Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland

February 2022 update

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer: February 2022

This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) whose first sample was taken from January 2020 to February 2022 in Northern Ireland.

These trends are contrasted with the annual average number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) during 2017-2019 in order to provide an indication of the potential impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on diagnostic cancer services.

Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded from some analysis as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples in Jan-Apr 2021.**

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 (Excludes Altnagelvin)

From March 2020 to February 2022 the number of patients with a pathological sample indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 5.6% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.
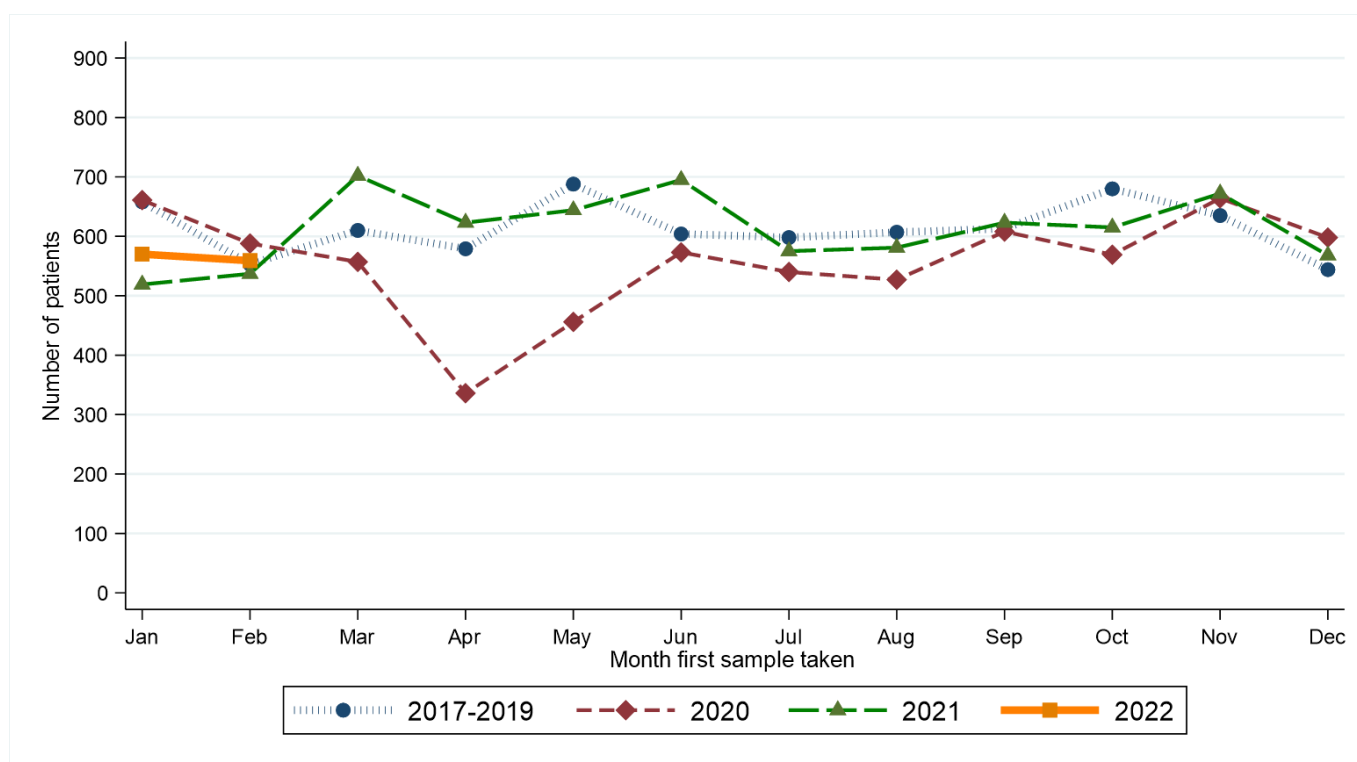
From March 2020 to February 2022 there was a 5.1% decrease among males and a 5.9% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 6.6% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 4.3% among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to February 2022 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 21.7%. Increases were recorded for haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer, urinary cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS *(Includes Altnagelvin)*

There was a 0.1% increase in the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Note: Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years

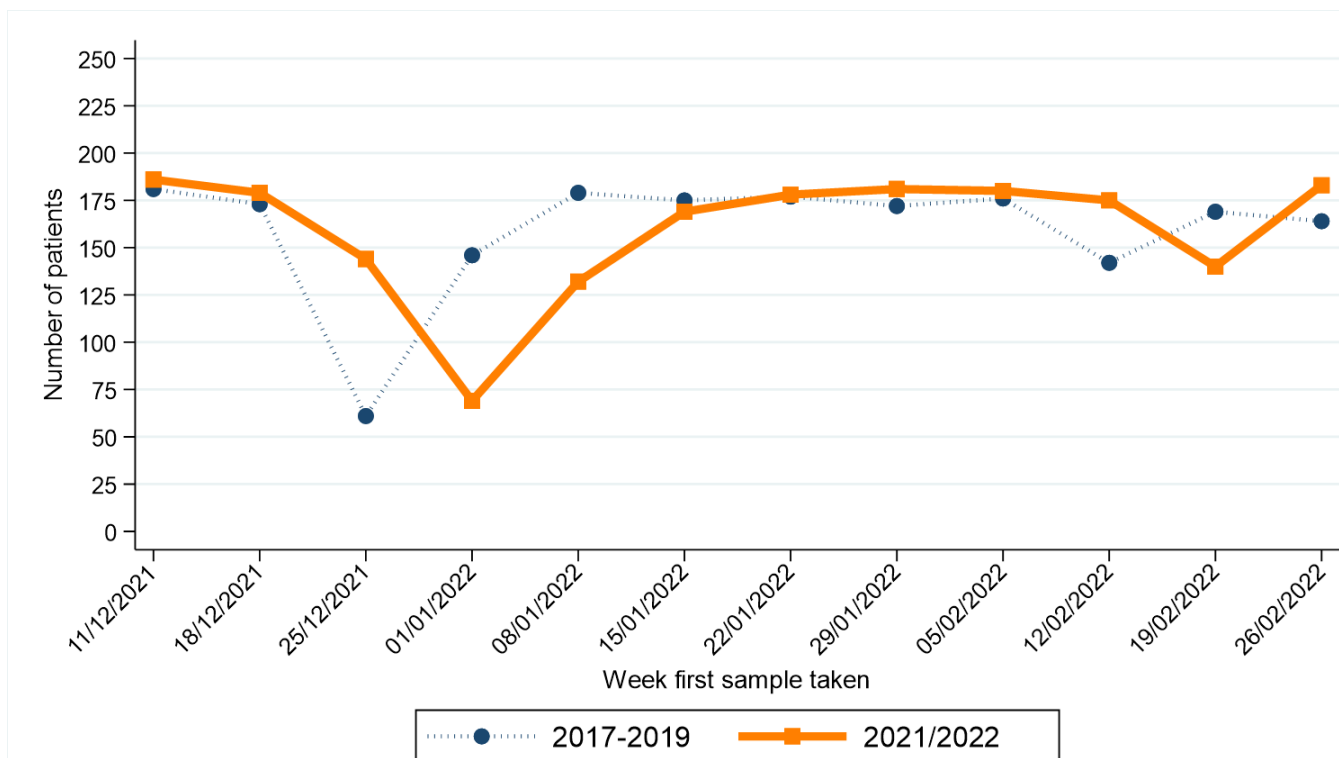In the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 there was a 3.0% decrease among males and a 2.9% increase among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 3.6% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was an increase of 5.4% among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to February 2022 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 18.9%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer, head and neck cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for non-melanoma skin cancer.

(3) **Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer - February 2022**
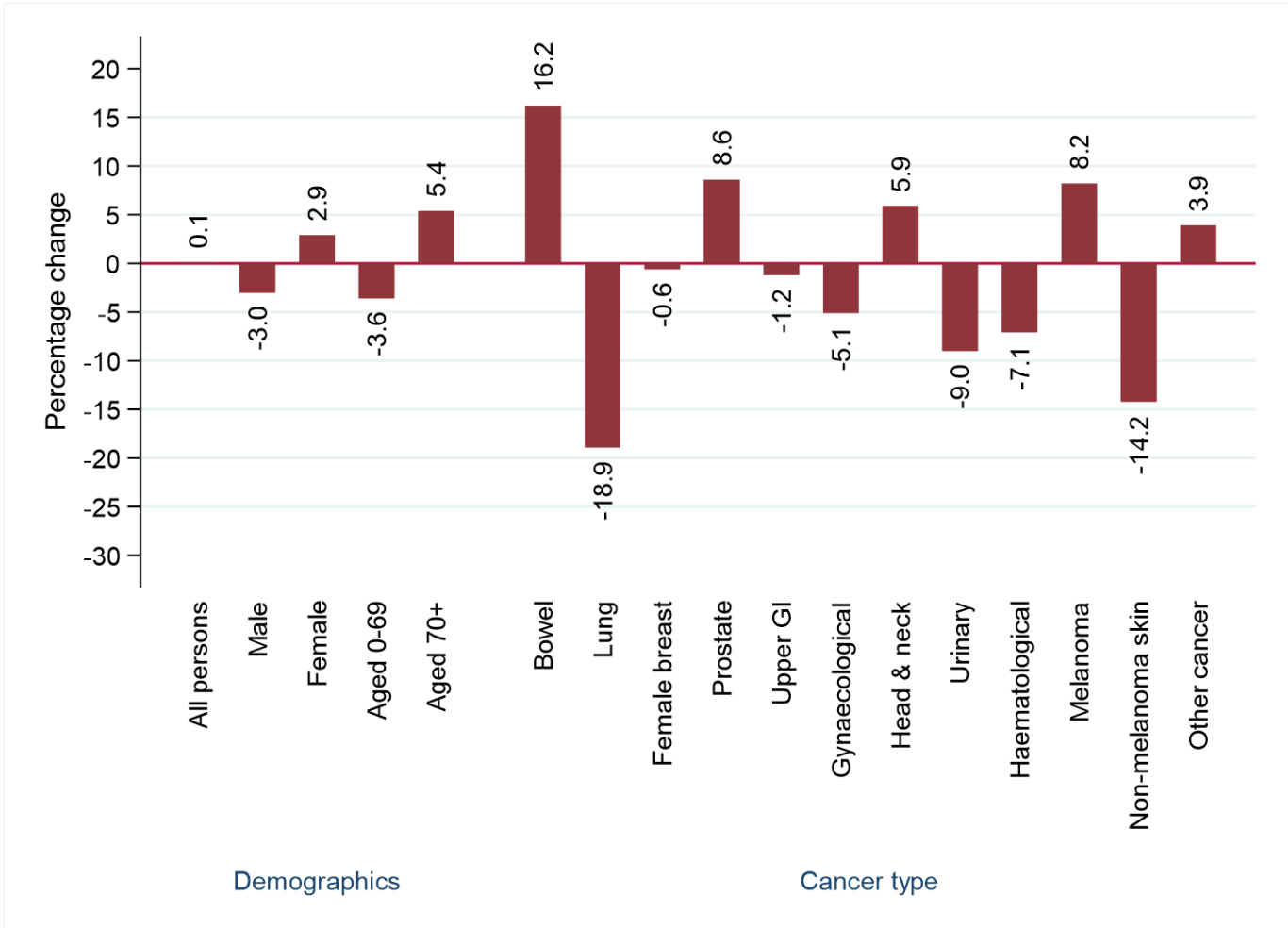
ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.6%
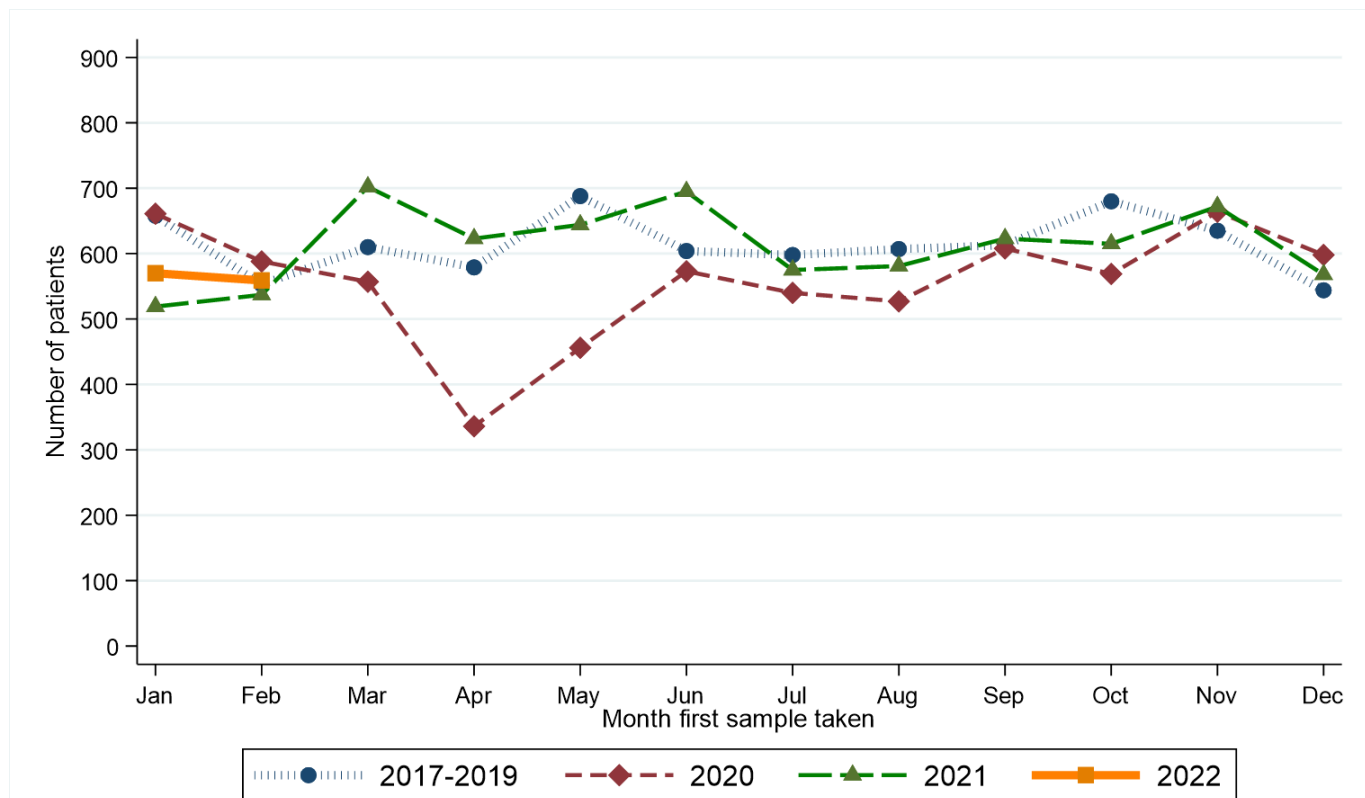
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	658	661	519	570
Feb	553	588	537	559
Mar	610	557	702	.
Apr	579	336	623	.
May	688	456	644	.
Jun	604	573	695	.
Jul	598	540	575	.
Aug	607	527	581	.
Sep	613	608	623	.
Oct	680	569	615	.
Nov	635	664	672	.
Dec	544	598	568	.

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+0.1%
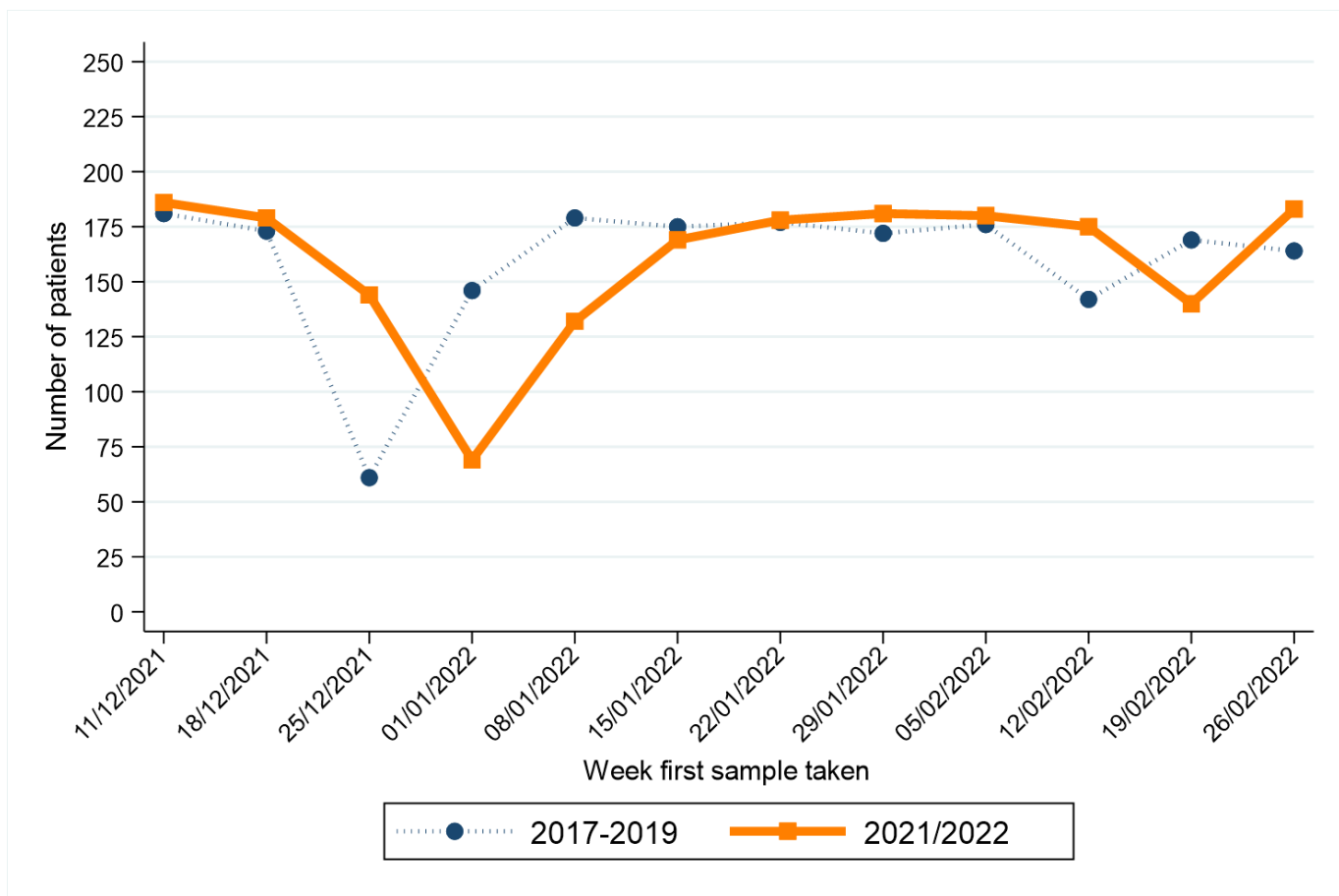
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	181	186
18/12/2021	173	179
25/12/2021	61	144
01/01/2022	146	69
08/01/2022	179	132
15/01/2022	175	169
22/01/2022	177	178
29/01/2022	172	181
05/02/2022	176	180
12/02/2022	142	175
19/02/2022	169	140
26/02/2022	164	183

