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

October 2022 update

Further information

Further information is available at: www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr **Phone:** +44 (0)28 9097 6028 **e-mail:** nicr@qub.ac.uk

Acknowledgements

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NICR uses data provided by patients and collected by the health service as part of their care and support.







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SUMMARY

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

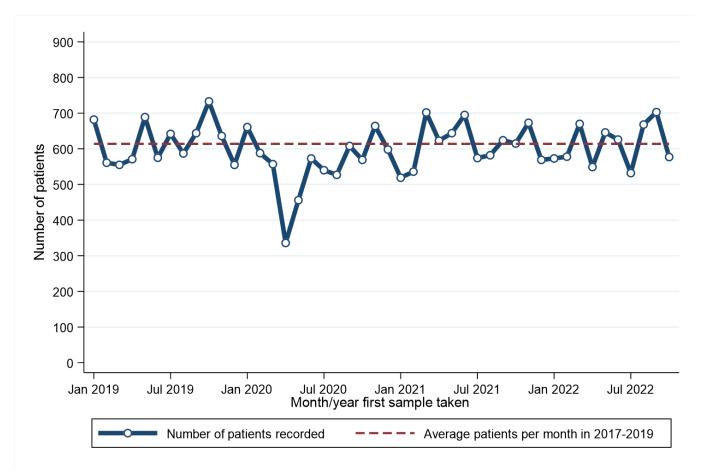
This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) whose first sample was taken from January 2020 to October 2022 in Northern Ireland.

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.

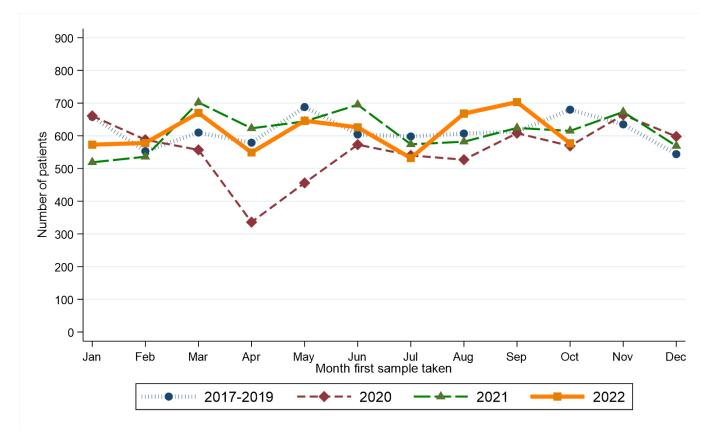
Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded from some analysis as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples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

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

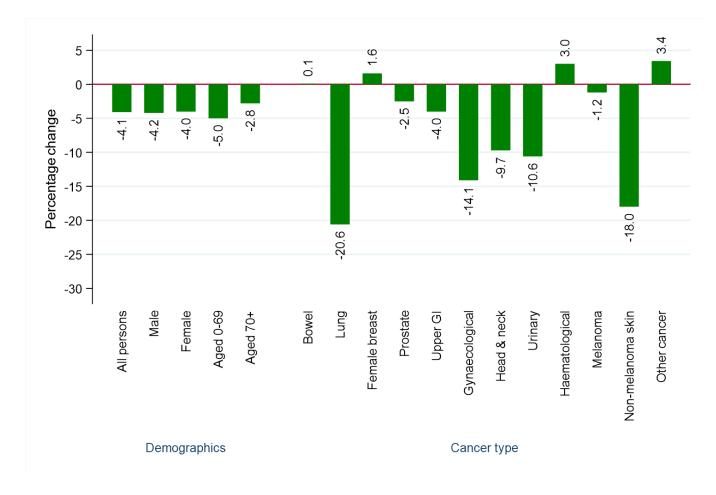
From March 2020 to October 2022 the number of patients with a pathological sample indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 4.1% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.



From March 2020 to October 2022 there was a 4.2% decrease among males and a 4.0% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 5.0% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 2.8% among those aged 70 and older.

