

# NATIONAL CANCER STRATEGY 2017-2026

## Key Performance Indicators: December 2023

#	Objective/Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Target Date	End 2023 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)	<p>2015: 23%</p> <p>2019: 17%</p> <p>2021: 16%</p> <p>2022: 14%</p> <p>2023: 14%</p> <p>(2023 Annual Healthy Ireland Survey)</p>
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	NCCP published Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Cancer Plan 2022 – 2025 to guide implementation of initiatives (including awareness campaigns) to improve early diagnosis of cancer. Implementation of plan has commenced. National social media awareness campaign was delivered in 2022. Early detection of lung cancer is improving in Ireland (from 19% diagnosed at stage I/II in 2004-2008 to 30% in 2014-2018), likely due to a combination of multiple factors, including awareness-raising.
3	Expand electronic referrals for all GP cancer referrals	Percentage of GP referrals received electronically	95%	End 2022 (interim 75% by end 2019)	Over 59,000 (breast, prostate, and lung rapid access clinics) electronic cancer referrals were received in 2023, an 8% increase on 2022. (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	<p><b>2013:</b> Colorectal: 42.5% Breast: 79.8% Lung: 30.1%</p> <p><b>2016:</b> Colorectal: 44.3% Breast: 79.8% Lung: 33.1% (NCRI)</p> <p><b>2017<sup>2</sup>:</b> Colorectal: 45.0% Breast: 79.0% Lung: 33.4%</p>
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	<p><b>Jan-Dec 2023 (Patient Numbers):</b> Breast (Urgent): 77.7% (26,124) Lung: 83.5% (4,744) Prostate: 87.0% (4,976) (NCCP)</p>
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	<p>2013: 13.5%</p> <p>2015-2017: 13.9%<sup>3</sup></p> <p>2016-2019: 14.4%<sup>3</sup></p> <p>(NCRI)</p>
8	Maintain target uptake rate for BreastCheck	Percentage uptake rate for BreastCheck screening population	70%	2017-2026	<p><b>Jan-Dec 2022:</b> 71.5%<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(NSS)</p>
9	Achieve target coverage rate for CervicalCheck	Percentage five year rolling coverage of CervicalCheck in screening population	80%	2017-2026	<p><b>Jan-Dec 2022:</b> 73.5%<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(NSS)</p>
10	Achieve target uptake rate for BowelScreen	Percentage uptake rate for BowelScreen screening population	60%	2020 (interim measure of 45% by end 2018)	<p><b>Jan-Dec 2022:</b> 43.2%<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(NSS)</p>

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11	Complete centralisation of cancer surgical services	Percentage of surgeries conducted in approved centres	95%	Various target dates to 2020	<b>2023:</b> 84.6% (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	<b>Breast, lung, prostate, and rectal cancers combined</b> Jan-Dec 2023: 94.2% (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	Building on the resilience of the National Acute Oncology Nursing Service has commenced with discussions with the Irish National Ambulance Service, UK collaborations for the provision of a 24/7 dedicated telephone triage service. The 26 Acute Oncology nurses, recruited in 2020, facilitate appropriate admission in emergency situations 8am-4pm. Work has commenced to incorporate Nursing triage data collection to ensure real-time and accurate metrics data are reported through the National Cancer Information System, which is in operation in sixteen sites.
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	<b>2023<sup>5</sup></b> Breast: 70.6% Lung: 58.5% Prostate (Jan- Dec 2022): 45.3% (Pancreas not available yet for 2022 or 2023) (NCCP)
16	Achieve the radiotherapy treatment target	Percentage of patients commencing treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat	90%	2017	<b>Jan-Dec 2023 (Patient Numbers)</b> 64.6% (6,338) (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 Patient Passport for patients with Colorectal Cancer has been finalised and is in use the majority of cancer centres. A consensus statement on the standardised national follow up and surveillance protocol for colorectal cancer has been finalised and published on the NCCP website.  Treatment Summary & Care Plan for patients with prostate cancer are being introduced with the stratified self-managed follow up pathways at the phase 1 hospital sites Mater, Limerick and Galway.  Minimum dataset of the essential components for inclusion on the breast Treatment Summary & Care Plan finalised and endorsed NCCP Executive & the Clinical Leads.  A general treatment summary is being designed in NCIS.
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 sixteen 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 sixteen 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	In 2022, the National Cancer Research Group agreed to collect data on current research activity to support the implementation of Recommendation 46 of the Cancer Strategy.

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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	<p><b>5-Year Survival 2010-2014:</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Oesophagus: 4 of 22</td> <td>Pancreas: 8 of 23</td> <td>Liver: 9 of 23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brain: 4 of 23</td> <td>Melanoma Skin: 8 of 24</td> <td>Colon: 13 of 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lymphoma: 4 of 21</td> <td>Stomach: 9 of 24</td> <td>Cervix: 16 of 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lung: 6 of 24</td> <td>Rectum: 9 of 24</td> <td>Breast: 16 of 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prostate: 6 of 24</td> <td>Liver: 9 of 23</td> <td>Ovary: 23 of 24</td> </tr> </table> <p>(CONCORD - International Cancer Survival Comparisons)</p>	Oesophagus: 4 of 22	Pancreas: 8 of 23	Liver: 9 of 23	Brain: 4 of 23	Melanoma Skin: 8 of 24	Colon: 13 of 24	Lymphoma: 4 of 21	Stomach: 9 of 24	Cervix: 16 of 24	Lung: 6 of 24	Rectum: 9 of 24	Breast: 16 of 24	Prostate: 6 of 24	Liver: 9 of 23	Ovary: 23 of 24
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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	<p><b>2014-2018 (most up-to-date period)</b></p> <p>Age-standardised cancer incidence is 8.5% (female) and 7.9% (male) higher in most deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20%<sup>4</sup>. (NCRI)</p>															
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	<p><b>2014-2018 (most up-to-date period)</b></p> <p>Survival for all cancers combined is 9.1% lower in most deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20% (2014-2018), 5.4% lower for colorectal cancer, 8.3% lower for lung cancer, and 4.4% lower for female breast cancer<sup>4</sup>. (NCRI)</p>															

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

<sup>2</sup> Most recent year for which full data is available

<sup>3</sup> Cumulative over three years

<sup>4</sup> Data is provisional and may be subject to change due to ongoing validation processes

<sup>5</sup> Data is incomplete for 2023; partial data is provided where available

<sup>6</sup> Issues pertaining to the establishment of the total numbers (and the %) of patients on cancer therapeutic clinical trials are being examined. In 2021, the NCCP examined Irish and international clinical trial definitions and the use of the National Cancer Information System (NCIS) as a data collection tool in this regard