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

**Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

MALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.1%
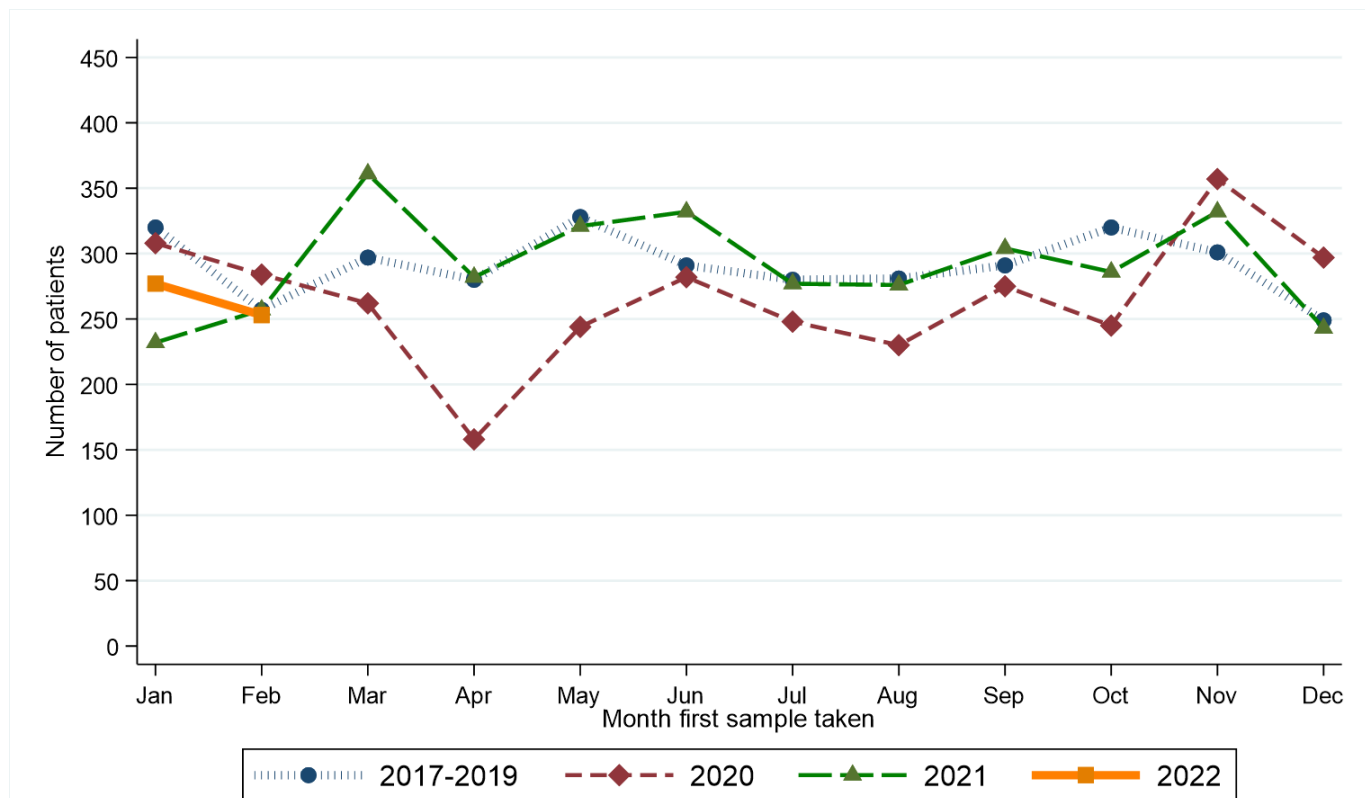
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	320	308	232	277
Feb	257	284	257	253
Mar	297	262	361	.
Apr	280	158	282	.
May	328	244	321	.
Jun	291	282	332	.
Jul	280	248	277	.
Aug	281	230	276	.
Sep	291	275	304	.
Oct	320	245	286	.
Nov	301	357	332	.
Dec	249	297	243	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.0%

Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	84	79
18/12/2021	81	76
25/12/2021	30	58
01/01/2022	69	36
08/01/2022	91	65
15/01/2022	84	81
22/01/2022	90	98
29/01/2022	83	85
05/02/2022	88	86
12/02/2022	68	85
19/02/2022	77	66
26/02/2022	84	86

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

FEMALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.9%

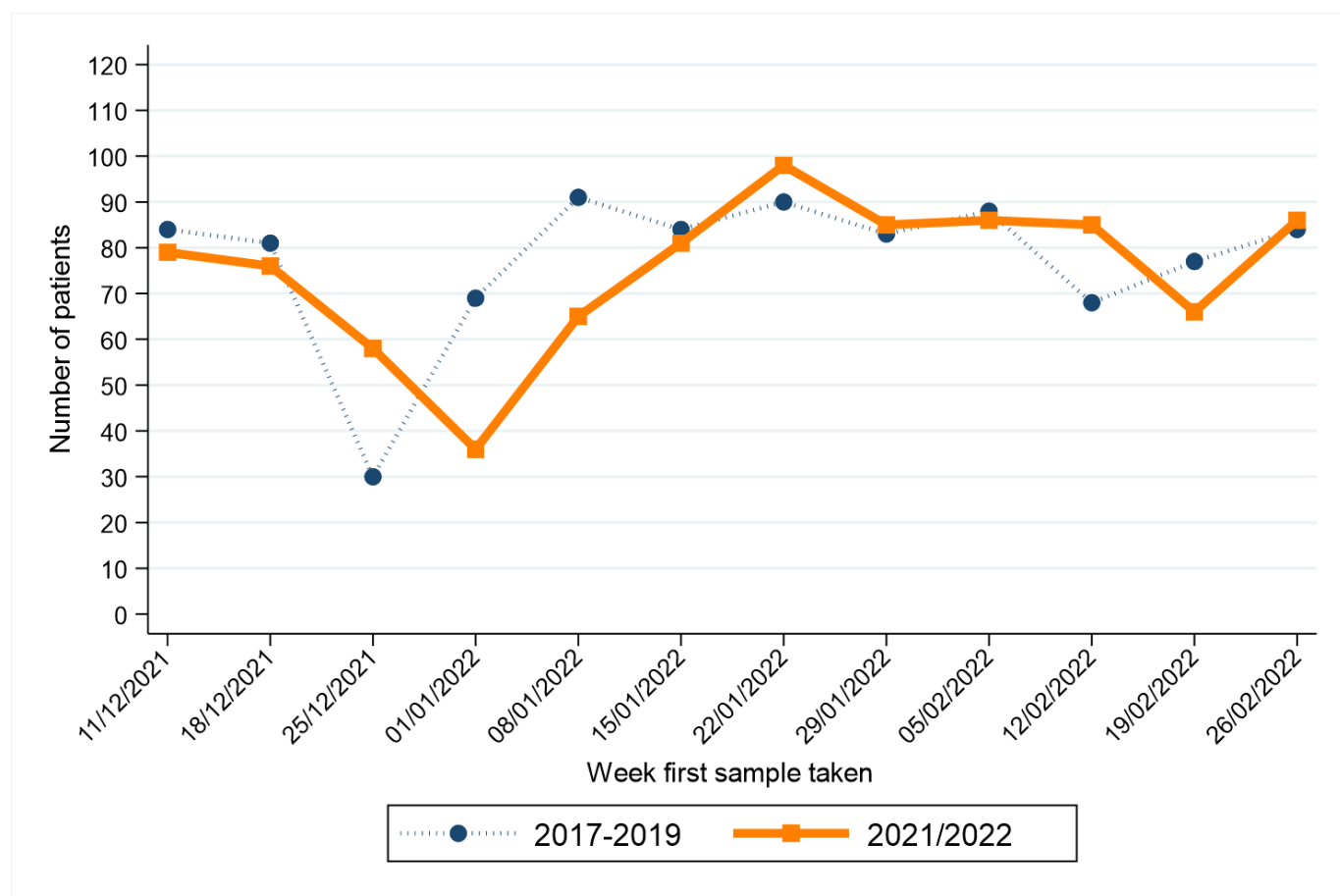| Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	338	353	287	293
Feb	295	304	280	306
Mar	312	295	341	.
Apr	299	178	341	.
May	360	212	323	.
Jun	313	291	363	.
Jul	317	292	298	.
Aug	326	297	305	.
Sep	322	333	319	.
Oct	360	324	329	.
Nov	333	307	340	.
Dec	295	301	325	.

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+2.9%
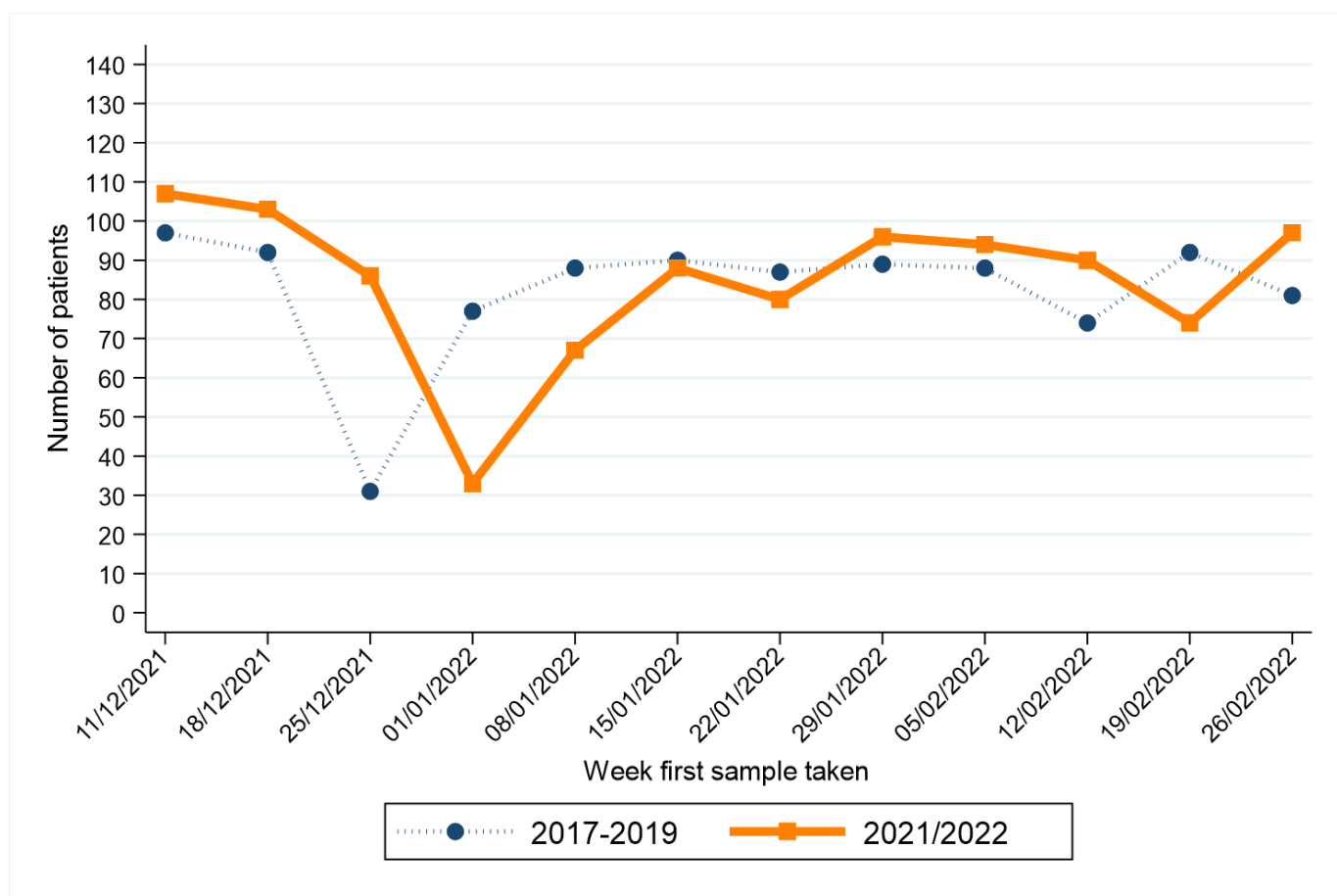
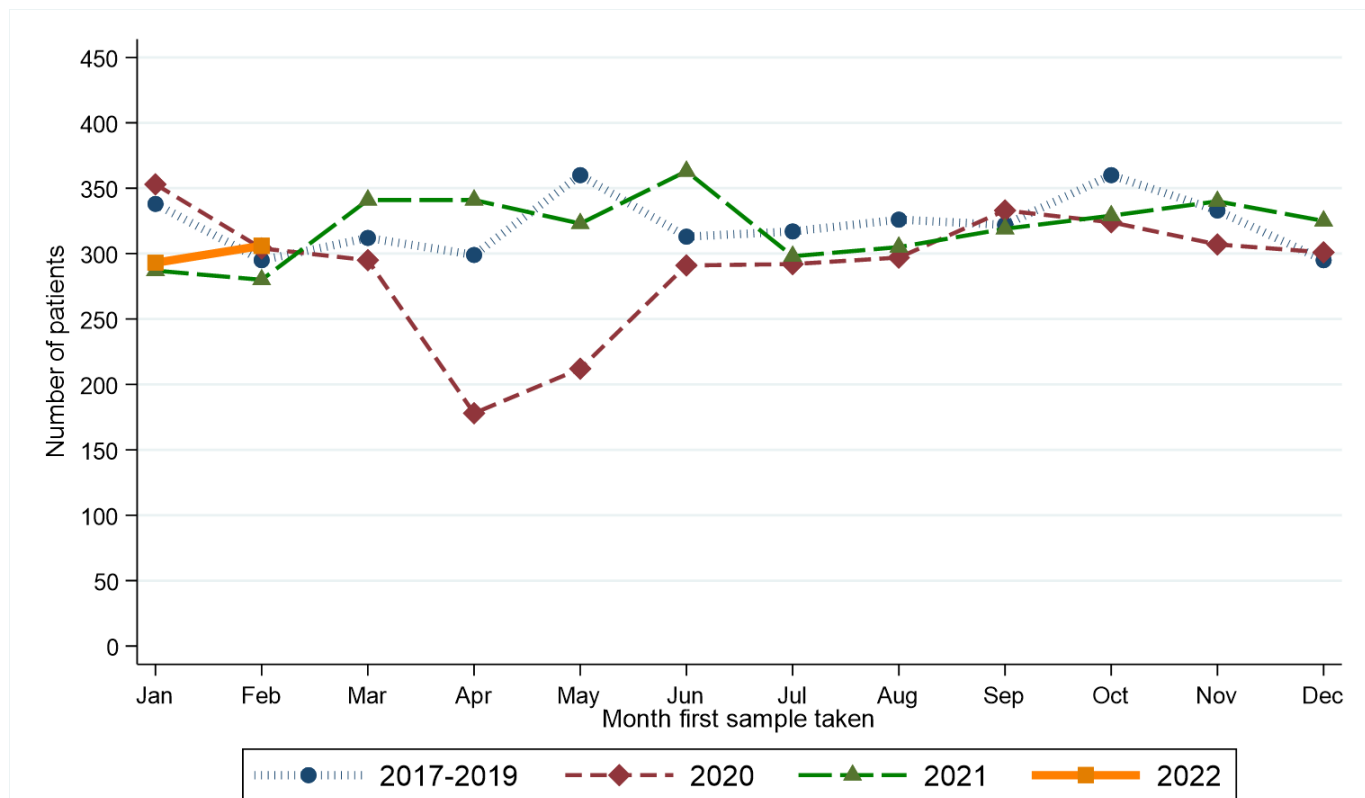| Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	97	107
18/12/2021	92	103
25/12/2021	31	86
01/01/2022	77	33
08/01/2022	88	67
15/01/2022	90	88
22/01/2022	87	80
29/01/2022	89	96
05/02/2022	88	94
12/02/2022	74	90
19/02/2022	92	74
26/02/2022	81	97

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-6.6%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	387	358	301	315
Feb	327	332	311	300
Mar	354	325	401	.
Apr	332	202	376	.
May	384	265	353	.
Jun	333	311	373	.
Jul	338	282	317	.
Aug	341	292	323	.
Sep	351	325	354	.
Oct	383	326	361	.
Nov	349	378	375	.
Dec	309	339	322	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.6%
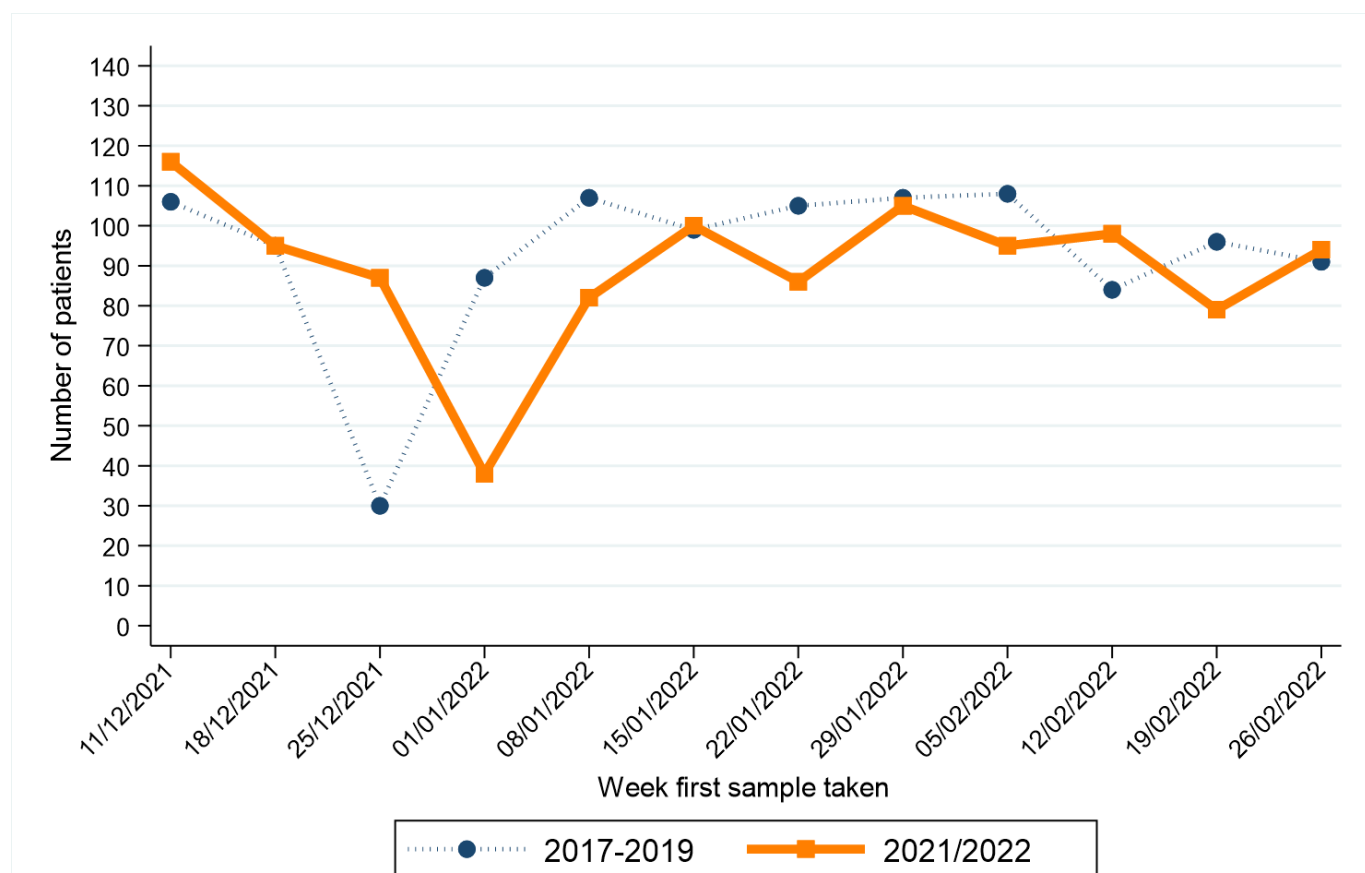
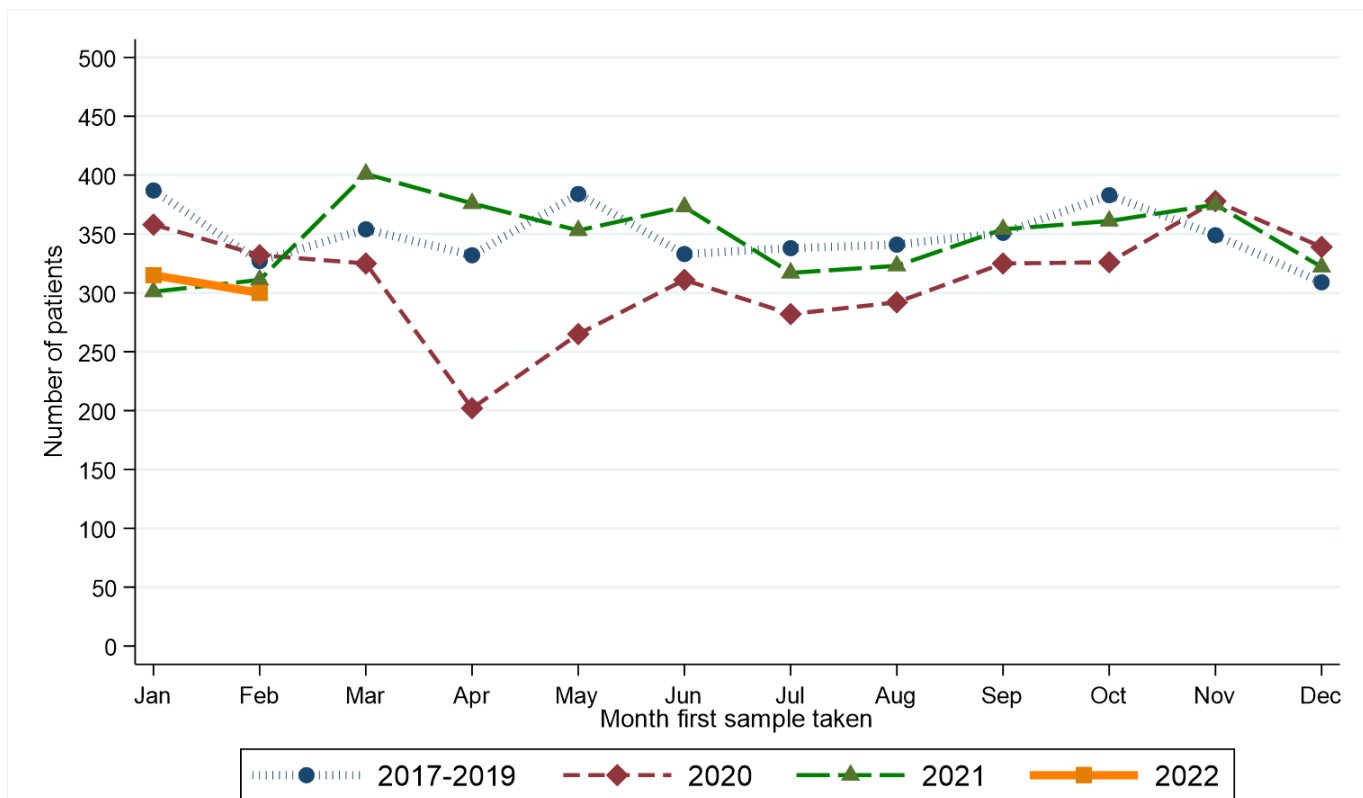| Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	106	116
18/12/2021	95	95
25/12/2021	30	87
01/01/2022	87	38
08/01/2022	107	82
15/01/2022	99	100
22/01/2022	105	86
29/01/2022	107	105
05/02/2022	108	95
12/02/2022	84	98
19/02/2022	96	79
26/02/2022	91	94

