NATIONAL CANCER STRATEGY 2017-2026

Key Performance Indicators: December 2021

#	Objective/Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Target Date	End 2021 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% 2021 : 16% (2021 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	In 2021, the NCCP collaborated with CHO9 Health and Wellbeing on the development of early detection of lung cancer resources for community health workers. A national social media public awareness campaign commenced in October 2021.
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 2021 >95% at Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics >95% at Prostate Rapid Access Clinics >95% 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	2013: 2016: 2017²: Colorectal: 43% Colorectal: 44% Colorectal: 45% Breast: 80% Breast: 79% Breast: 79% Lung: 30% Lung: 33% Lung: 33% (NCRI)
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 2 021 (Patient Numbers) Breast ³ : 56% (25,363) Lung ⁴ : 90% (3,667) Prostate ⁵ : 67% (3,623) (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 :14% 2015-2017 : 14% ⁶ (NCRI)
8	Maintain target uptake rate for BreastCheck	Percentage uptake rate for BreastCheck screening population	70%	2017-2026	Jan-Dec 2021: 71% ⁷ (NSS)
9	Achieve target coverage rate for CervicalCheck	Percentage five year rolling coverage of CervicalCheck in screening population	80%	2017-2026	Jan-Dec 2021: 73% ⁷ (NSS)
10	Achieve target uptake rate for BowelScreen	Percentage uptake rate for BowelScreen screening population	60%	2020 (interim measure of 45%	Jan-Dec 2021: 49% ⁷ (NSS)
	Complete centralisation of cancer surgical services	Percentage of surgeries conducted in approved centres	95%	Various target dates to 2020	2021 : 86% ⁸ (NCCP)
12	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-Dec 2021: 90% (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 six 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-Dec 2021 Breast: 84% Lung: 57% Prostate 47% Pancreas (Jan-Jun 2021): 49% (NCCP)
16	Achieve the radiotherapy treatment target	Percentage of patients commencing treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat	90%	2017	Jan-Dec 2021 (Patient Numbers) 77% (5,516) (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 continues to progress the development of a Model Patient Treatment Summary and Care Plan. A Colorectal Patient Passport is currently being rolled out nationally, the template design for a Breast Cancer Treatment Summary & Care Plan was progressed throughout 2021 (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 six 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	90%	2019	The National Cancer Information System, which is in operation in six 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% (Cancer Trials Ireland) 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 a data collection tool in this regard.
	Improve Ireland's cancer ranking among EU member states	survival among EU member states	Top Quartile for overall survival	2026	5-Year Survival 2010-2014: 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 (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	2014-2018 (most up-to-date period) Age-standardised cancer incidence is 8% (female) and 8% (male) higher in most-deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20%.
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	(NCRI) 2014-2018 (most up-to-date period) Survival for all cancers combined is 9% lower in most-deprived 20% compared to least deprived 20% (2014-2018), 5% lower for colorectal cancer, 8% lower for lung cancer, and 4% lower for female breast cancer ⁷ . (NCRI)

¹ For those referrals to lung RACs from GPs. This represents ~50% of referrals as many patients with suspected lung cancer are referred through Emergency Departments, rather than through GPs.

² Most recent year for which full data is available

³ Percentage offered appointment within 10 working days of referral (for those triaged as urgent)

⁴ Percentage offered appointment within 10 working days of referral

⁵ Percentage offered appointment within 20 working days of referral

⁶ Cumulative over three years 2015-2017.

 $^{^{7}\,\}mathrm{Data}$ is provisional and may be subject to change due to ongoing validation processes

⁸ In light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on hospital theatres, ICU and HDU capacity, some public time-sensitive cancer surgery continued to be undertaken in private hospitals in 2021.