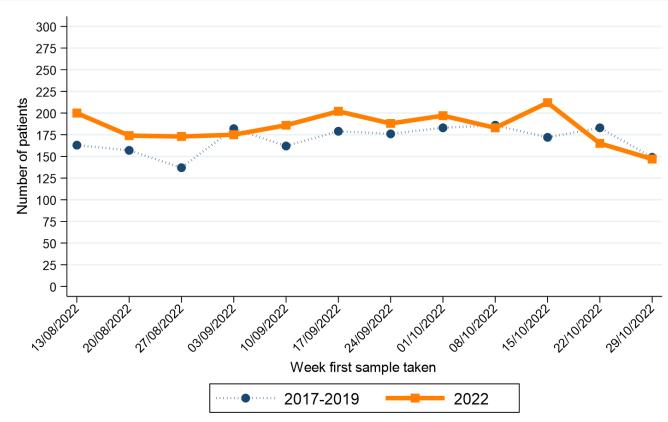


Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to October 2022 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 20.6%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, female breast cancer and haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer, urinary cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

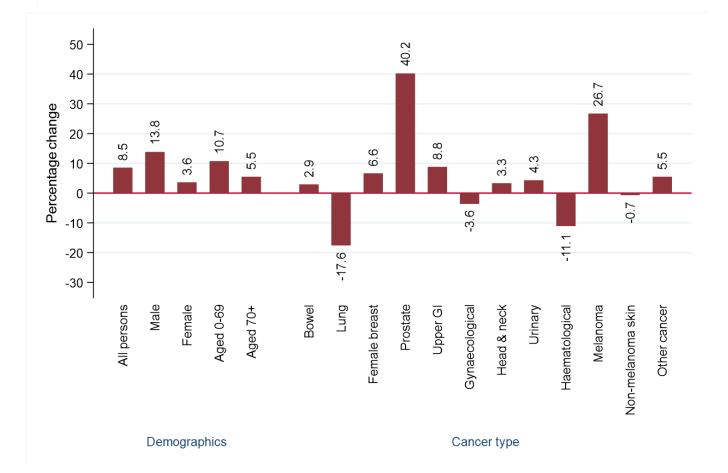


RECENT CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS (Includes Altnagelvin)

There was an 8.5% increase in the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.



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



In the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 there was a 13.8% increase among males and a 3.6% increase among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. An increase of 10.7% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was an increase of 5.5% among those aged 70 and older.

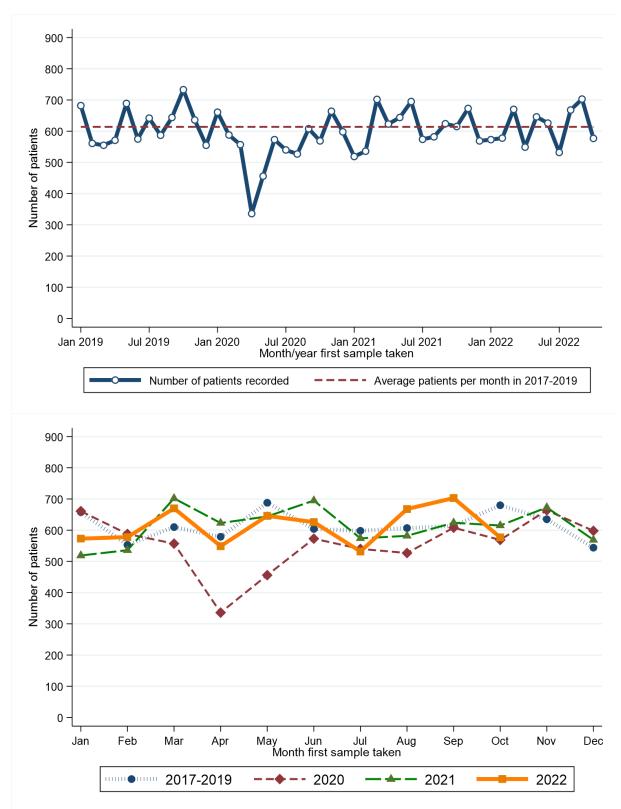
Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 17.6%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, female breast cancer, prostate cancer, upper gastrointestinal cancer, head and neck cancer, urinary cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for haematological cancer.

ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

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

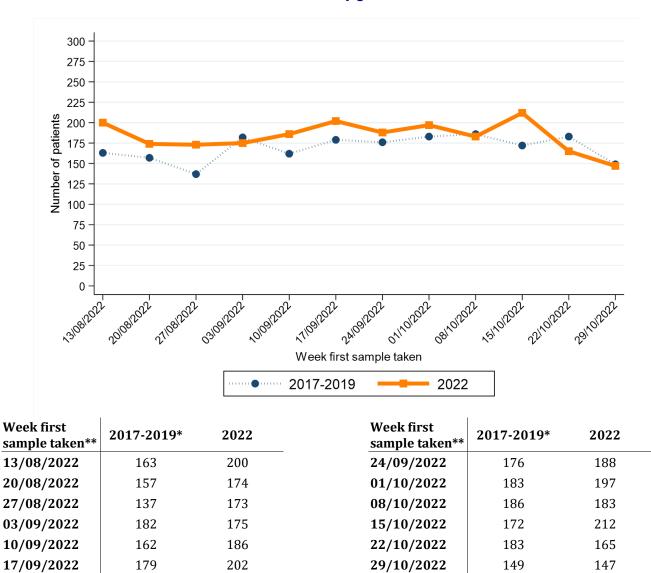
-4.1%



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	658	661	519	573	Jul	598	540	574	532
Feb	553	588	536	578	Aug	607	527	582	668
Mar	610	557	702	670	Sep	613	608	624	703
Apr	579	336	623	549	Oct	680	569	615	577
Мау	688	456	644	646	Nov	635	664	673	
Jun	604	573	695	626	Dec	544	598	569	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



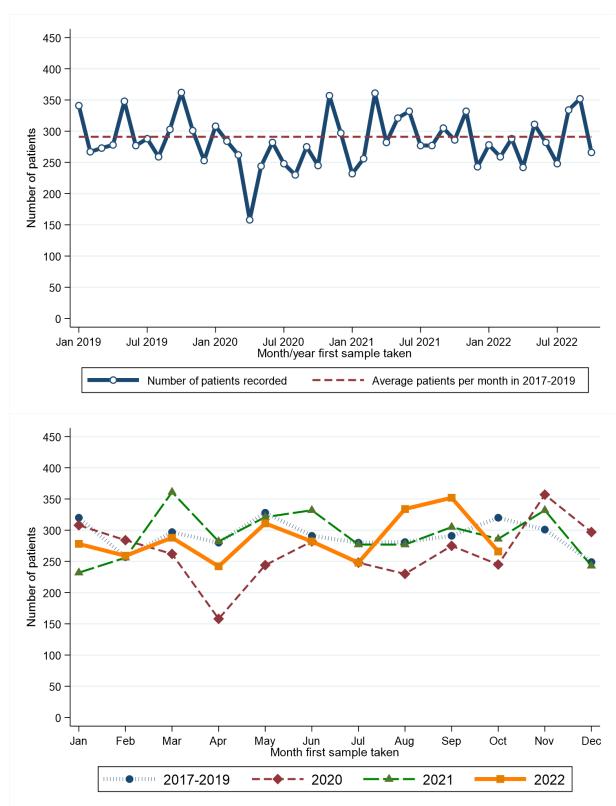
+8.5%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

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

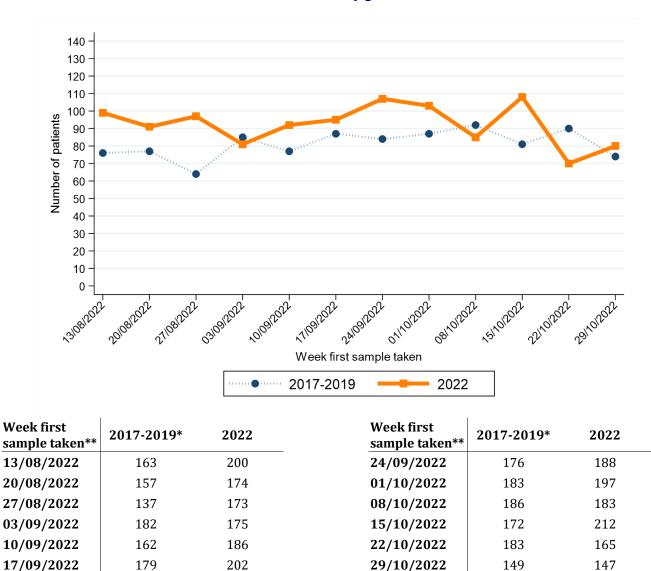
-4.2%



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	320	308	232	278	Jul	280	248	277	248
Feb	257	284	256	259	Aug	281	230	277	334
Mar	297	262	361	288	Sep	291	275	305	352
Apr	280	158	282	242	Oct	320	245	286	266
May	328	244	321	311	Nov	301	357	332	
Jun	291	282	332	282	Dec	249	297	243	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