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.3%
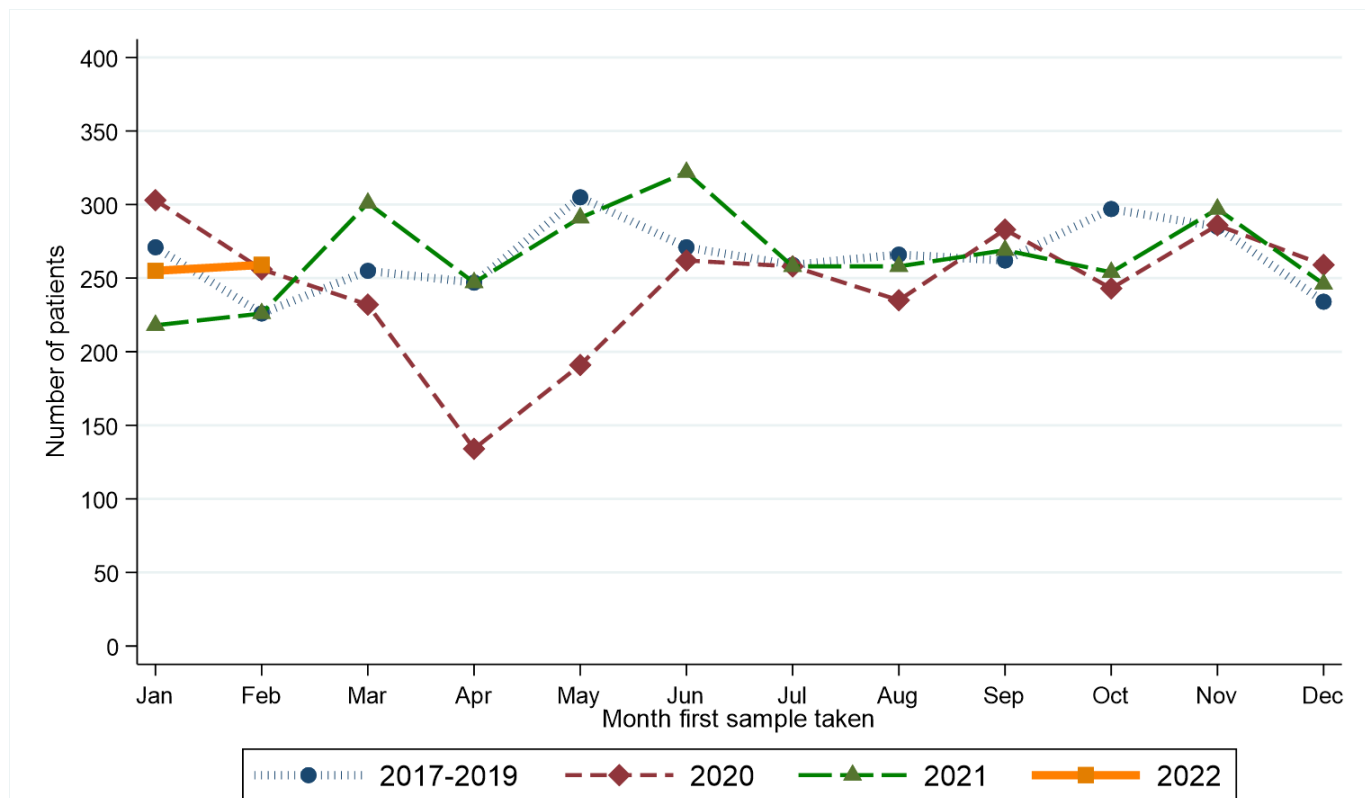
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	271	303	218	255
Feb	226	256	226	259
Mar	255	232	301	.
Apr	247	134	247	.
May	305	191	291	.
Jun	271	262	322	.
Jul	259	258	258	.
Aug	266	235	258	.
Sep	262	283	269	.
Oct	297	243	254	.
Nov	285	286	297	.
Dec	234	259	246	.

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+5.4%
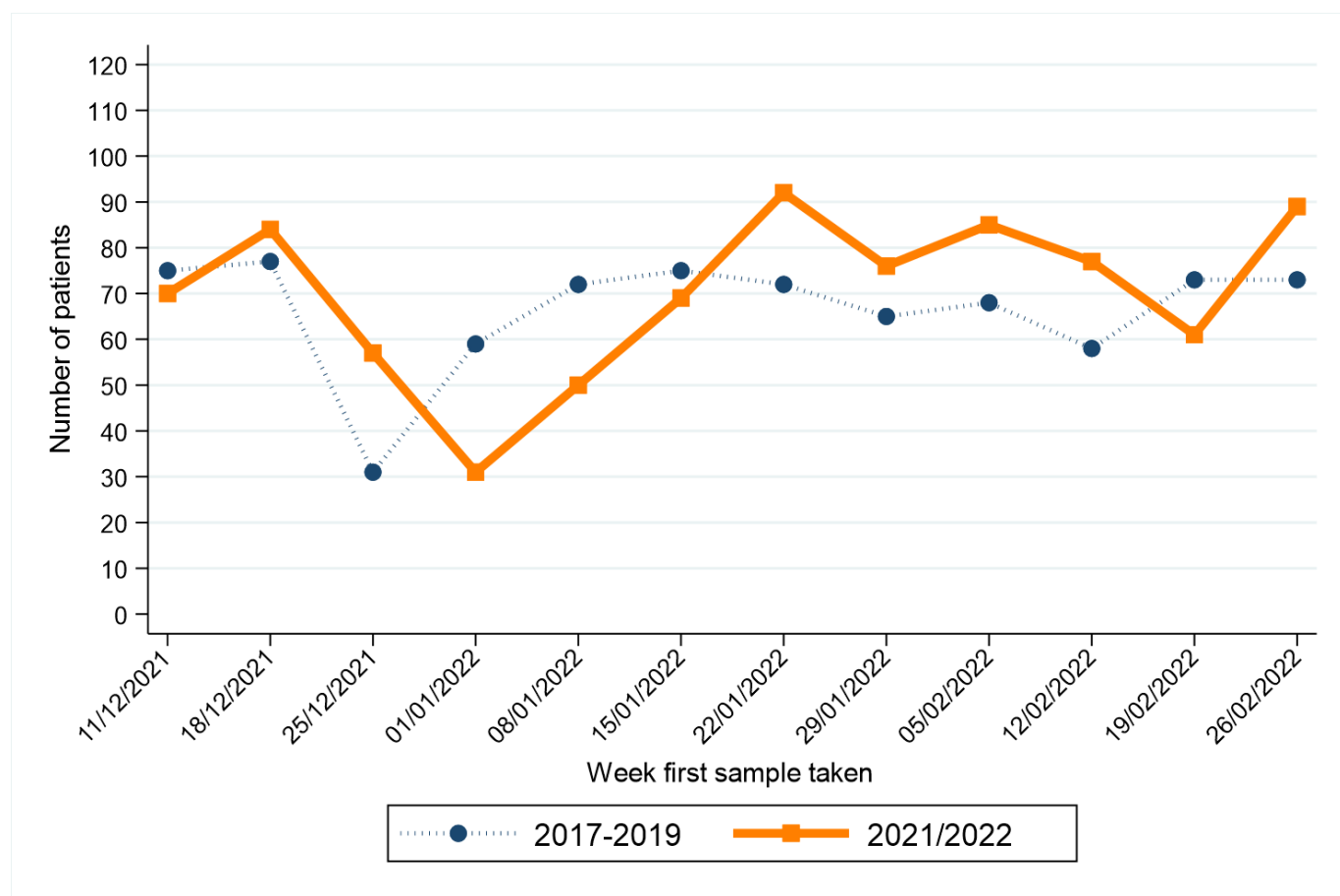
| Week first sample | Year first sample taken | |
taken**	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	75	70
18/12/2021	77	84
25/12/2021	31	57
01/01/2022	59	31
08/01/2022	72	50
15/01/2022	75	69
22/01/2022	72	92
29/01/2022	65	76
05/02/2022	68	85
12/02/2022	58	77
19/02/2022	73	61
26/02/2022	73	89

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

BOWEL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.1%
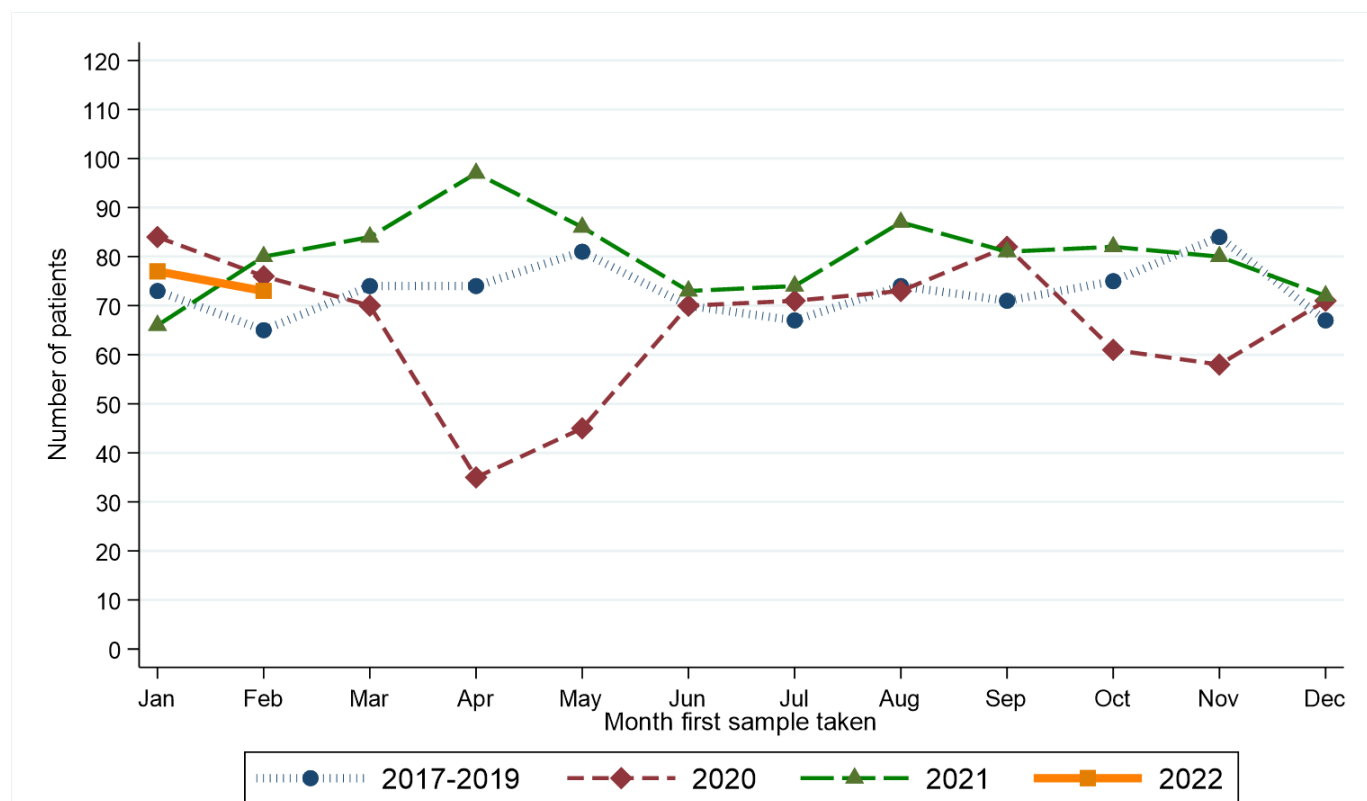
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	73	84	66	77
Feb	65	76	80	73
Mar	74	70	84	.
Apr	74	35	97	.
May	81	45	86	.
Jun	70	70	73	.
Jul	67	71	74	.
Aug	74	73	87	.
Sep	71	82	81	.
Oct	75	61	82	.
Nov	84	58	80	.
Dec	67	71	72	.

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+16.2%

Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	19	21
18/12/2021	18	31
25/12/2021	10	18
01/01/2022	19	13
08/01/2022	21	18
15/01/2022	22	28
22/01/2022	18	26
29/01/2022	19	19
05/02/2022	19	25
12/02/2022	18	13
19/02/2022	23	22
26/02/2022	23	32

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.9%
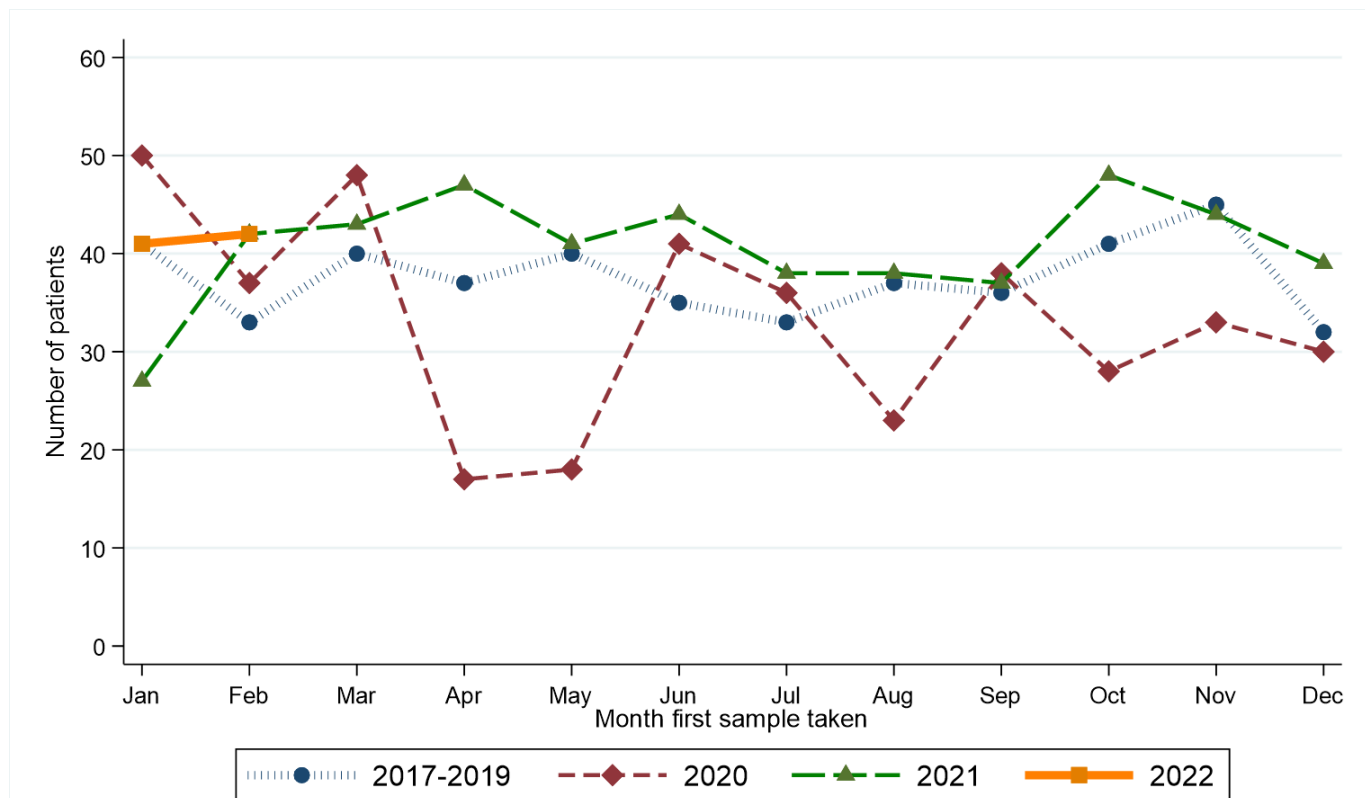
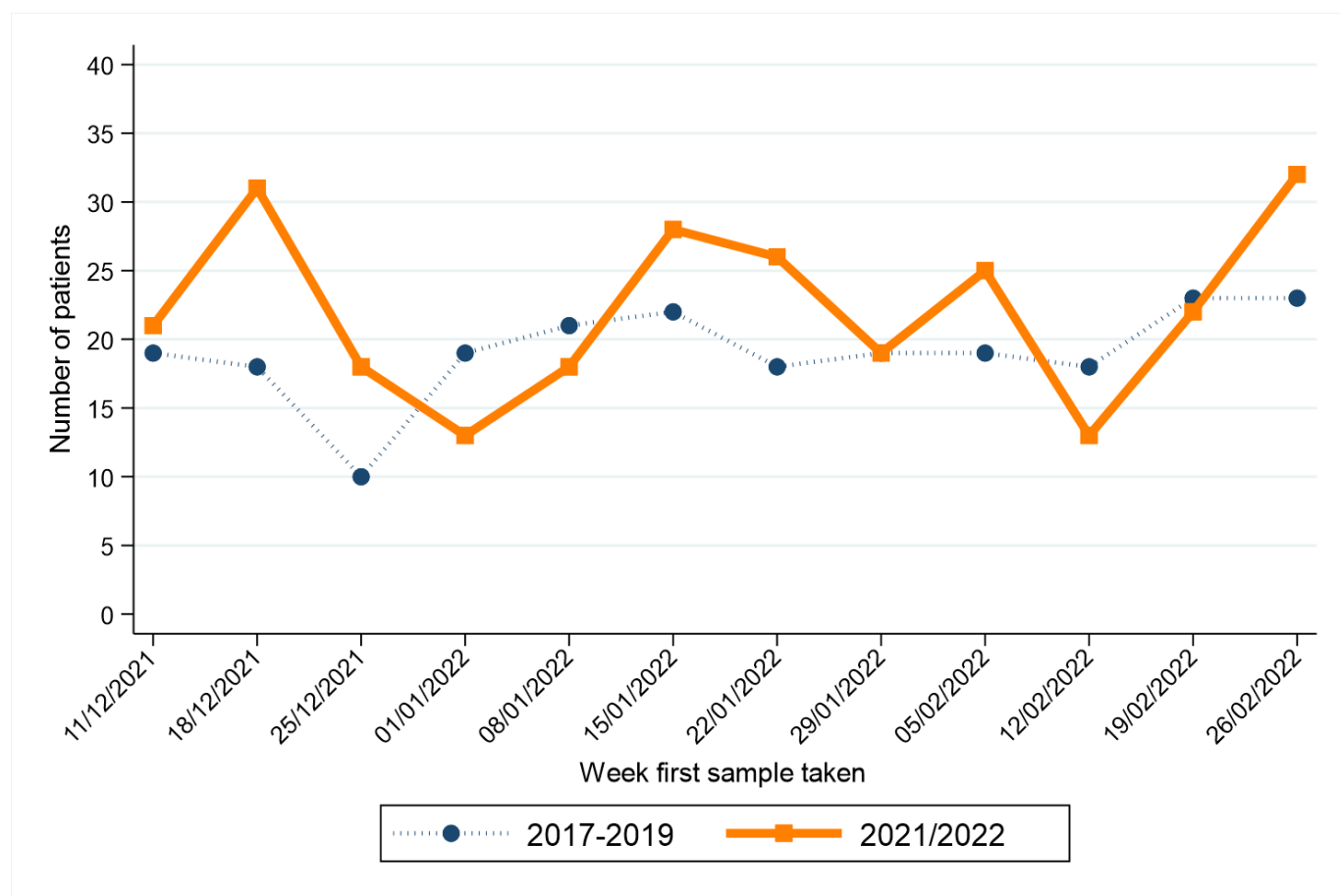| Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	41	50	27	41
Feb	33	37	42	42
Mar	40	48	43	.
Apr	37	17	47	.
May	40	18	41	.
Jun	35	41	44	.
Jul	33	36	38	.
Aug	37	23	38	.
Sep	36	38	37	.
Oct	41	28	48	.
Nov	45	33	44	.
Dec	32	30	39	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+21.6%
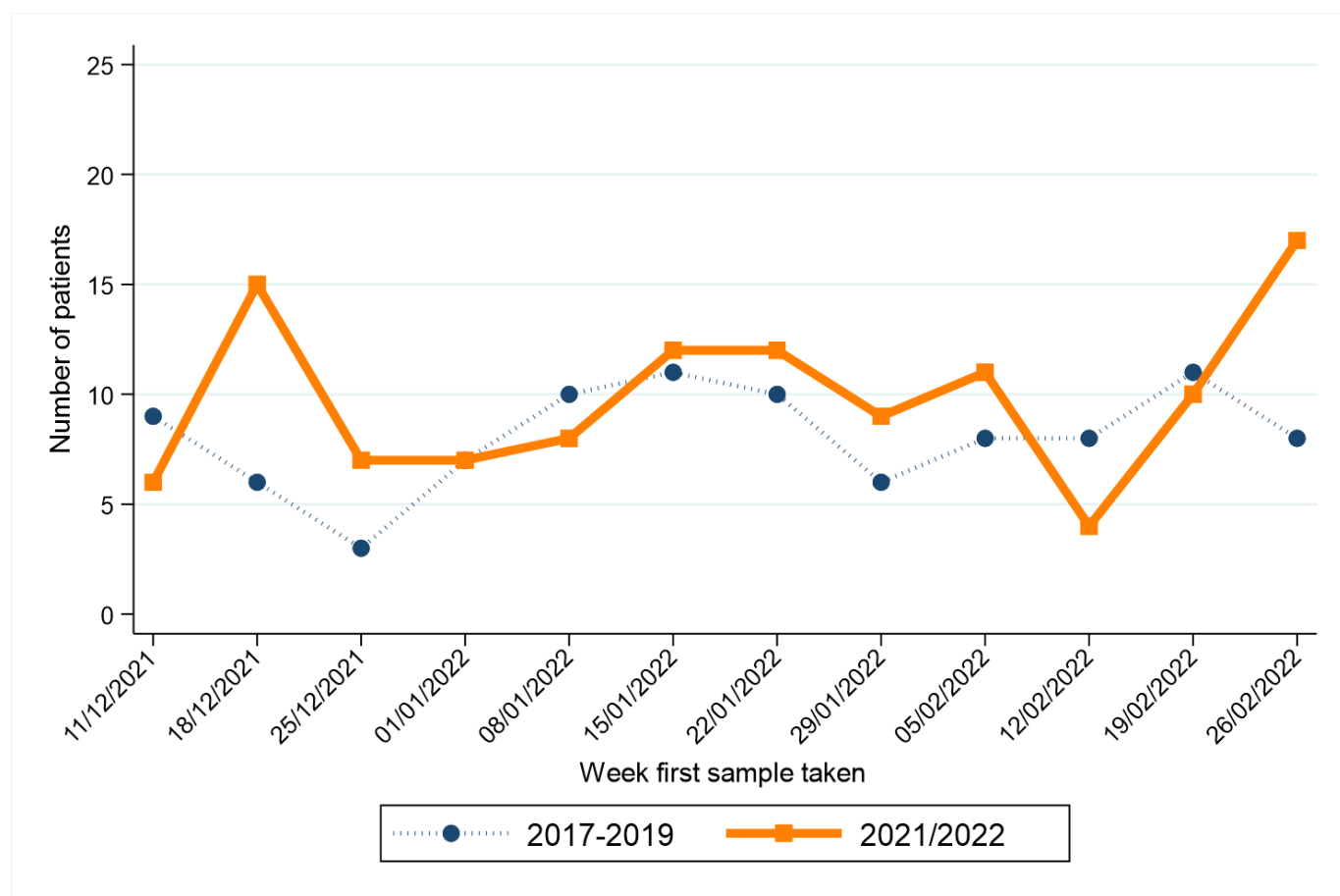
| Week first sample | Year first sample taken | |
taken**	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	9	6
18/12/2021	6	15
25/12/2021	3	7
01/01/2022	7	7
08/01/2022	10	8
15/01/2022	11	12
22/01/2022	10	12
29/01/2022	6	9
05/02/2022	8	11
12/02/2022	8	4
19/02/2022	11	10
26/02/2022	8	17

