

11 December 2023

Cancer Operations 1 June to 31 August 2023

1. How many cancer operations took place from 1 June 2023 until 31 August 2023?

Belfast Trust is currently unable to provide accurate totals for this time period due to the Trusts three month delay in coding on PAS.

Information will be provided by 15 December 2023 to answer this question.

2. How many cancer operations were postponed 1 June 2023 until 31 August 2023 and what was the reason?

The data below relates to cancer patients who had their procedure postponed by Belfast Trust between the dates 1 June 2023 – 31 August 2023, who had an admission date recorded on the Belfast Trust Acute Hospital Patient Administration System.

The data excludes patients where their admission date was earlier than planned or where they were admitted on the planned day but to a different location or under a different consultant.

Reason For Cancellation	Total Cancer OP Cancellations
HOSP CANC ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR	8
HOSP CANC ANAESTHETIST UNAVAILABLE	11
HOSP CANC BED UNAVAILABLE	21
HOSP CANC EQUIPMENT FAILURE	2
HOSP CANC LESS THAN 3 WEEKS NOTICE	17
HOSP CANC LIST OVERRUN	1
HOSP CANC NO INTERPRETER AVAILABLE	3
HOSP CANC NO THEATRE SLOT DUE TO EMERGENCY	34
HOSP CANC NURSE UNAVAILABLE	1
HOSP CANC ON MEDICATION/UNFIT	2
HOSP CANC UNSUITABLE FOR DAY SURGERY	1
Total	101

3. How many biopsies took place 1 June 2023 until 31 August 2023? Of these how many were within recommended time frames?

Belfast Trust cannot provide this information.

Biopsies are not coded in all treatment areas and any that are coded will not generally specify diagnosis when biopsy is taken.

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4. What are the policy timeframes for cancer patients for:

- **Scans to include MRI and PE T**
- **Biopsies**
- **Appointment of nurse to patient**
- **Required surgery**
- **Treatments commencement**

The only official policy timeframes for red flags that are set out by the Department of Health are the 14, 31 and 62 day targets.

Northern Ireland Cancer Services waiting time targets:

- At least 98% of patients diagnosed with cancer should receive their first definitive treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat.
- At least 95% of patients urgently referred by a GP with a suspected cancer should begin their first definitive treatment within 62 days.
- All urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days.