

1 Timeliness of treatment

Currently measurable	No
Indicator description	Time from first histological diagnosis to first definitive treatment.
Rationale and evidence	<p>Timely, high-quality care delivers the best outcomes for people diagnosed with head and neck cancer.</p> <p>Timely treatment following diagnosis of cancer contributes to a better patient experience by reducing anxiety and uncertainty and minimising the risk of deterioration prior to treatment.</p>
Equity / Māori health gain	<p>Māori have significantly poorer survival for head and neck cancer, with a 37% higher excess mortality compared to non-Māori.¹</p> <p>One contributor to poorer survival is differences in timely access to treatment;² ensuring timely treatment will likely reduce equity gaps.</p>
Specifications	<p>Numerator Time from first histological diagnosis to date of first treatment.</p> <p>Denominator People having treatment for head and neck cancer.</p> <p>Exclusions None</p>
Data sources	NZCR, NMDS, ROC, PHARMS
Notes	<p>The histology date currently on the NZCR is most often the date of definitive histology following surgery, rather than the earlier biopsy date (eg, when diagnosis was first made).</p> <p>This indicator cannot be reported in 2020.</p>