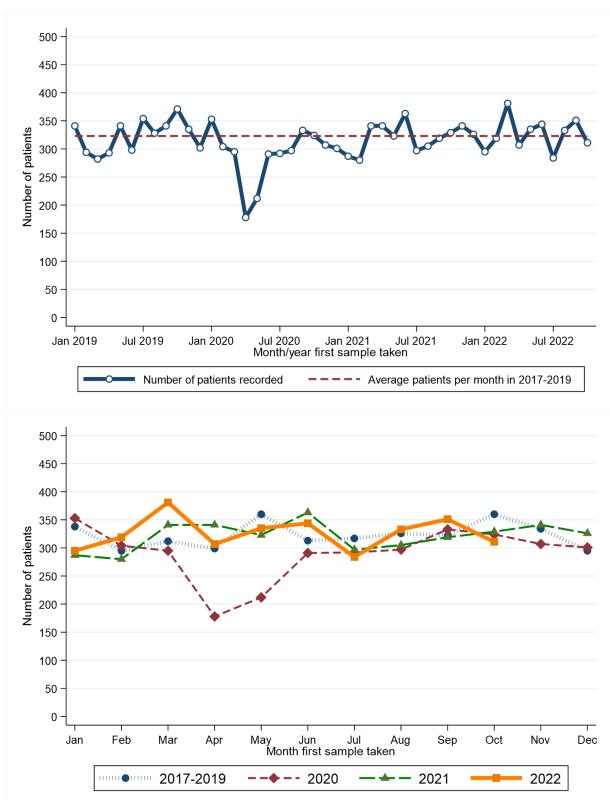


+13.8%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

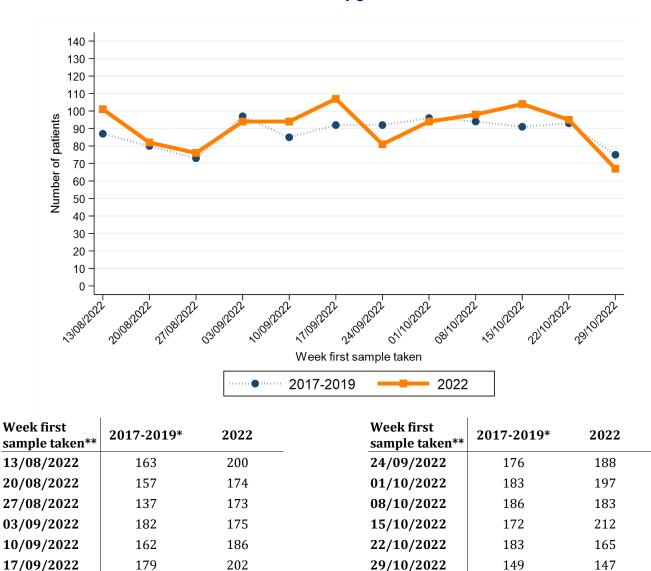




Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	338	353	287	295	Jul	317	292	297	284
Feb	295	304	280	319	Aug	326	297	305	333
Mar	312	295	341	381	Sep	322	333	319	351
Apr	299	178	341	307	Oct	360	324	329	311
May	360	212	323	335	Nov	334	307	341	
Jun	313	291	363	344	Dec	295	301	326	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



