

NATIONAL CANCER STRATEGY 2017-2026

Key Performance Indicators: December 2020

#	Objective/Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Target Date	End 2020 Position
1	Reduce the proportion of adults in the population who smoke	Percentage of adults (aged 15+) in population smoking daily	5%	2025 (interim 17% by 2018)	2015: 23% 2019: 17% (2019 Annual Healthy Ireland Survey)
2	Introduce cancer awareness campaigns for specific diseases (e.g. Lung Cancer)	Percentage of lung cancers diagnosed at Stage I and II one year following awareness campaign	15% relative increase	One year after awareness campaign	The NCCP collaborated with the voluntary sector to conduct lung cancer public awareness campaigns in September and November 2020.
3	Expand electronic referrals for all GP cancer referrals	Percentage of GP referrals received electronically	95%	End 2022 (interim 75% by end 2019)	Jan - Dec 2020 >95% at Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics >95% at Prostate Rapid Access Clinics 47% at Lung Rapid Access Clinics ¹ (NCCP)
4	Increase proportion of cancers diagnosed early	Percentage of colorectal, breast, and lung cancers diagnosed at Stage I and II	10% relative increase on 2013 figures	2020	Baseline Figure - 2013: Colorectal: 39% Breast: 79% Lung: 27.5% 2014: Colorectal: 38.4% Breast: 77.3% Lung: 25.8% (NCRI) 2015: Colorectal: 39.7% Breast: 79.7% Lung: 28.7%
5	Ensure Rapid Access Clinic and Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinic targets are met	Percentage of new patients attending RAC or SBD clinic within timeframe	95%	2017	Jan-Dec 2020 (Patient Numbers): Breast: 70.4% (20,175) Lung: 86.7% (3,319) Prostate: 51.8% (3,036) (NCCP)
6	Ensure GPs have direct access to diagnostics for patients meeting referral criteria	Percentage of patients accessing imaging/diagnostics/endoscopy within agreed timelines	90%	2020	The improvements made for GP access to diagnostics generally, in the context of Covid-19, have impacted positively on cancer patients. Direct access to MRI, CT, X-Ray and DEXA scans is available to GPs for GMS patients in Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). (Percentages not available)
7	Reduce the proportion of cancers detected in Emergency Departments	Percentage of cancers diagnosed in Emergency Departments	50% relative decrease over 2013 figure	2026	2013: 13.5% 2015-2017: 13.9% ² (NCRI)
8	Maintain target uptake rate for BreastCheck	Percentage uptake rate for BreastCheck screening population	70%	2017-2026	Jan-Sept 2020: 67% (NSS)
9	Achieve target coverage rate for CervicalCheck	Percentage five year rolling coverage of CervicalCheck in screening population	80%	2017-2026	Jan-Sept 2020 76.8% (NSS)
10	Achieve target uptake rate for BowelScreen	Percentage uptake rate for BowelScreen screening population	60%	2020 (interim measure of 45% by end 2018)	Jan-Sept 2020: 44.7% (NSS)
11	Complete centralisation of cancer surgical services	Percentage of surgeries conducted in approved centres	95%	Various target dates to 2020	2020: 87% ³ (NCCP)
12	Ensure that patients have their case discussed at an MDT meeting	Percentage of patients diagnosed with invasive cancers formally discussed at MDT meetings	95%	End 2020	Breast, lung, prostate, and rectal cancers combined: Jan-Sept 2020: 94% (NCCP)
13	Ensure that patients on active treatment receive appropriate admission in emergency situations	Percentage of patients on active cancer treatment admitted to hospital for cancer treatment that are admitted through Emergency Departments.	Less than 20%	2018	The National Cancer Information System, which is in operation in four sites, will facilitate collection of the relevant data when it has been rolled out nationally. Part of the work of 26 Acute Oncology nurses, recruited in 2020, is to facilitate appropriate admission in emergency situations.
14	Ensure patients with cancer are admitted to cancer units	Percentage of patients requiring active treatment for their cancer admitted to dedicated cancer units in hospitals	80%	2020	The NCCP is working to develop this pathway and to ascertain how best to capture the data.
15	Reduce waiting times for surgery	Percentage of patients seen within NCCP target surgery timeframes for defined cancers	90%	2017	Jan-Jun 2020 Breast: 77% Lung: 55%
16	Achieve the radiotherapy treatment target	Percentage of patients commencing treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat	90%	2017	2020: 82.2% (NCCP)
17	Offer patients with cancer a Treatment Summary and Care Plan	Percentage of patients receiving a Treatment Summary and Care Plan	95%	2020; interim target 50% by 2018	The NCCP's Survivorship Working Group is progressing the development of a Model Patient Treatment Summary and Care Plan. A Colorectal Patient Passport is in pilot phase in a number of hospitals (Strategy Recommendation 40).
18	Avoid chemotherapy in patients with advanced cancer who are unlikely to benefit as they are in the terminal phase of their disease	Percentage of patients with metastatic cancer given chemotherapy in last month of life	Less than 25%	2019	The National Cancer Information System, which is in operation in four sites, will facilitate collection of the relevant data when it has been rolled out nationally.
19	Increase proportion of patients receiving specialist palliative care	Percentage of patients with cancer with Stage IV disease receiving specialist palliative care	90%	2019	The National Cancer Information System, which is in operation in four sites, will facilitate collection of the relevant data when it has been rolled out nationally.
20	Increase patient participation in clinical trials	Percentage of patients on cancer therapeutic clinical trials	6%	2020	2017: 3% ⁴ (Cancer Trials Ireland)
21	Improve Ireland's cancer ranking among EU member states	Ireland to be in top quartile for five year survival among EU member states	Top Quartile for overall survival	2026	5-Year Survival 2010-2014: Oesophagus: 4 of 22 Brain: 4 of 23 Lymphoma: 4 of 21 Lung: 6 of 24 Prostate: 6 of 24 Pancreas: 8 of 23 Melanoma Skin: 8 of 24 Stomach: 9 of 24 Rectum: 9 of 24 Liver: 9 of 23 Liver: 9 of 23 Colon: 13 of 24 Cervix: 16 of 24 Breast: 16 of 24 Ovary: 23 of 24 (CONCORD - International Cancer Survival Comparisons)
22	Reduce inequalities in age standardised cancer incidence for all malignant neoplasms (excl. NMSC)	Comparison between bottom 20% deprivation vs. top 20%	Difference no greater than 3%	2026	Incidence is 3.8% higher in most-deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20% (2008-2012) ⁵ (NCRI)
23	Reduce inequalities in five year survival for: all cancers combined (excl. NMSC); colorectal; lung; and breast	Comparison between bottom 20% deprivation vs. top 20%	Difference no greater than 3%	2026	Survival is 11.4% lower in most-deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20% (2008-2012) ⁵ (NCRI)

¹ Many patients with suspected lung cancer are referred to the Lung Rapid Access Clinics through Emergency Departments, rather than through GPs.

² Cumulative over three years 2015-2017.

³ In light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on hospital theatres, ICU and HDU capacity, much public time-sensitive cancer surgery was undertaken in private hospitals in 2020.

⁴ Issues pertaining to the establishment of the total numbers (and the %) of patients on cancer therapeutic clinical trials are being examined.

⁵ Figures for 2013-2018 being compiled in NCRI.