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

LUNG CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

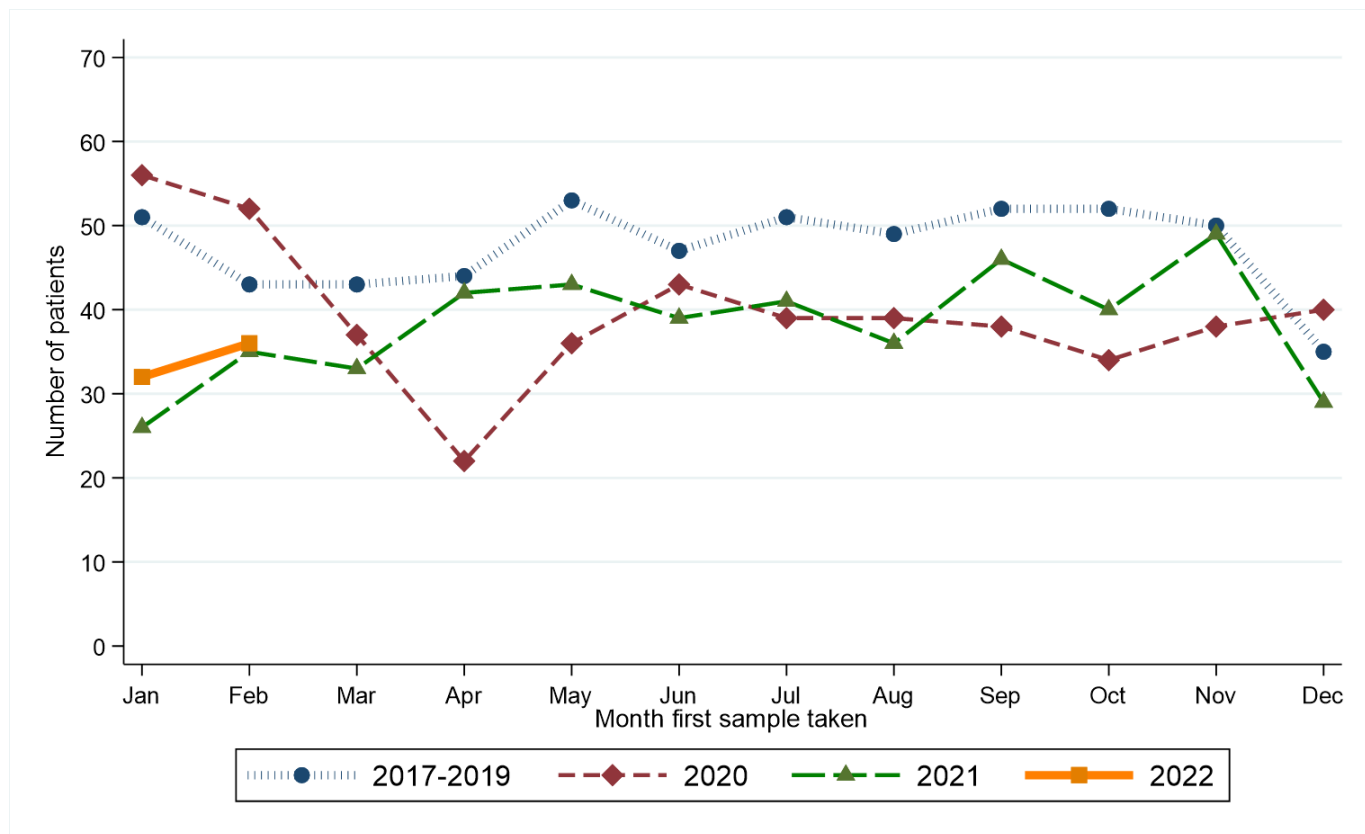**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-21.7%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	51	56	26	32
Feb	43	52	35	36
Mar	43	37	33	.
Apr	44	22	42	.
May	53	36	43	.
Jun	47	43	39	.
Jul	51	39	41	.
Aug	49	39	36	.
Sep	52	38	46	.
Oct	52	34	40	.
Nov	50	38	49	.
Dec	35	40	29	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-18.9%
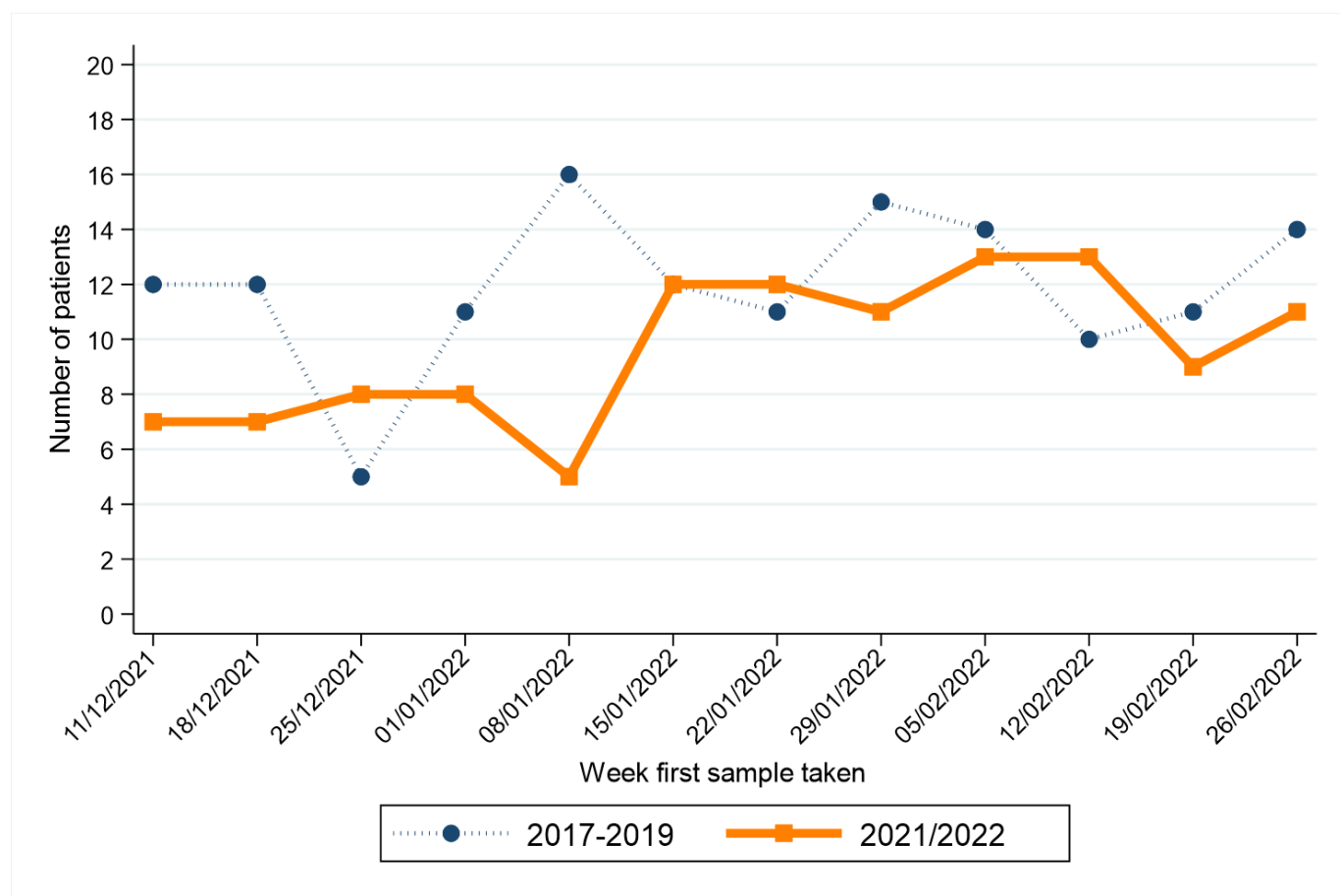
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	12	7
18/12/2021	12	7
25/12/2021	5	8
01/01/2022	11	8
08/01/2022	16	5
15/01/2022	12	12
22/01/2022	11	12
29/01/2022	15	11
05/02/2022	14	13
12/02/2022	10	13
19/02/2022	11	9
26/02/2022	14	11

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

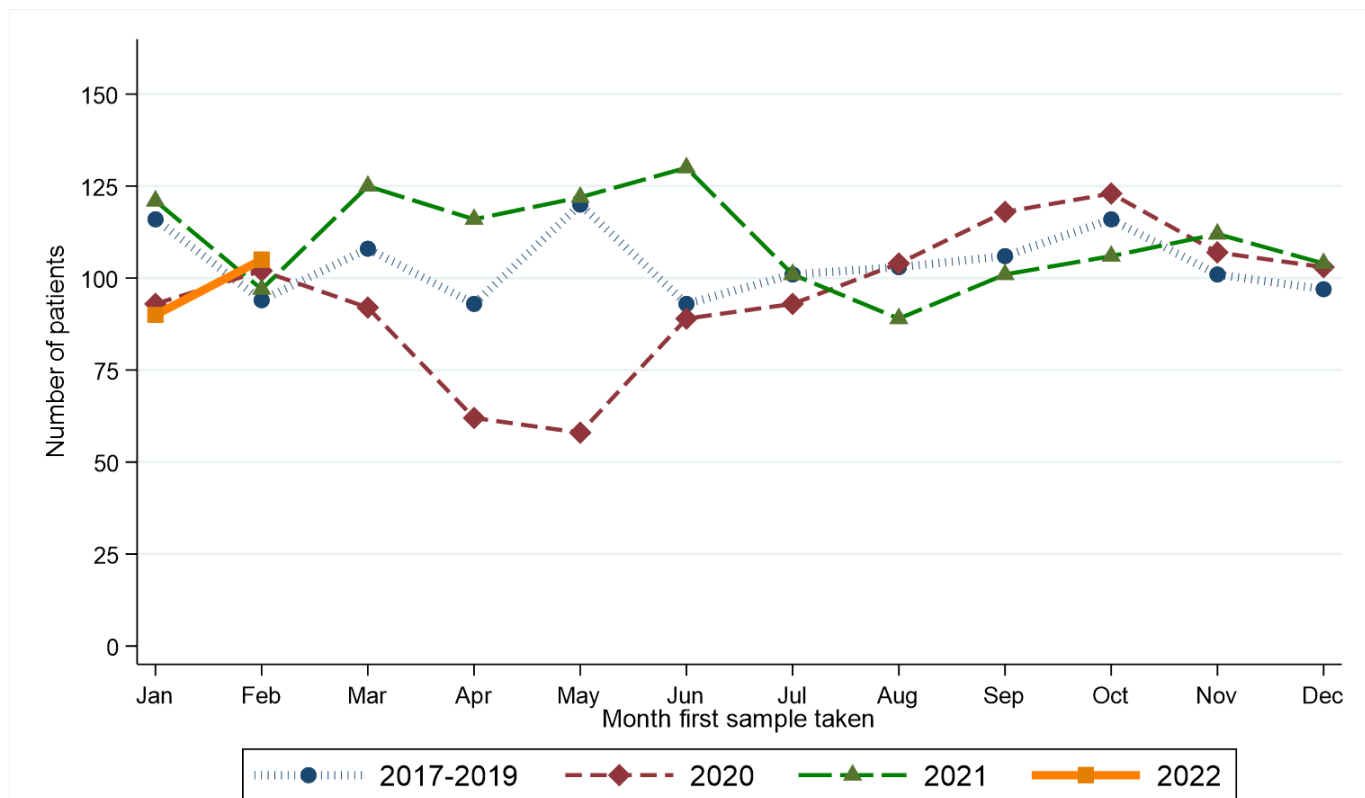**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-1.1%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	116	93	121	90
Feb	94	102	97	105
Mar	108	92	125	.
Apr	93	62	116	.
May	120	58	122	.
Jun	93	89	130	.
Jul	101	93	101	.
Aug	103	104	89	.
Sep	106	118	101	.
Oct	116	123	106	.
Nov	101	107	112	.
Dec	97	103	104	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.6%
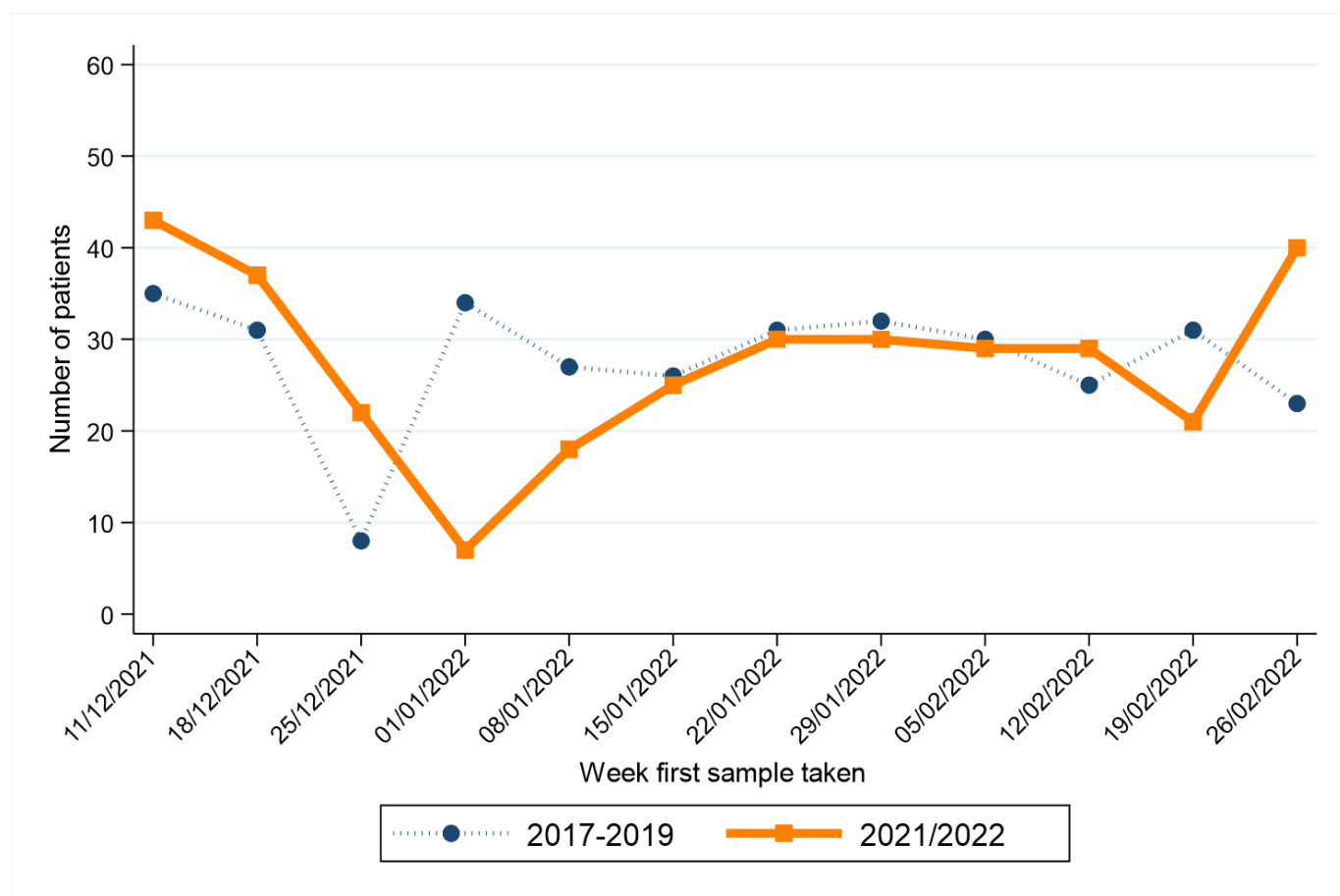
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	35	43
18/12/2021	31	37
25/12/2021	8	22
01/01/2022	34	7
08/01/2022	27	18
15/01/2022	26	25
22/01/2022	31	30
29/01/2022	32	30
05/02/2022	30	29
12/02/2022	25	29
19/02/2022	31	21
26/02/2022	23	40