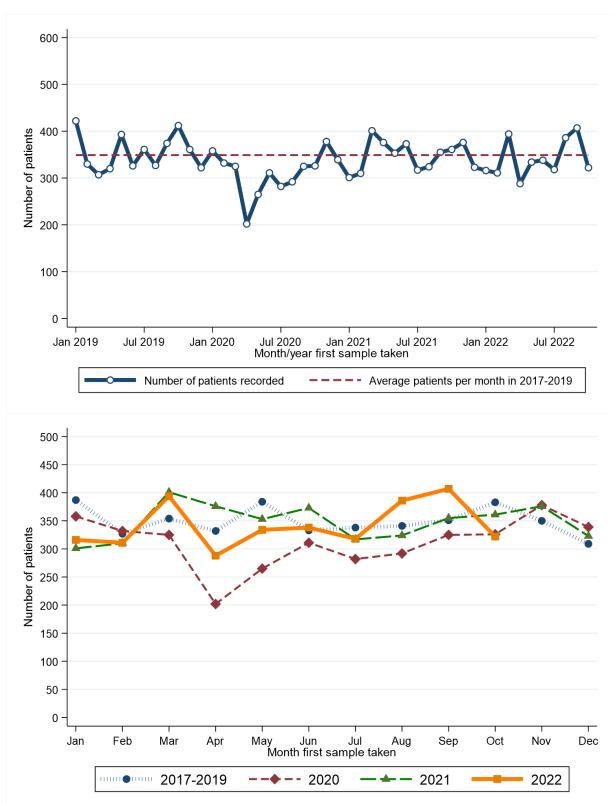
+3.6%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

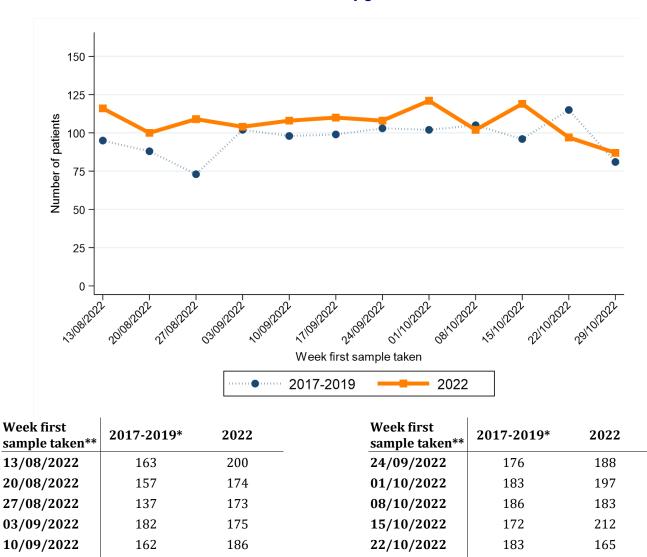
^{-5.0%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	387	358	301	316	Jul	338	282	317	318
Feb	327	332	310	311	Aug	341	292	324	386
Mar	354	325	401	394	Sep	351	325	355	407
Apr	332	202	376	288	Oct	383	326	361	322
May	384	265	353	334	Nov	350	378	376	
Jun	333	311	373	338	Dec	309	339	323	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+10.7%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

