Exclusions and waiting times adjustments against the 31-day target from date of decision to treat to first cancer treatment.

Please read the notes below before looking at the data.

Table 6: Exclusions and waiting times adjustments against the 31-day target from date of decision to treat to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network

Notes
Source: ISD New Cancer Waiting Times: Data provided from NHS Boards and compiled by ISD Scotland.

Inclusion Criteria
The cancer waiting times targets are applicable to:

1. NHS Scotland patients with a newly diagnosed primary cancer for all cancer types for which data are recorded: breast (ICD-10 C50 or D05), colorectal (ICD-10 C18-C20), head and neck (ICD-10 C00-14, C30-C32, C76.0), lung (ICD-10 code C33-34), lymphoma (ICD-10 C81-C85), melanoma (i.e. Clark level > 1, except eye), gynaec-ovarian (ICD-10 C48, C56 & D39.1), upper GI (ICD-10 C15-C16, C17.0 and C22-C25), and urological (ICD-10 C60-68). Recurring cancers are not covered by these waiting times targets.
2. Adults (over 16 at date of diagnosis)
3. Patient included if an NHS Board commissions part of the patient's pathway to NHS England or to the private sector
4. Patients started treatment within the specific quarter are eligible.

Exclusion Criteria and Waiting Times Adjustments
A patient will be excluded from reporting against the Cancer Waiting Times targets for the following reasons:

1. The patient chooses to have any part of their pathway out with NHSScotland (if this is before the decision to treat they will be excluded from the 62-day target and if after the decision to treat they will be excluded from both targets)
2. The patient died before treatment.
3. The patient refused all treatment.
4. The patient was deemed a clinically complex case by the lead cancer clinician of the responsible NHS Board.

As part of a patient’s pathway there may be some areas of delay not attributable to NHS Board performance, and in these cases an adjustment can be made to discount periods of patient unavailability. If applicable, the cumulative number of days by which the waiting times pathway can be adjusted (before and/or after the decision to treat) is then subtracted from the total wait (in days) to give an adjusted wait. Adjustments can be made for the following patient-induced delays and medical suspensions:

1. Patient did not attend an appointment.
2. Patient cancelled an appointment.
3. Patient deferred an appointment.
4. Temporary co-morbidity.
5. Other patient-induced suspension.
6. Medical suspension.
Eligible referral – all urgent and non-urgent referrals submitted from all sources (regardless of route of referral) excluding patients who had a clinically complex pathway, died before treatment or who refused treatment.

Exclusions – patients who had a clinically complex pathway, died before treatment or who refused treatment.

Median adjustment – the middle value of waiting time adjustment days. Medians are only calculated where there are three or more waiting times adjustments.

SCAN – South East Scotland Cancer Network.

Referral – a request to a care professional, team, service or organisation to provide appropriate care to a patient/client. A referral may be made by a person, team, service or organisation on behalf of a patient/client, or a patient/client may refer him/herself.

Total referrals submitted (Urgent & Non-urgent referrals) – all referrals (urgent and non-urgent) submitted from all sources i.e. regardless of the route of referral.

Urgent referral - referral submitted with a suspicion of cancer by a GP or GDP or direct referral to hospital (self, GP or NHS24 referral to A&E or other).

Waiting times adjustment – an adjustment (in days) applied to take into account periods of patient unavailability (e.g. because the patient did not attend an appointment) and/or medical suspension (e.g. the patient had another condition requiring treatment before cancer treatment could be started). Waiting times adjustments are not made when delays are caused by hospital operational circumstances.

For some patients it will not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within 31 days of date decision to treat, therefore a tolerance level of 5% is applied to the new targets, i.e. the stated waiting time must be met for 95% of all patients covered by the target.

Further information on data quality and accuracy can be found on the Data Accuracy web pages.

Further information on New Cancer Waiting Times Data & Definitions can be found on the Guidance section of the website.
Table 6: Exclusions and waiting times adjustments against the 31-day target from date decision to treat to first cancer treatment by NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network.
Period of treatment: 1st April - 30th June 2010
All Cancer Types¹
Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of first treatment</th>
<th>Total referrals submitted (urgent &amp; non-urgent)²</th>
<th>Exclusions</th>
<th>Number of eligible referrals¹</th>
<th>Referrals included in analysis but with WTA made³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excluded from target calculations²</td>
<td>Percentage Exclusions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Patient Delay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Median adjustment (Days)⁴</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Median adjustment (Days)⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>4553</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4434</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOSCAN Total</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOSCAN</td>
<td>NHS Grampian</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NHS Highland</td>
<td>272</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NHS Orkney</td>
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<td>NHS Shetland</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>NHS Tayside</td>
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<td>3.1%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NHS Western Isles</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAN Total</td>
<td>1258</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1218</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCAN</td>
<td>NHS Borders</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NHS Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NHS Fife</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NHS Lothian</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOSCAN Total</td>
<td>2106</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2047</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOSCAN</td>
<td>NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>286</td>
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<td>NHS Forth Valley</td>
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<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NHS Lanarkshire</td>
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<td>National Waiting Times Centre</td>
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<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Jubilee National Hospital</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source: ISD New Cancer Waiting Times. Data for April - June 2010 as at 19th August 2010 may be subject to change in future publications.

1. All cancer types for which data are recorded: breast, colorectal, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, ovarian, upper GI, and urological.

2. All referrals (urgent and non-urgent) submitted from all sources i.e. regardless of route of referral.

3. Those patients who had a clinically complex pathway, died before treatment or who refused treatment.

4. The number of referrals for which performance against the 31-day target is monitored (i.e. all referrals minus those patients excluded).

5. Eligible referrals with waiting times adjustments applied for periods of patient unavailability (e.g. because the patient did not attend an appointment) and/or medical suspension (e.g. the patient had another condition requiring treatment before cancer treatment could be started). N.B. Waiting times adjustments are not made when delays are caused by hospital operational circumstances.

6. The median adjustment is the middle value of waiting time adjustment days. Medians have only been calculated where there are three or more waiting times adjustments.

7. NOSCAN = North of Scotland CAncer Network
   SCAN = South East Scotland CAncer Network
   WOSCAN = West of Scotland CAncer Network

Further information on data quality and accuracy can be found on the Data Accuracy web pages.
Further information on New Cancer Waiting Times Data & Definitions can be found on the Guidance section of the website.

- No referrals submitted during this period of treatment.

n/a: Not applicable due to small numbers.

For some patients it will not be clinically appropriate for treatment to begin within 31 days of date decision to treat, therefore a tolerance level of 5% is applied to the new targets, i.e. the stated waiting time must be met for 95% of all patients covered by the target.