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

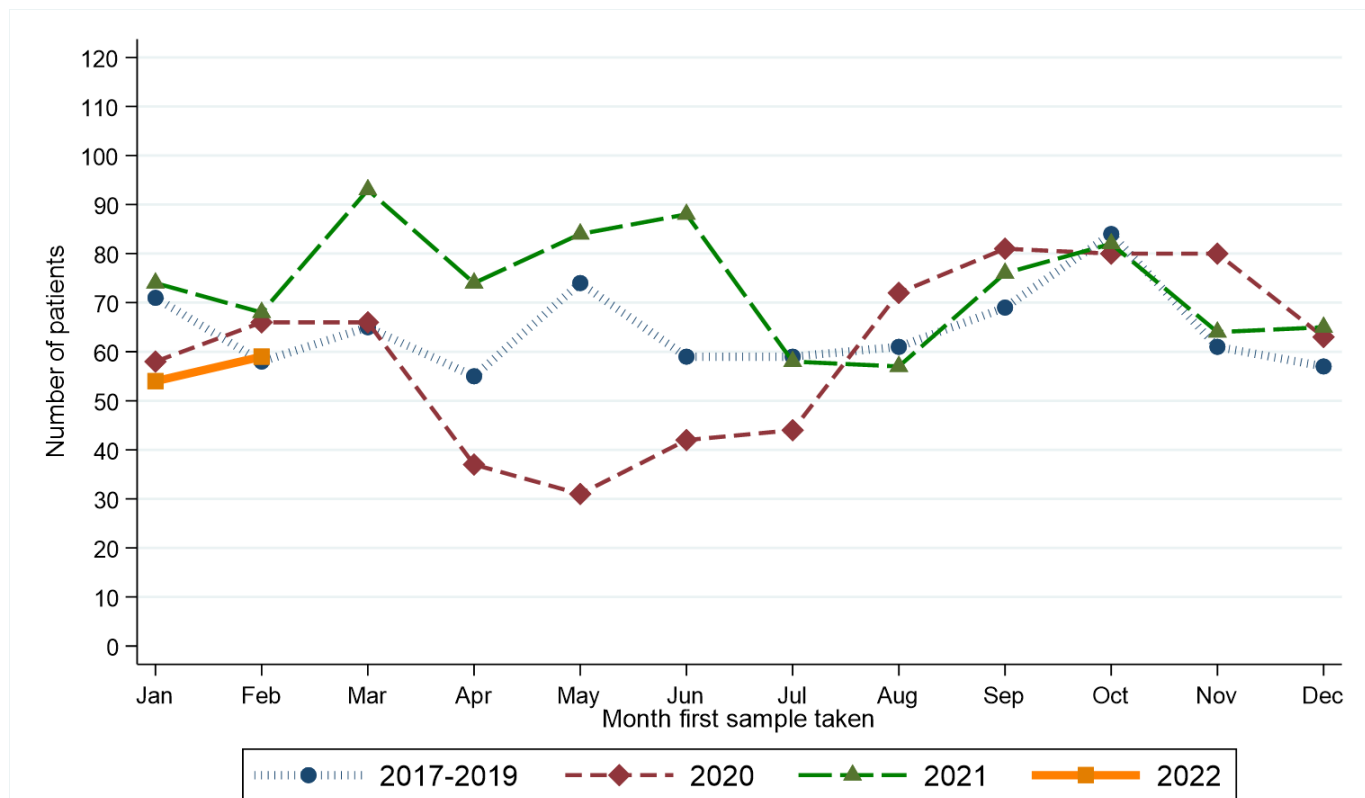**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

+3.0%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	71	58	74	54
Feb	58	66	68	59
Mar	65	66	93	.
Apr	55	37	74	.
May	74	31	84	.
Jun	59	42	88	.
Jul	59	44	58	.
Aug	61	72	57	.
Sep	69	81	76	.
Oct	84	80	82	.
Nov	61	80	64	.
Dec	57	63	65	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.6%
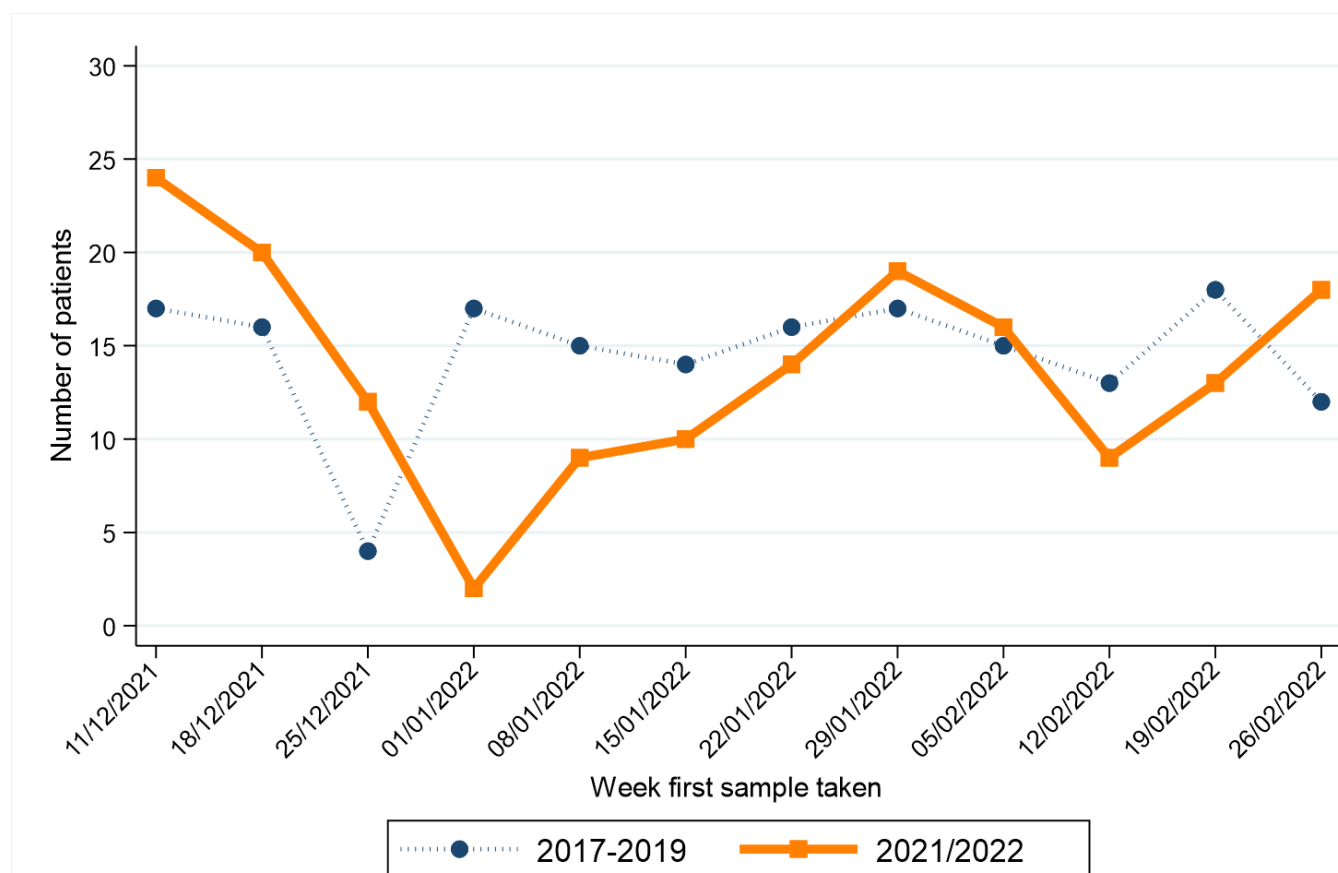
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	17	24
18/12/2021	16	20
25/12/2021	4	12
01/01/2022	17	2
08/01/2022	15	9
15/01/2022	14	10
22/01/2022	16	14
29/01/2022	17	19
05/02/2022	15	16
12/02/2022	13	9
19/02/2022	18	13
26/02/2022	12	18

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.
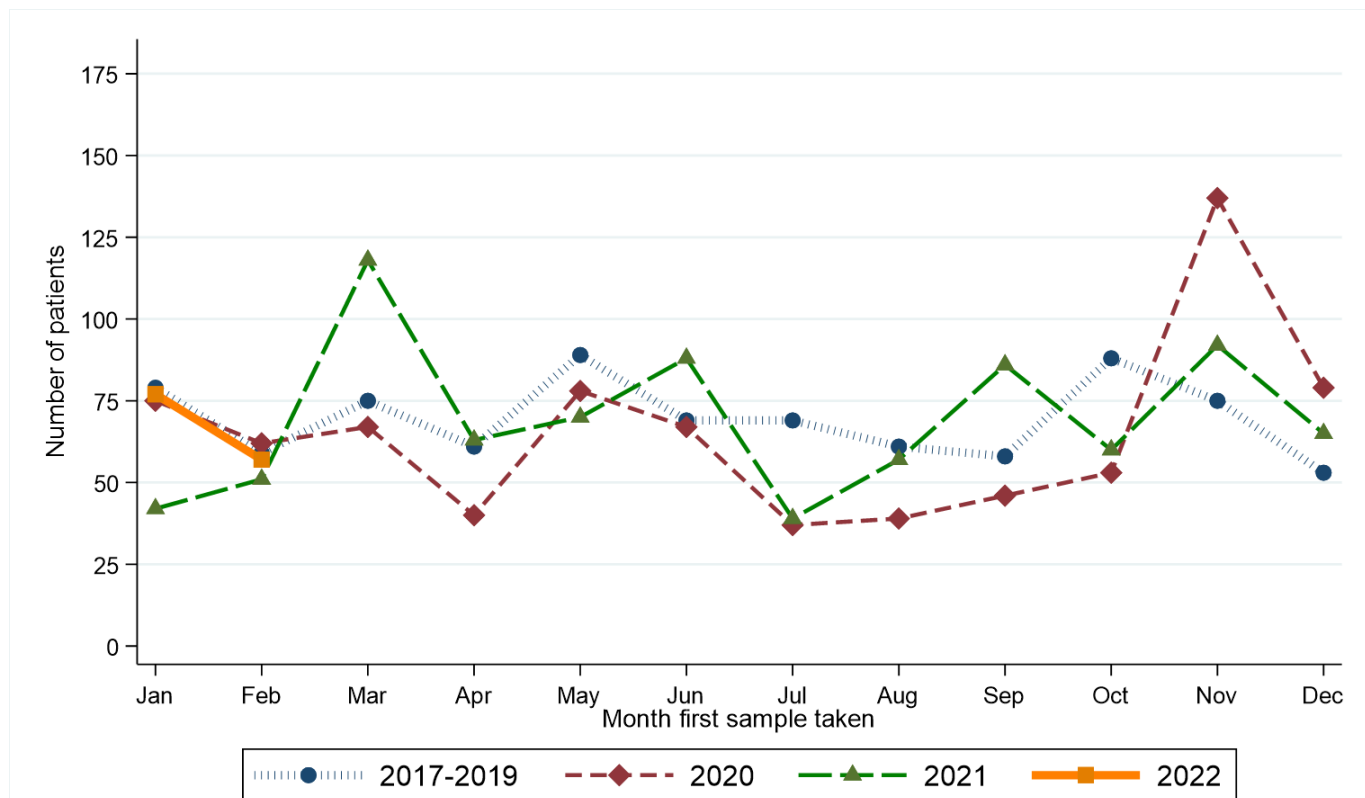
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

PROSTATE CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.8%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	79	75	42	77
Feb	59	62	51	57
Mar	75	67	118	.
Apr	61	40	63	.
May	89	78	70	.
Jun	69	67	88	.
Jul	69	37	39	.
Aug	61	39	57	.
Sep	58	46	86	.
Oct	88	53	60	.
Nov	75	137	92	.
Dec	53	79	65	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.6%
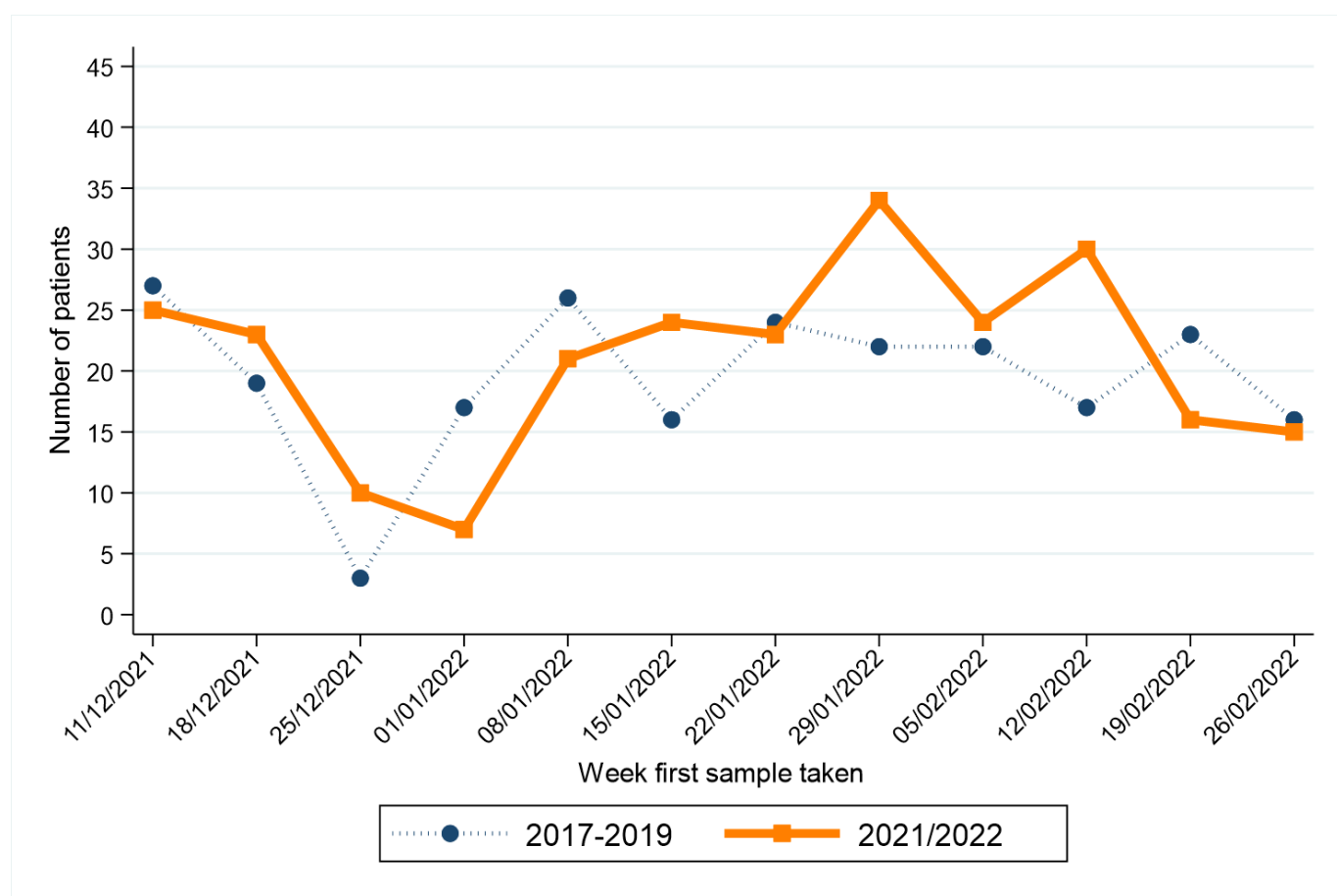
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	27	25
18/12/2021	19	23
25/12/2021	3	10
01/01/2022	17	7
08/01/2022	26	21
15/01/2022	16	24
22/01/2022	24	23
29/01/2022	22	34
05/02/2022	22	24
12/02/2022	17	30
19/02/2022	23	16
26/02/2022	16	15

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

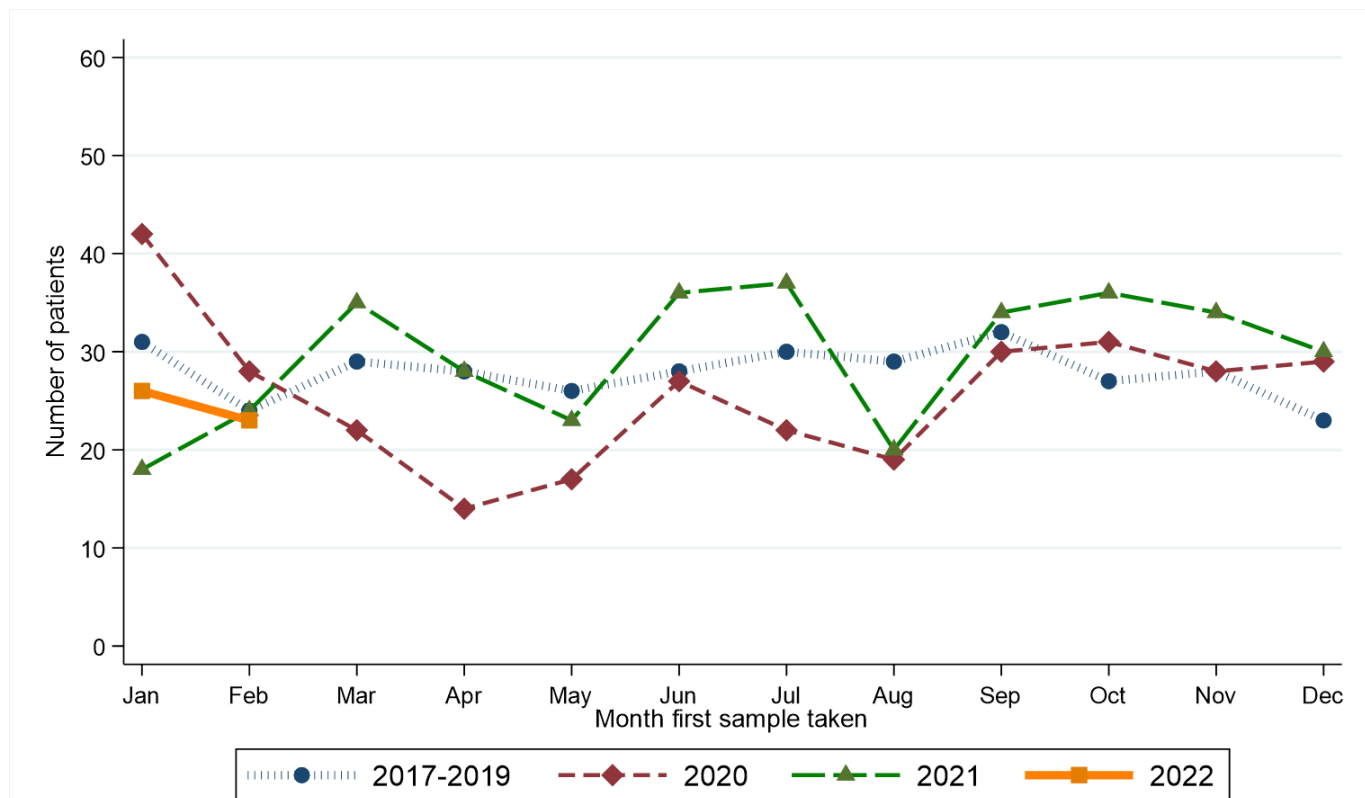### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.0%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	31	42	18	26
Feb	24	28	24	23
Mar	29	22	35	.
Apr	28	14	28	.
May	26	17	23	.
Jun	28	27	36	.
Jul	30	22	37	.
Aug	29	19	20	.
Sep	32	30	34	.
Oct	27	31	36	.
Nov	28	28	34	.
Dec	23	29	30	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.2%
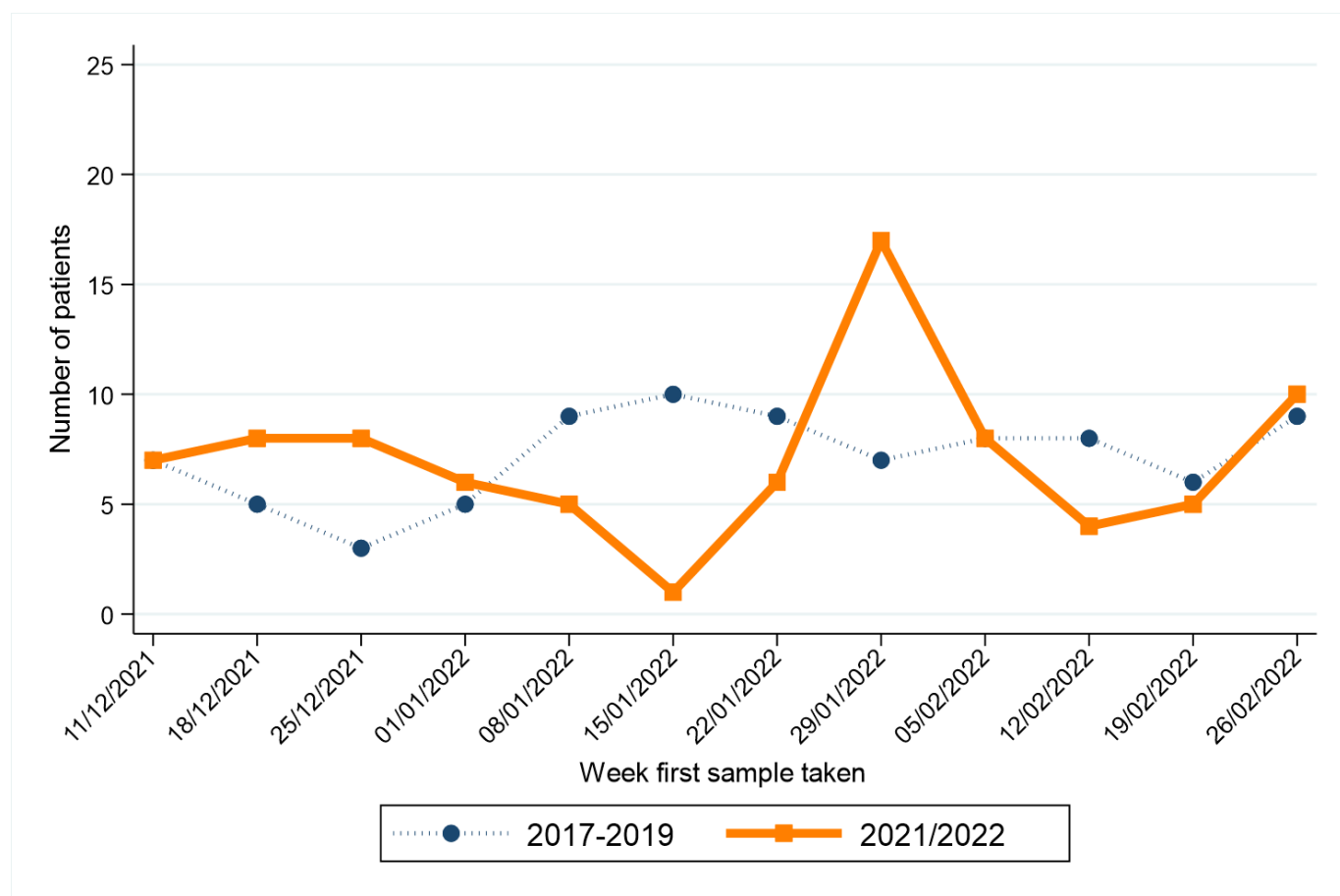
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	7	7
18/12/2021	5	8
25/12/2021	3	8
01/01/2022	5	6
08/01/2022	9	5
15/01/2022	10	1
22/01/2022	9	6
29/01/2022	7	17
05/02/2022	8	8
12/02/2022	8	4
19/02/2022	6	5
26/02/2022	9	10

