



Head & Neck Cancer Quality Performance Indicators

Patients diagnosed between April 2018 and March 2021

An Official Statistics release for Scotland

Publication date: 10 May 2022

About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) presents performance against the National Head & Neck Cancer Quality Performance Indicators (QPIs) in the Cancer QPIs dashboard held within the Scottish Cancer Registry and Intelligence Service (SCRIS).

Main points

- There were 1,182 people diagnosed with Head & Neck Cancer in Scotland from April 2020 to March 2021. This was an increase from April 2019 to March 2020 where 1,143 people were diagnosed but a reduction from April 2018 to March 2019 (1,243 people diagnosed).
- At Scotland level for April 2020 to March 2021, the target was met for 11 of the 19 indicators.

QPI	Target	Apr 18 - Mar 19	Apr 19 - Mar 20	Apr 20 - Mar 21
QPI 1: Pathological Diagnosis of Head and Neck Cancer	95%	97.4	95.7	95.2
QPI 2(i): Imaging	95%	96.6	94.5	95.9
QPI 2(ii): Imaging where report is available within 2 weeks of the final imaging procedure	95%	95.2	95.6	99.0
QPI 3: Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting (MDT)	95%	97.8	95.8	97.9
QPI 4: Smoking Cessation	95%	53.4	59.7	65.9
QPI 5(i): Oral and Dental Rehabilitation Plan. Joint decision by consultants in restorative dentistry and the MDT	95%	90.8	88.0	91.1
QPI 5(ii): Oral and Dental Rehabilitation Plan. Pre-treatment assessment prior to treatment initiation	95%	91.7	88.1	90.4
QPI 6: Nutritional Screening	95%	80.5	74.9	76.5
QPI 7: Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Access	90%	55.1	55.6	67.5
QPI 8: Surgical Margins	<10%	5.2	5.9	10.1
QPI 9: Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)	95%	99.8	98.8	99.8
QPI 10: Post Operative Chemoradiotherapy	55%	43.6	29.5	41.7
QPI 11(i): 30 Day Mortality (Chemoradiotherapy)	<5%	1.3	0.9	0.4
QPI 11(i): 30 Day Mortality (Radical Radiotherapy)	<5%	4.5	3.4	2.5
QPI 11(i): 30 Day Mortality (Surgery)	<5%	0.4	0.3	1.1
QPI 11(ii): 90 Day Mortality (Chemoradiotherapy)	<5%	1.7	2.3	0.5
QPI 11(ii): 90 Day Mortality (Radical Radiotherapy)	<5%	5.7	4.5	5.0
QPI 11(ii): 90 Day Mortality (Surgery)	<5%	0.9	2.0	2.2
QPI 12: Clinical Trials and Research Study Access	15%	9.0	12.0	6.9

 Target met
 Target not met

- Some of the QPI targets have proved challenging to achieve over the three years (Smoking Cessation, Oral and Dental Rehabilitation, Nutritional Screening, Specialist speech and language access, Post Operative Chemoradiotherapy and Clinical Trials).
- It is reassuring however that several QPIs achieved the target nationally (QPIs relating to Pathological Diagnosis, Imaging, Multi-Disciplinary team meeting, Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy and 30/90 day mortality).
- Following a national formal review of Head & Neck Cancer QPIs in late 2021, there will be numerous changes to existing QPIs in future years.

Background

National cancer quality performance indicators have been developed to support continuous quality improvement in cancer care (**CEL 06 2012**). NHS Boards are required to report these indicators against a clinically agreed indicator specific target as part of the mandatory national cancer quality programme. They have been developed collaboratively by **North Cancer Alliance, South East Scotland Cancer Network, West of Scotland Cancer Network, Healthcare Improvement Scotland** and PHS.

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Further information

- The Cancer QPIs dashboard is restricted and may be accessed with permission via <https://useraccess.nhsnss.scot.nhs.uk>
- Network Reports on Head & Neck QPIs: **NCA, SCAN, WoSCAN**
- QPI Definitions and updates on **Head & Neck Cancer indicators**
- PHS QPI **Publications**

The next release of this publication will be May 2025.

Other formats of this publication are available on request by calling 0131 314 5300 or emailing phs.otherformats@phs.scot.

PHS and Official Statistics

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