179

17/09/2022

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

29/10/2022

149

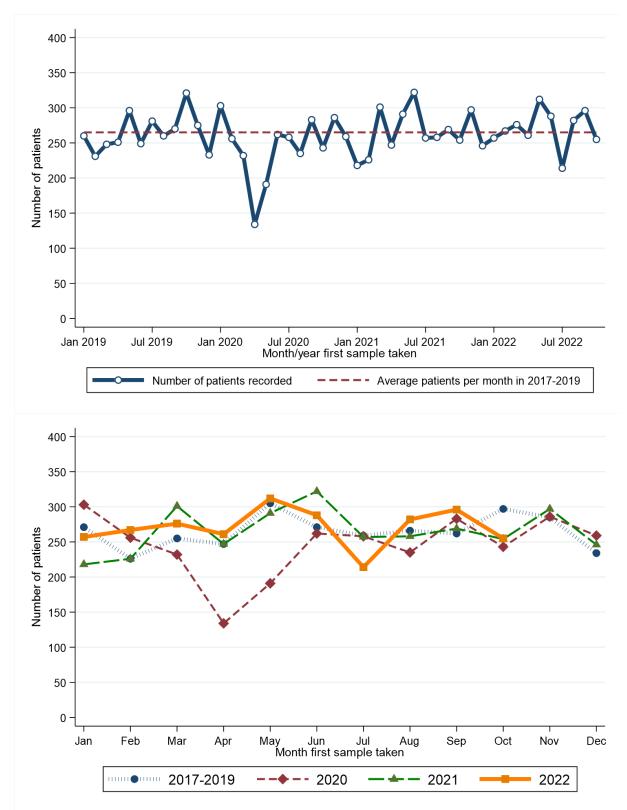
147

202

AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

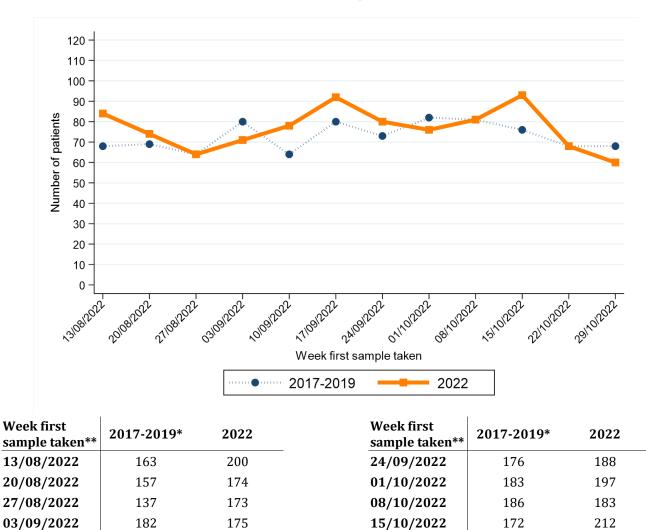
^{-2.8%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	271	303	218	257	Jul	259	258	257	214
Feb	226	256	226	267	Aug	266	235	258	282
Mar	255	232	301	276	Sep	262	283	269	296
Apr	247	134	247	261	Oct	297	243	254	255
Мау	305	191	291	312	Nov	285	286	297	
Jun	271	262	322	288	Dec	234	259	246	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+5.5%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