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

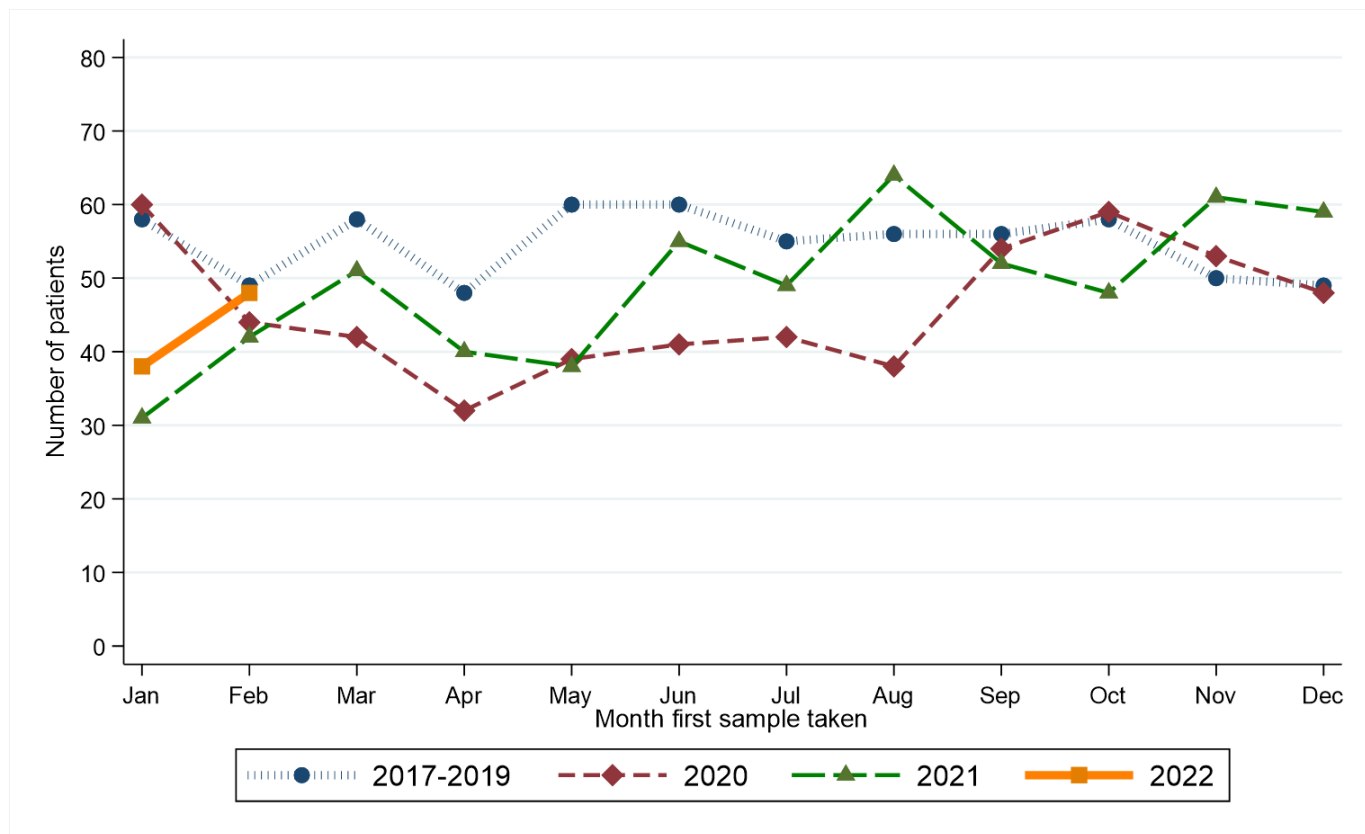**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-14.5%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	58	60	31	38
Feb	49	44	42	48
Mar	58	42	51	.
Apr	48	32	40	.
May	60	39	38	.
Jun	60	41	55	.
Jul	55	42	49	.
Aug	56	38	64	.
Sep	56	54	52	.
Oct	58	59	48	.
Nov	50	53	61	.
Dec	49	48	59	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.1%
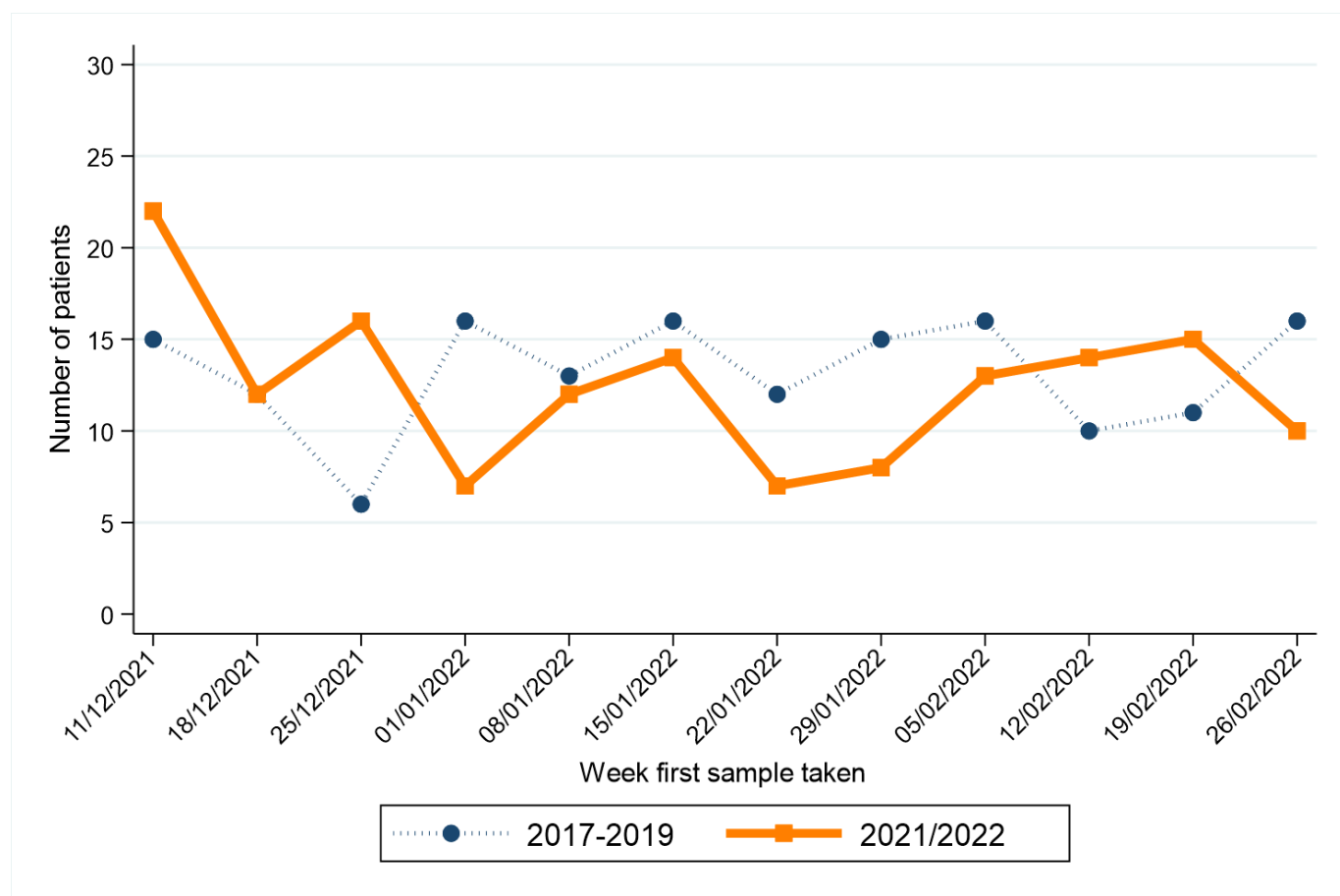
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	15	22
18/12/2021	12	12
25/12/2021	6	16
01/01/2022	16	7
08/01/2022	13	12
15/01/2022	16	14
22/01/2022	12	7
29/01/2022	15	8
05/02/2022	16	13
12/02/2022	10	14
19/02/2022	11	15
26/02/2022	16	10

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

HEAD AND NECK CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

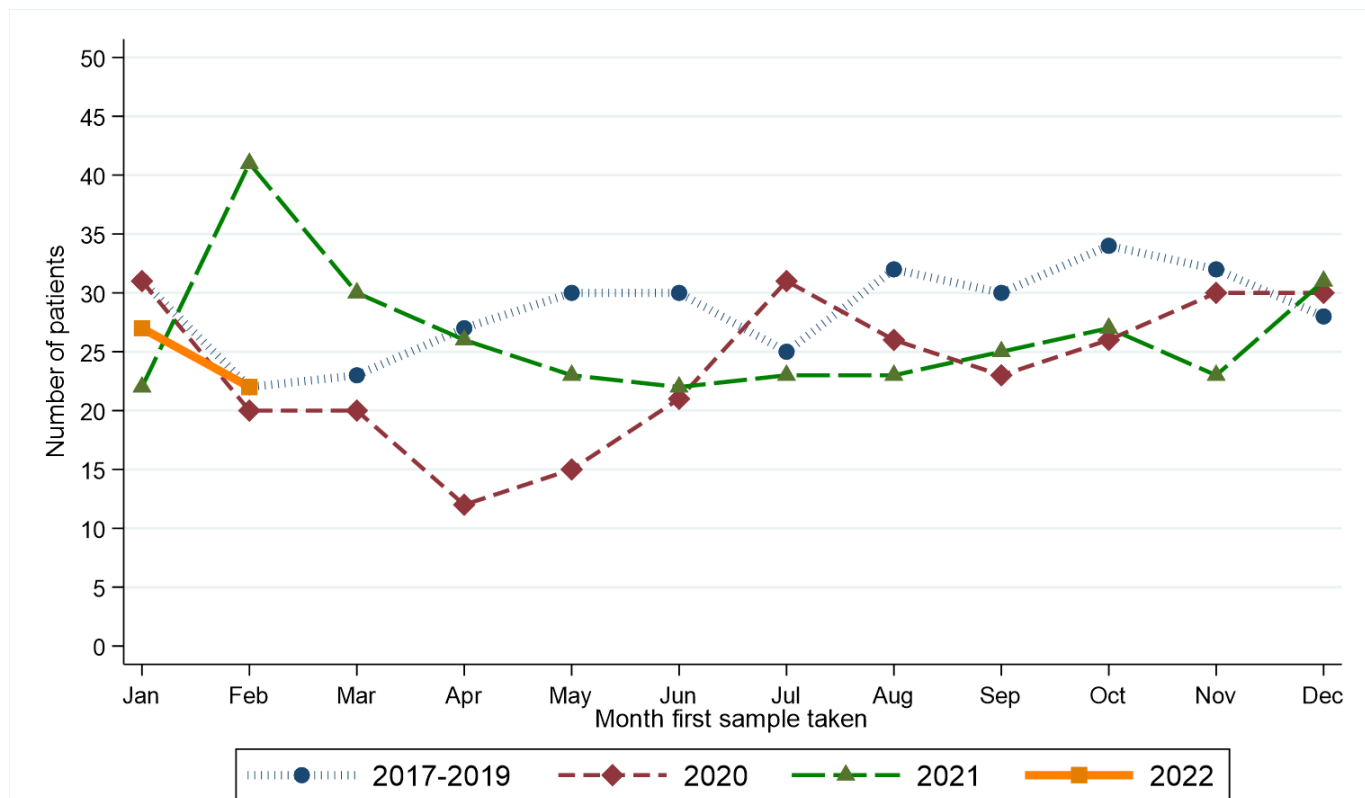### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-12.9%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	31	31	22	27
Feb	22	20	41	22
Mar	23	20	30	.
Apr	27	12	26	.
May	30	15	23	.
Jun	30	21	22	.
Jul	25	31	23	.
Aug	32	26	23	.
Sep	30	23	25	.
Oct	34	26	27	.
Nov	32	30	23	.
Dec	28	30	31	.

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+5.9%
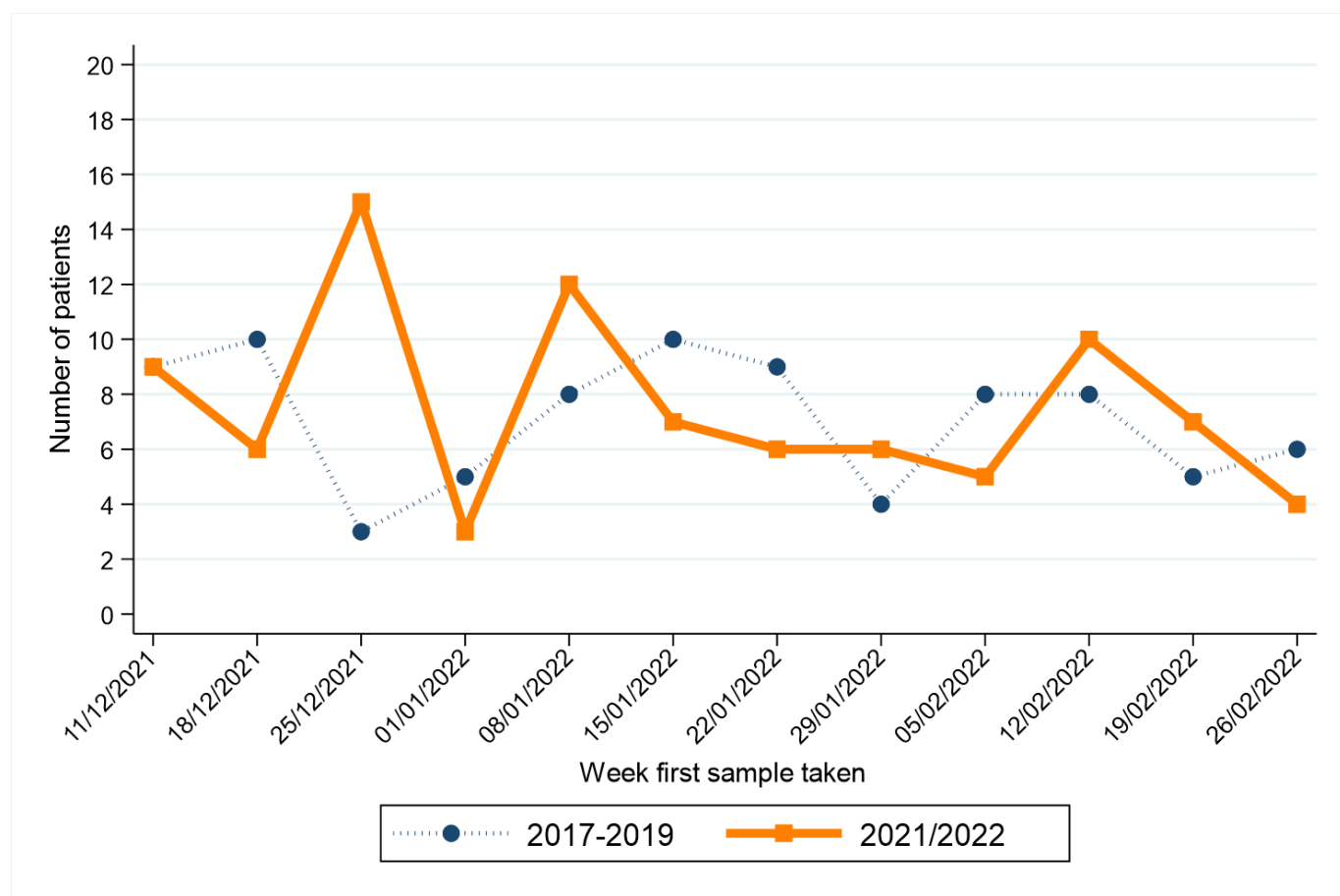
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	9	9
18/12/2021	10	6
25/12/2021	3	15
01/01/2022	5	3
08/01/2022	8	12
15/01/2022	10	7
22/01/2022	9	6
29/01/2022	4	6
05/02/2022	8	5
12/02/2022	8	10
19/02/2022	5	7
26/02/2022	6	4

