

In March 2022 the planned care recovery plan [Transforming and modernising planned care and reducing NHS waiting lists | GOV.WALES](#) was issued.

In this document the following ambitions were agreed:

- No one waiting longer than a year for their first outpatient appointment by the end of 2022.
- Eliminate the number of people waiting longer than two years in most specialities by March 2023.
- Eliminate the number of people waiting longer than one year in most specialities by Spring 2025.
- Increase the speed of diagnostic testing and reporting to eight weeks and 14 weeks for therapy interventions by Spring 2024.
- Cancer diagnosis and treatment to be undertaken within 62 days for 80% of people by 2026.

Despite the progress made in 2022/23, the first two targets were not achieved and as such have been carried forward into expectations in 2023-24.

To support delivery against the commitment to remove two year waits two additional in year Ministerial milestones measures have been requested by the Minister for the NHS organisations to achieve in 2023/24:

- By end of December 2023, 97% of all RTT pathways will be waiting under 2 years.
- By the end of March 2024, 99% of all RTT pathways will be waiting under 2 years.

In Annex A is the list of all NHS performance measures for planned care waiting lists which form part of the 2023-24 performance framework which the NHS is held accountable to deliver. I have specifically pulled out the performance measures related to elective/planned care waiting list. There are other waiting lists/times we measure which are also included in the performance framework, I have therefore enclosed a link 2023/24 Performance Framework for your information [NHS Wales performance framework 2023 to 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

Annex A: Planned Care Measures in the NHS performance Framework 2023-24

Performance Measure		Target	Reporting Frequency	Source	Ministerial Priority	Status
24	Percentage of patients starting their first definitive cancer treatment within 62 days from point of suspicion (regardless of the referral route)	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of 80% by 31 March 2026	Monthly	Suspected Cancer Pathway Data Set (DHCW)	Cancer Recovery	
		<p>Rationale: An early diagnosis and treatment of cancer will increase an individual's chance of survival and reduce the likely harm to the individual's health and quality of life. Therefore, there is a need to diagnose and treat patients with cancer as promptly as possible. This measure includes all suspected cancers and starts from the point a patient is suspected of having cancer.</p>				
25	Number of patients waiting more than 8 weeks for a specified diagnostic	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero by 31 March 2024	Monthly	Diagnostic & Therapies Waiting Times Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	Revised
		<p>Rationale: Diagnostic tests and investigations are used to identify a patient's condition, disease or injury. Diagnostic testing provides essential information to enable clinicians and patients to make the right clinical decisions. Early detection and diagnosis can prevent the patient suffering unnecessary pain and it can reduce the scale and cost of treatment.</p>				

Performance Measure		Target	Reporting Frequency	Source	Ministerial Priority	Status
26	<p>Percentage of children (aged under 18 years) waiting 14 weeks or less for a specified Allied Health Professional (Includes: Art therapy; podiatry; dietetics; occupational therapy, physiotherapy and; speech and language therapy)</p>	12 month improvement trend	Monthly	Diagnostic & Therapies Waiting Times Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	New
		<p>Rationale: Children, due to their developmental requirements, receiving timely access to a specified Allied Health Professional should experience improved outcomes. Reducing the time that a child (under 18 years) waits for a therapy service reduces the risk of the condition deteriorating and supports their developmental requirements. This measure provides greater transparency and encourages improvement in the timeliness of accessing NHS Allied Health Professionals.</p>				
27	<p>Number of patients (all ages) waiting more than 14 weeks for a specified therapy (including audiology)</p>	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero by 31 March 2024	Monthly	Diagnostic & Therapies Waiting Times Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	Revised
		<p>Rationale: Patients receiving timely access to a specified therapy or audiology should experience improved outcomes. Reducing the time that a patient waits for a service reduces the risk of the condition deteriorating and alleviates the patient's symptoms sooner. This measure provides greater transparency and encourages improvement in the timeliness of accessing NHS therapy or audiology services.</p>				

Performance Measure		Target	Reporting Frequency	Source	Ministerial Priority	Status
28	Number of patients waiting more than 52 weeks for a new outpatient appointment	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero	Monthly	Referral to Treatment (combined) Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	Revised
		Rationale: The number of patients waiting for a new outpatient appointment has increased year on year whilst capacity has been unable to meet demand. NHS organisations are required to improve service planning and clinical pathways to deliver sustainable planned care services, where waiting lists are reduced to a manageable level.				
29	Number of patients waiting more than 36 weeks for a new outpatient appointment	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero	Monthly	Referral to Treatment (combined) Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	New
		Rationale: As above.				
30	Number of patients waiting for a follow-up outpatient appointment who are delayed by over 100%	Improvement trajectory towards the national target of zero	Monthly	Outpatient Follow-Up Delay Monitoring Return (Welsh Government)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	Revised
		Rationale: The number of patients waiting for a follow-up outpatient appointment has increased year on year whilst capacity has been unable to meet demand. NHS organisations are required to				

	improve service planning and clinical pathways to deliver sustainable planned care services, where waiting lists are reduced to a manageable level. Supported by the use of Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU) and Seen On Symptom (SOS) pathways.
--	--

Performance Measure		Target	Reporting Frequency	Source	Ministerial Priority	Status
31	Number of patients waiting more than 104 weeks for referral to treatment	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero	Monthly	Referral to Treatment (combined) Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	Revised
		<p>Rationale: Patients receiving timely access to high quality elective treatment and care should experience improved outcomes. Reducing the time that a patient waits for treatment reduces the risk of the condition deteriorating and alleviates the patient's symptoms, pain and discomfort sooner. This measure provides greater transparency and encourages improvement in the timeliness of treatment across NHS services.</p>				
32	Number of patients waiting more than 52 weeks for referral to treatment	Improvement trajectory towards a national target of zero	Monthly	Referral to Treatment (combined) Dataset (DHCW)	Planned Care Recovery, Diagnostics & Pathways of Care	New
		<p>Rationale: As above.</p>				