, which has been designed to ensure that patients find out within 28 days whether or not they have cancer, will be introduced in 2020.

#### **6. Background papers**

6.1. Not applicable

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author