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

URINARY CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-10.6%
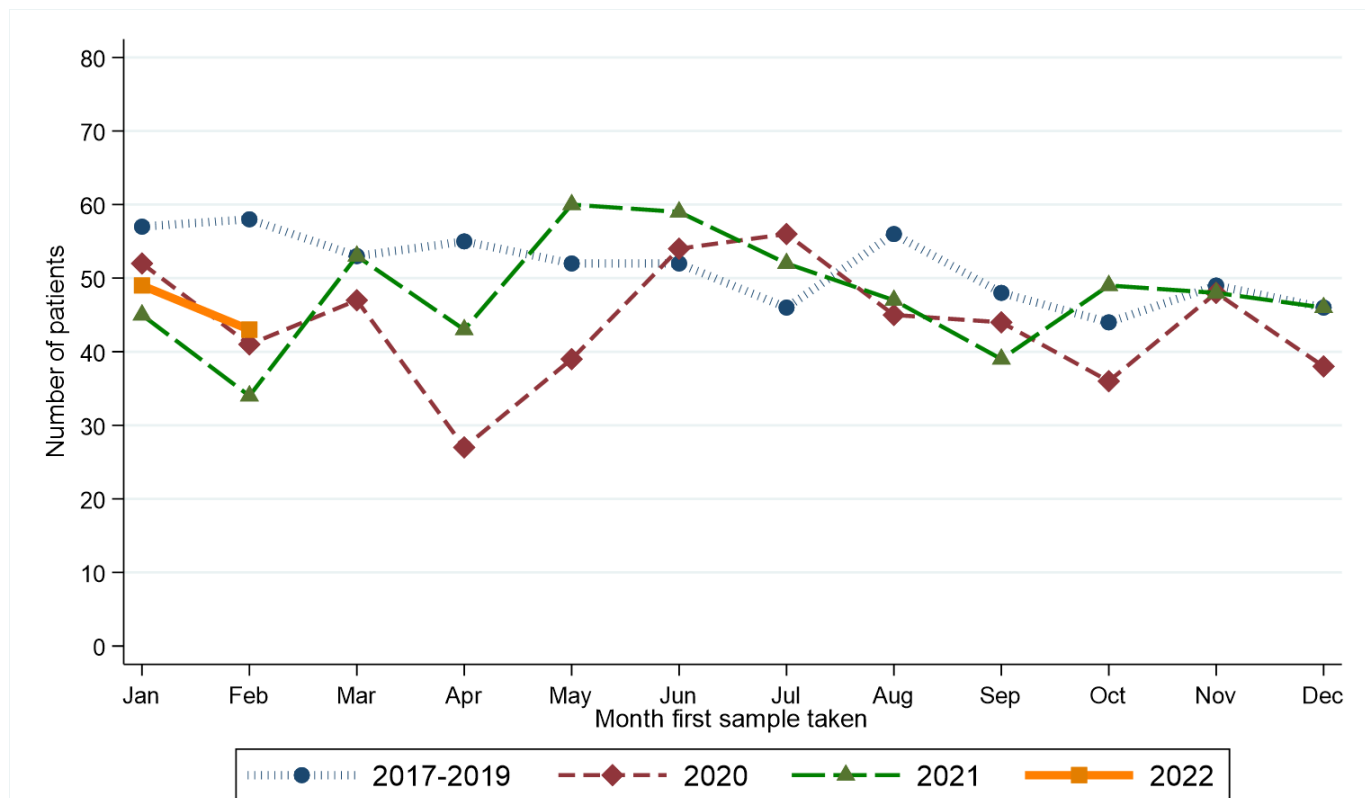
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	57	52	45	49
Feb	58	41	34	43
Mar	53	47	53	.
Apr	55	27	43	.
May	52	39	60	.
Jun	52	54	59	.
Jul	46	56	52	.
Aug	56	45	47	.
Sep	48	44	39	.
Oct	44	36	49	.
Nov	49	48	48	.
Dec	46	38	46	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-9.0%
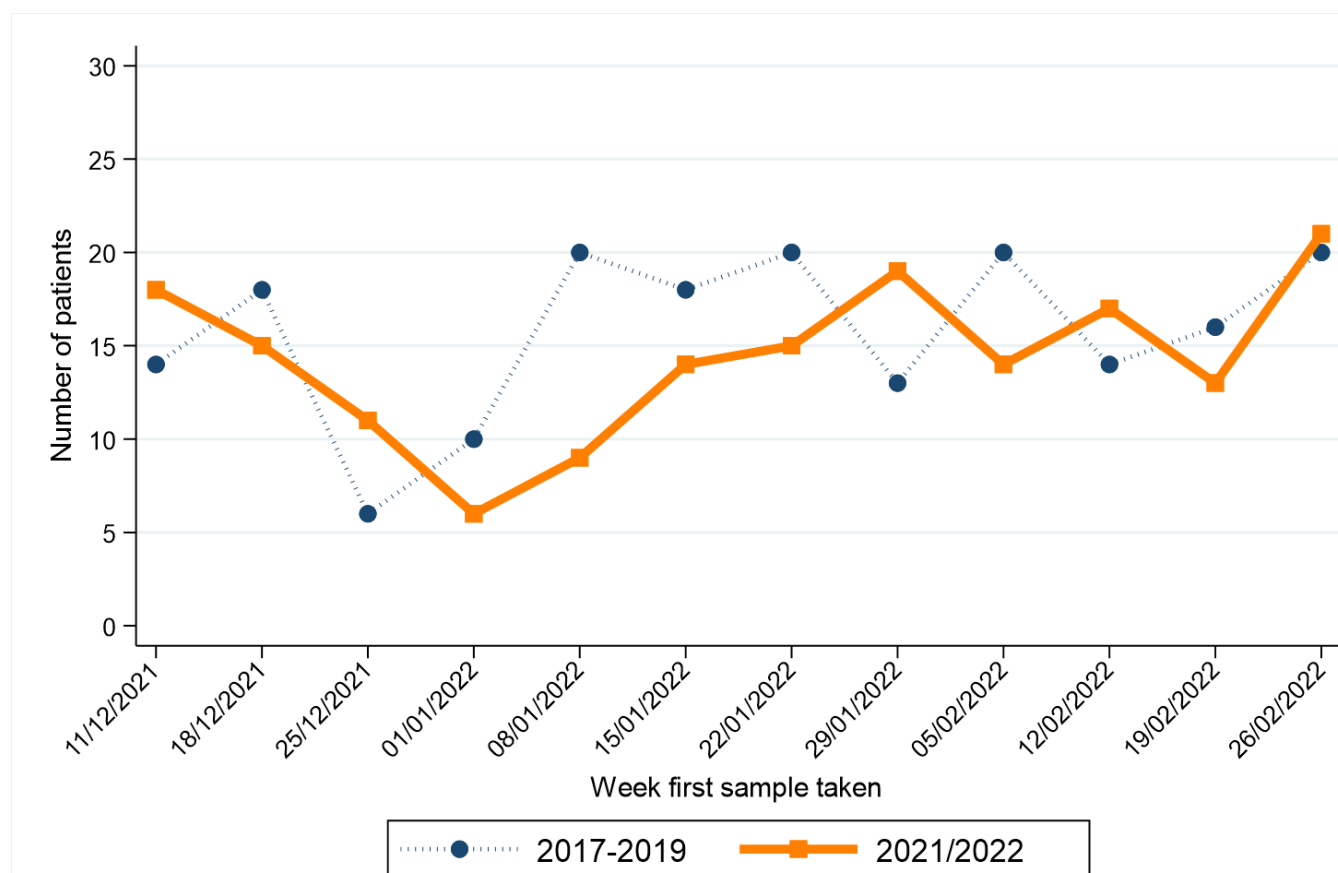
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	14	18
18/12/2021	18	15
25/12/2021	6	11
01/01/2022	10	6
08/01/2022	20	9
15/01/2022	18	14
22/01/2022	20	15
29/01/2022	13	19
05/02/2022	20	14
12/02/2022	14	17
19/02/2022	16	13
26/02/2022	20	21

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

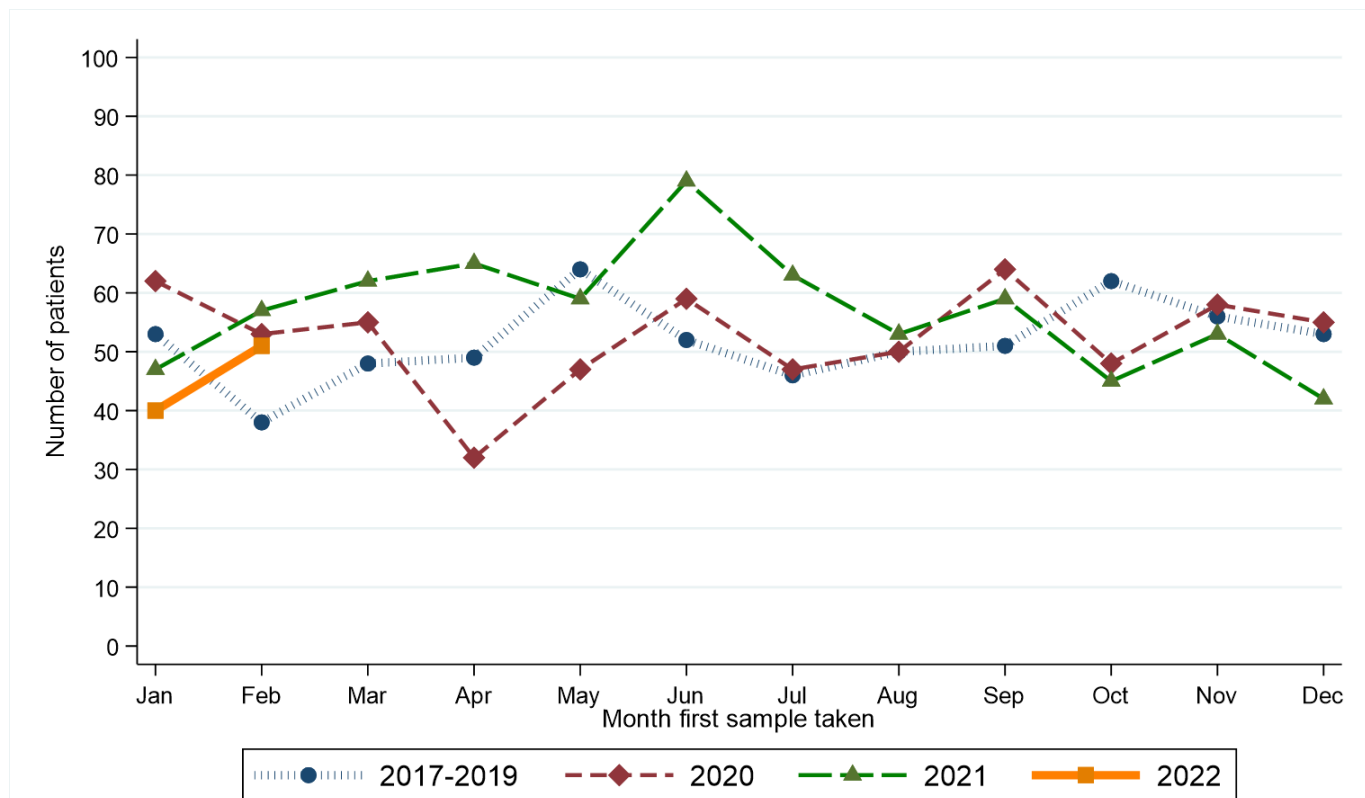### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+3.7%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	53	62	47	40
Feb	38	53	57	51
Mar	48	55	62	.
Apr	49	32	65	.
May	64	47	59	.
Jun	52	59	79	.
Jul	46	47	63	.
Aug	50	50	53	.
Sep	51	64	59	.
Oct	62	48	45	.
Nov	56	58	53	.
Dec	53	55	42	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.1%
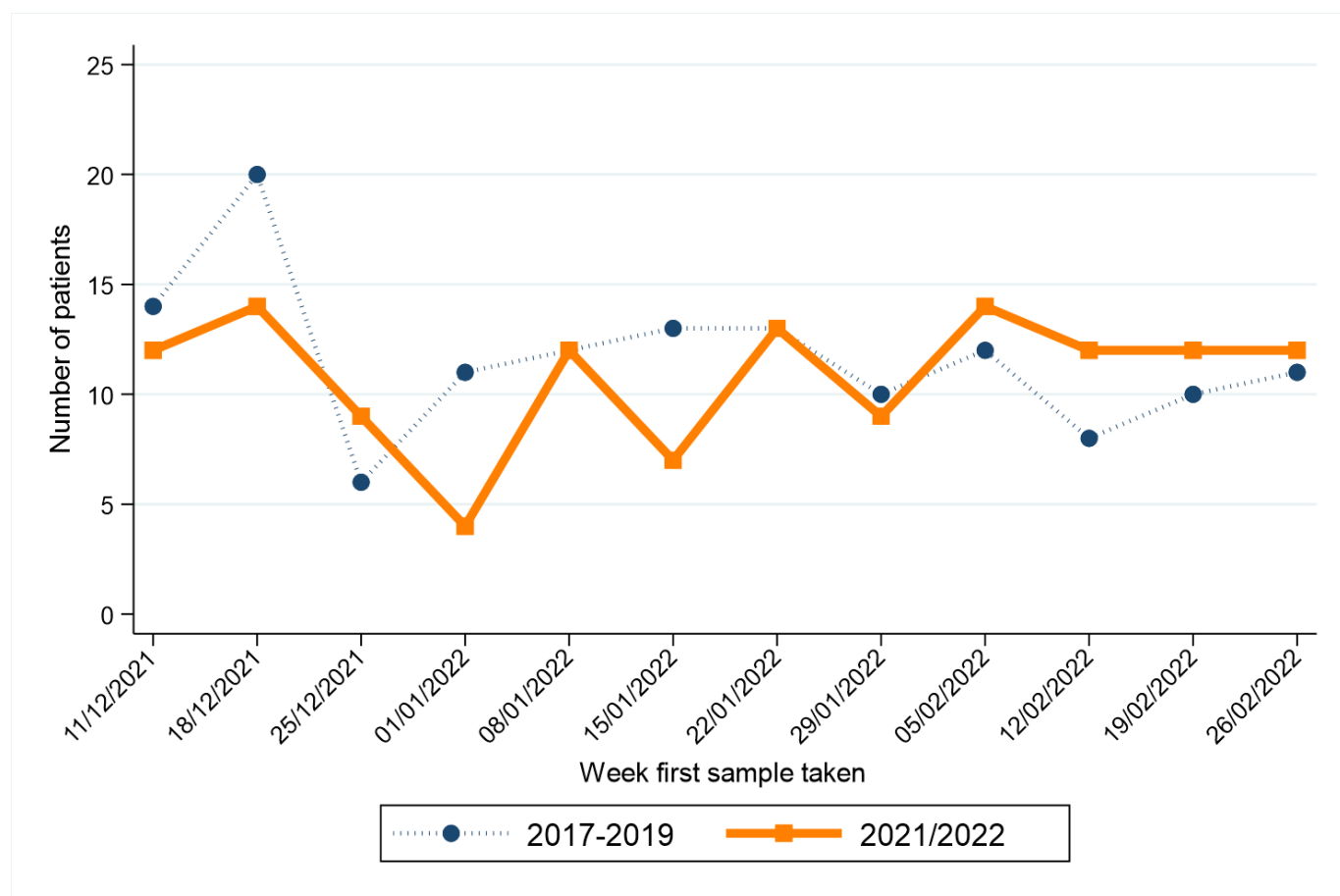
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	14	12
18/12/2021	20	14
25/12/2021	6	9
01/01/2022	11	4
08/01/2022	12	12
15/01/2022	13	7
22/01/2022	13	13
29/01/2022	10	9
05/02/2022	12	14
12/02/2022	8	12
19/02/2022	10	12
26/02/2022	11	12

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

MELANOMA

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

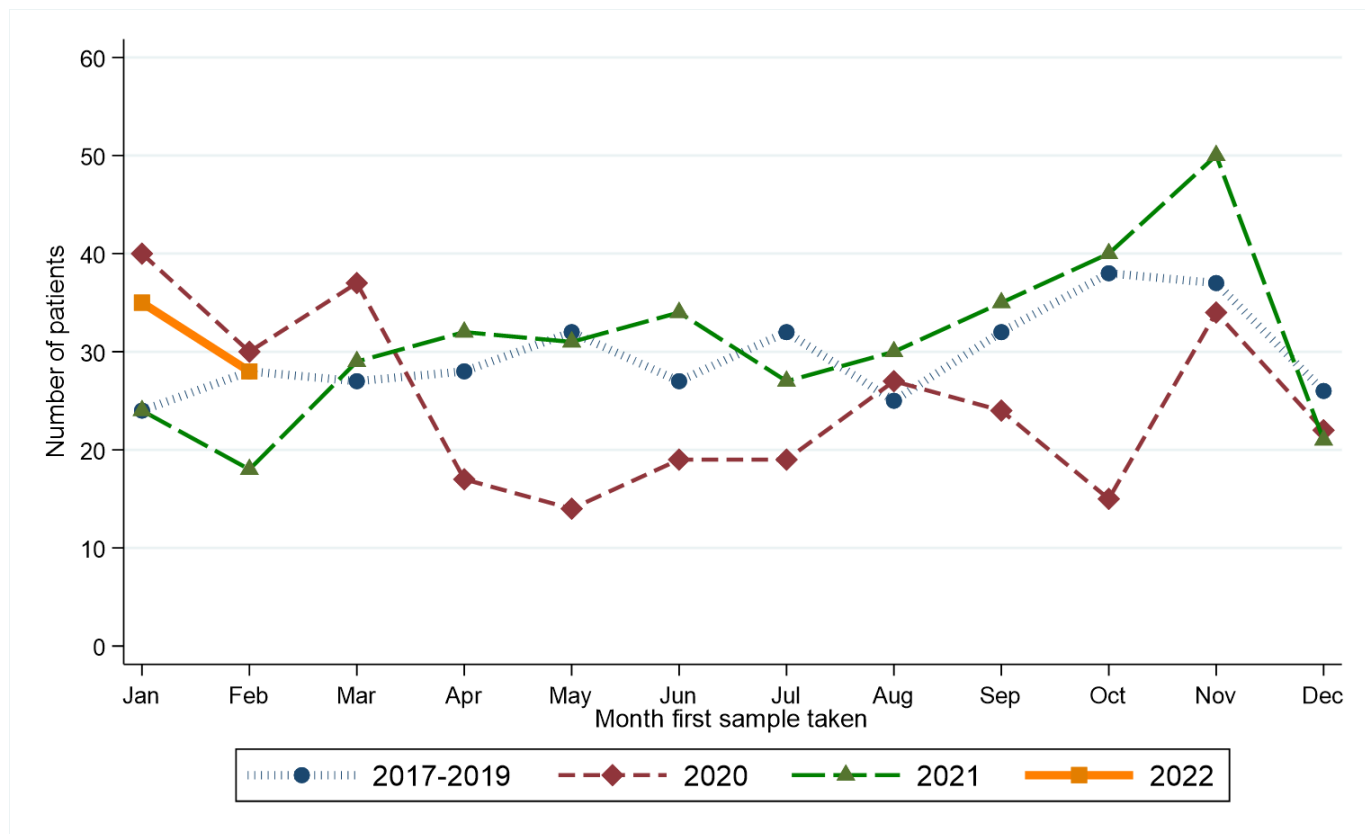### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.0%

Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	24	40	24	35
Feb	28	30	18	28
Mar	27	37	29	.
Apr	28	17	32	.
May	32	14	31	.
Jun	27	19	34	.
Jul	32	19	27	.
Aug	25	27	30	.
Sep	32	24	35	.
Oct	38	15	40	.
Nov	37	34	50	.
Dec	26	22	21	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.2%
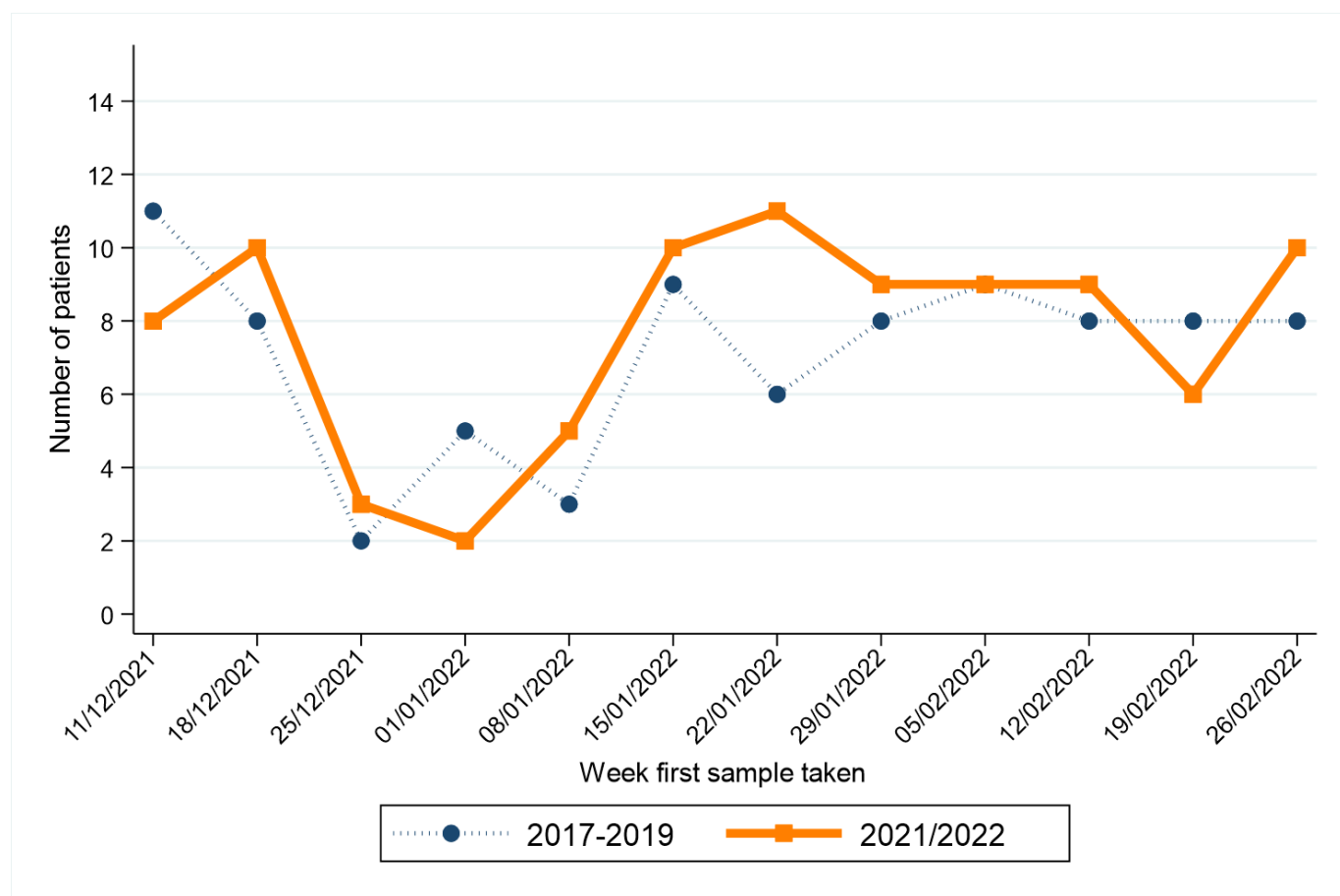
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	11	8
18/12/2021	8	10
25/12/2021	2	3
01/01/2022	5	2
08/01/2022	3	5
15/01/2022	9	10
22/01/2022	6	11
29/01/2022	8	9
05/02/2022	9	9
12/02/2022	8	9
19/02/2022	8	6
26/02/2022	8	10

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

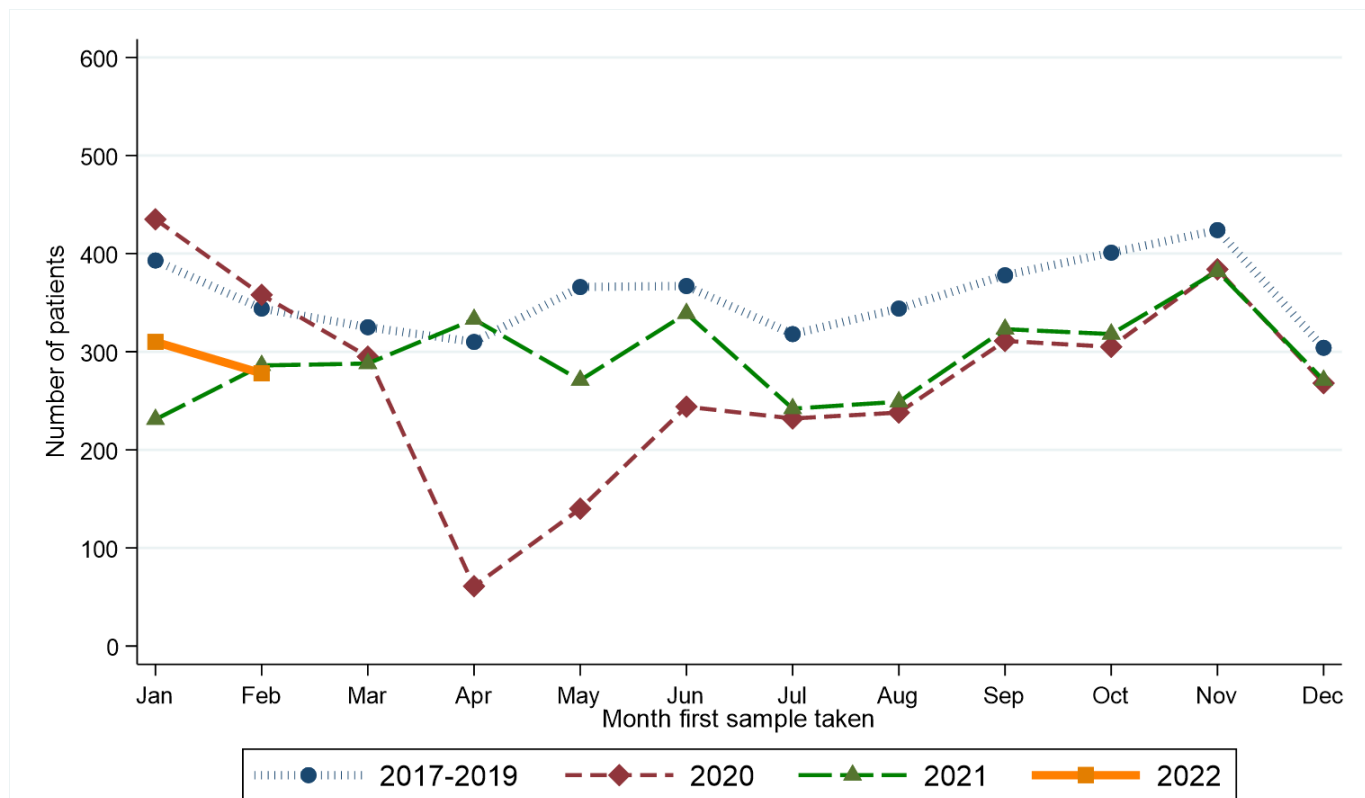**Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-22.8%

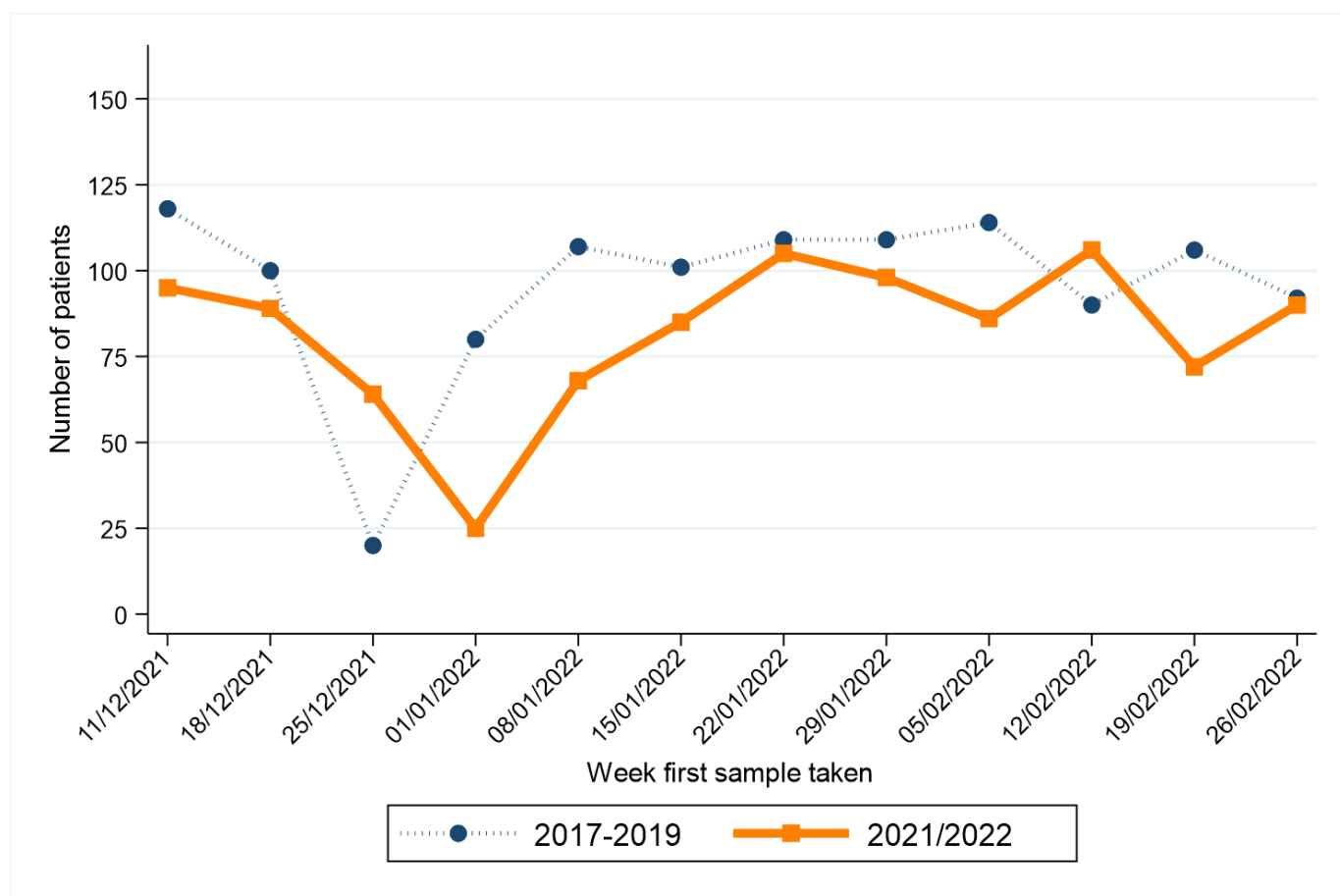| Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	393	435	231	310
Feb	344	358	286	278
Mar	325	295	288	.
Apr	310	61	333	.
May	366	140	271	.
Jun	367	244	339	.
Jul	318	232	242	.
Aug	344	238	249	.
Sep	378	311	323	.
Oct	401	305	318	.
Nov	424	384	382	.
Dec	304	268	271	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-14.2%

Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	118	95
18/12/2021	100	89
25/12/2021	20	64
01/01/2022	80	25
08/01/2022	107	68
15/01/2022	101	85
22/01/2022	109	105
29/01/2022	109	98
05/02/2022	114	86
12/02/2022	90	106
19/02/2022	106	72
26/02/2022	92	90

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** *Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

OTHER CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

### Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+2.0%
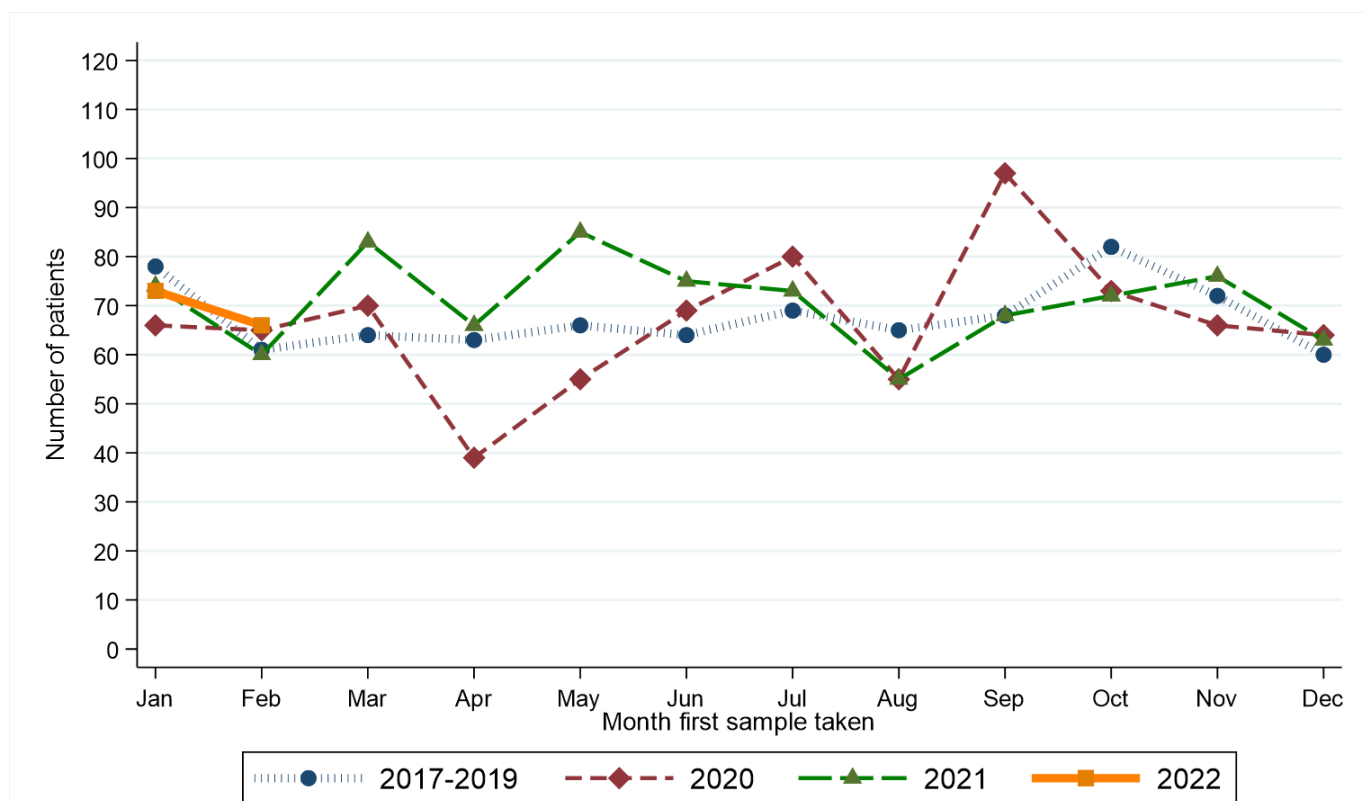
Month first sample taken	Year first sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	78	66	74	73
Feb	61	65	60	66
Mar	64	70	83	.
Apr	63	39	66	.
May	66	55	85	.
Jun	64	69	75	.
Jul	69	80	73	.
Aug	65	55	55	.
Sep	68	97	68	.
Oct	82	73	72	.
Nov	72	66	76	.
Dec	60	64	63	.

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+3.9%
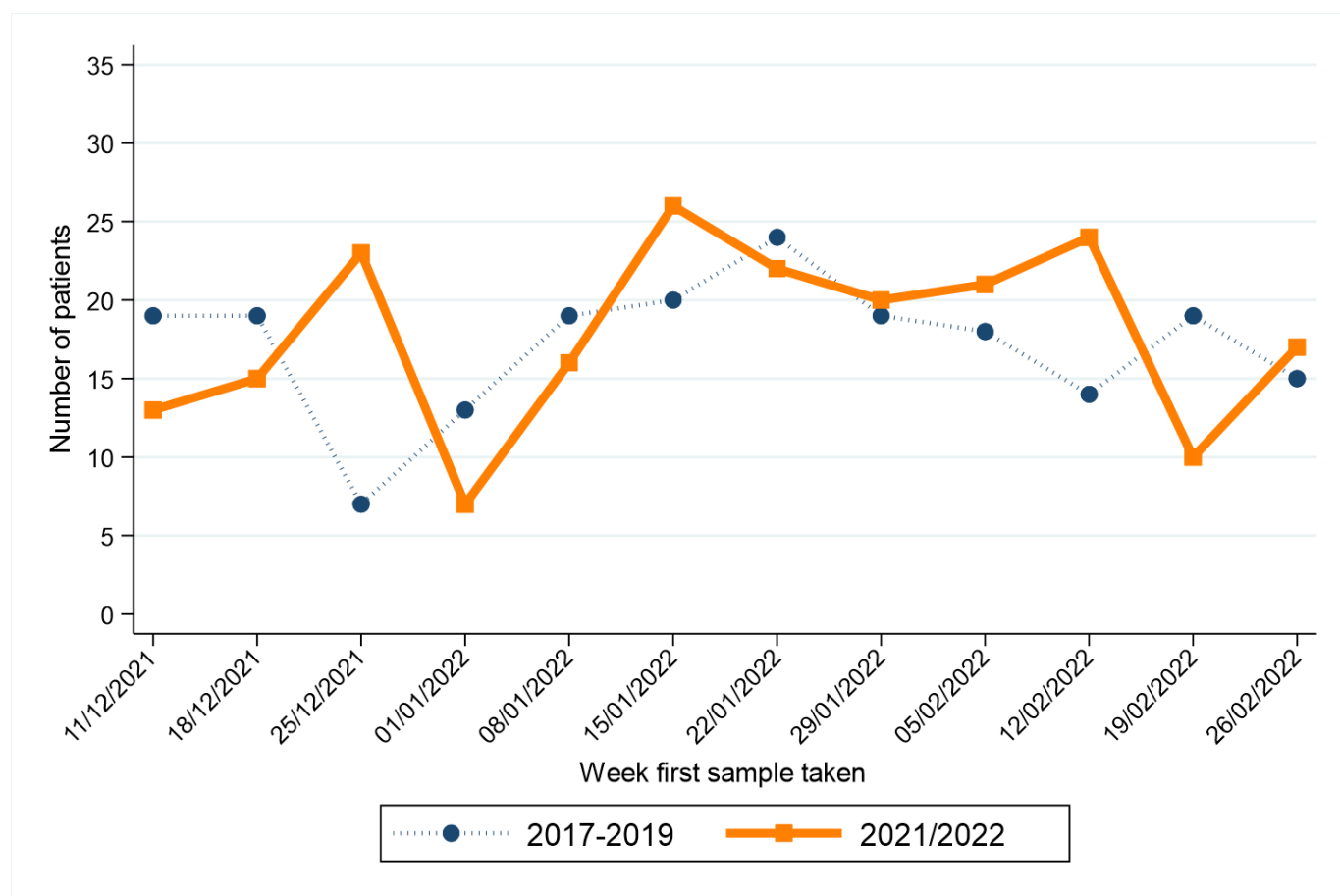
Week first sample taken**	Year first sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
11/12/2021	19	13
18/12/2021	19	15
25/12/2021	7	23
01/01/2022	13	7
08/01/2022	19	16
15/01/2022	20	26
22/01/2022	24	22
29/01/2022	19	20
05/02/2022	18	21
12/02/2022	14	24
19/02/2022	19	10
26/02/2022	15	17

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Altnagelvin, Antrim, Belfast, Craigavon), which is provided to the NI Cancer Registry on a monthly basis. It does not include information on pathology samples processed by private laboratories.

3. Figures represent the number of patients with pathology samples that indicated a malignant tumour and had this result coded and recorded by the end of February 2022. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following February 2022 are used in compiling the presented results.

4. Assignment of week number is based upon a Sunday to Saturday week. The week ending label used in graphs and tables is based upon the date of the end of the week (a Saturday) in 2021-2022. This is compared with the equivalent Sunday-Saturday week in 2017-2019, although the actual date ending this week in 2017-2019 will differ.

5. Individual patients with cancer may have more than one pathology sample. A diagnosis of cancer may be a result of more than one procedure indicating cancer, for example a breast cancer diagnosis may be based upon a positive biopsy of the breast and then a separate positive dissection of a lymph node. Patients are thus only included once per cancer type unless they have had pathology samples separated by more than two years, thus a patient with samples in March and April of 2019 will be counted once (in the March 2019 count), while a patient with samples in April 2017 and May 2020 will be counted in both the April 2017 and May 2020 counts.

6. Cancer types are defined as follows:
   Bowel cancer: Includes colon, rectum and rectosigmoid junction (ICD10 codes: C18-C20).
   Lung cancer: Includes lung and trachea (ICD10 codes: C33-C34).
   Breast cancer: Includes female breast only (ICD10 codes: C50).
   Prostate cancer: (ICD10 codes: C61).
   Gynaecological cancer: Includes uterus, ovary, cervix, vulva, vagina, placenta and other female genital (ICD10 codes: C51-C58).
   Upper GI cancer: Includes oesophagus and stomach (ICD10 codes: C15, C16).
   Head and neck cancer: Includes lip, tongue, mouth, parotid & salivary glands, tonsil, oropharynx, nasopharynx, pyriform sinus, hypopharynx, nasal cavity, middle ear, sinuses and larynx (ICD10 codes: C00-C14, C30-C32).
   Urinary cancer: Includes kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, bladder and other urinary (ICD10 codes: C64-C68).
   Haematological cancer: Includes lymphoma (all types), leukaemia (all types), myeloma, malignant immunoproliferative disease and other lymphoid and haematopoietic (ICD10 codes: C81-C96).
   Melanoma: (ICD10 code: C43).
   Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC): (ICD10 code: C44).
   Other cancer: Includes cancers of small intestine, anus, liver, gallbladder, thymus, bone, mesothelioma, soft tissue, penis, testis, eye, brain, endocrine system and thyroid (ICD10 codes: C16, C21-C26, C37-C41, C45-C49, C60, C62, C63, C69-C75). Excludes cancer of unknown primary.