162

179

10/09/2022

17/09/2022

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

22/10/2022

29/10/2022

183

149

165

147

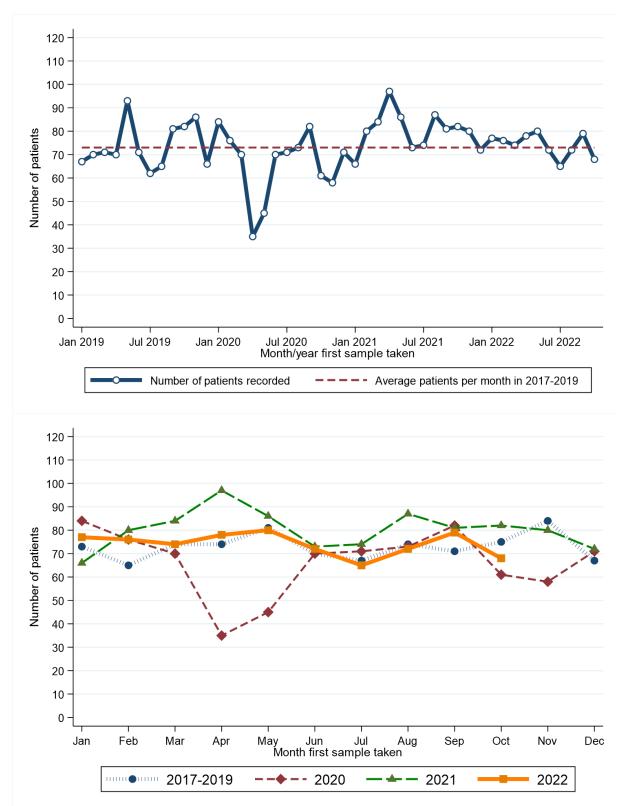
186

202

BOWEL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

^{+0.1%}

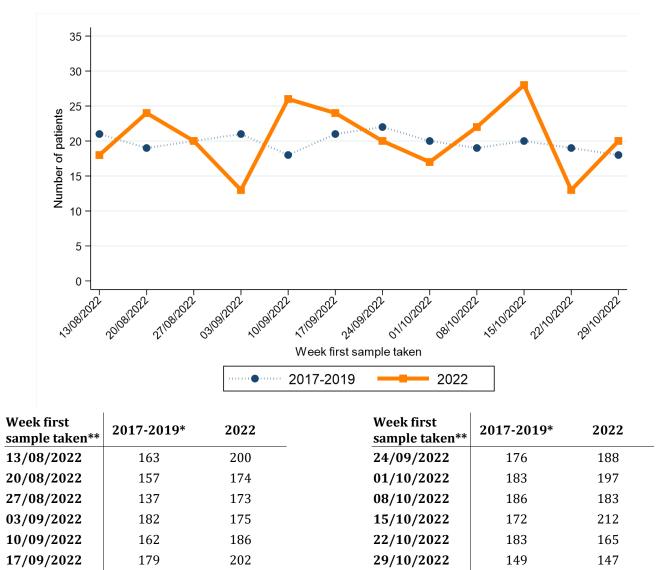


Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	73	84	66	77	Jul	67	71	74	65
Feb	65	76	80	76	Aug	74	73	87	72
Mar	74	70	84	74	Sep	71	82	81	79
Apr	74	35	97	78	Oct	75	61	82	68
May	81	45	86	80	Nov	84	58	80	
Jun	70	70	73	72	Dec	67	71	72	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



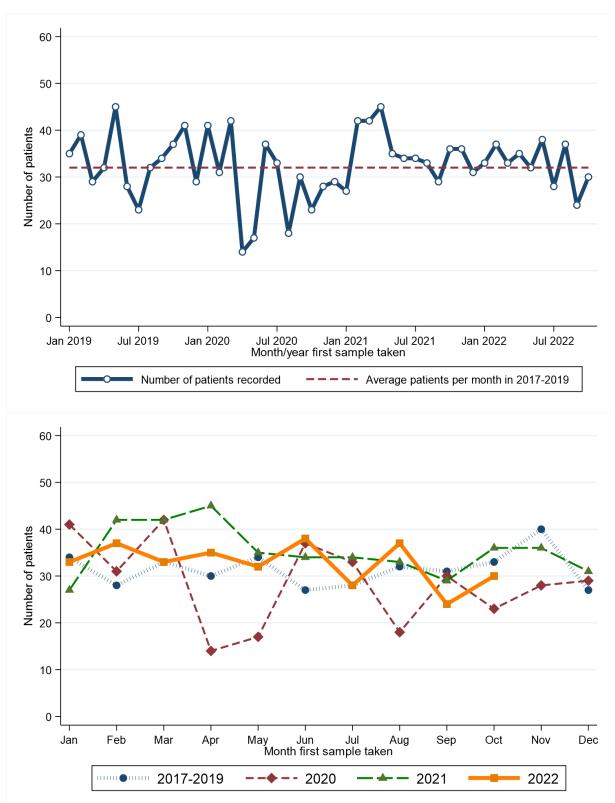


* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

^{+2.0%}

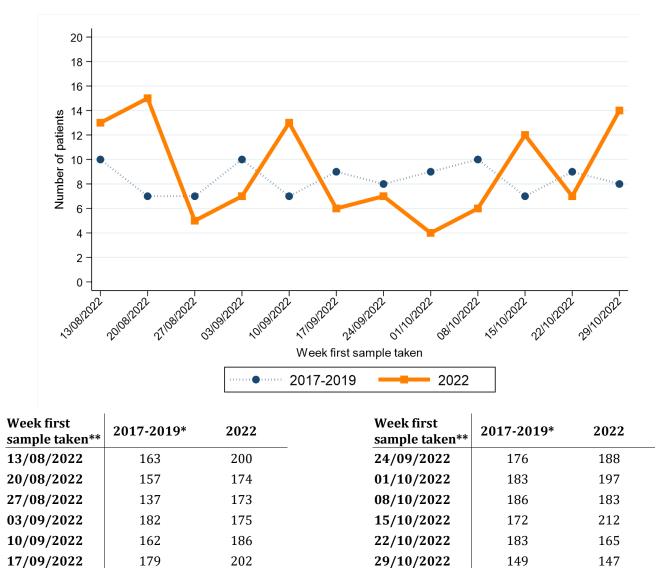


	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	34	41	27	33	Jul	28	33	34	28
Feb	28	31	42	37	Aug	32	18	33	37
Mar	33	42	42	33	Sep	31	30	29	24
Apr	30	14	45	35	Oct	33	23	36	30
Мау	34	17	35	32	Nov	40	28	36	
Jun	27	37	34	38	Dec	27	29	31	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



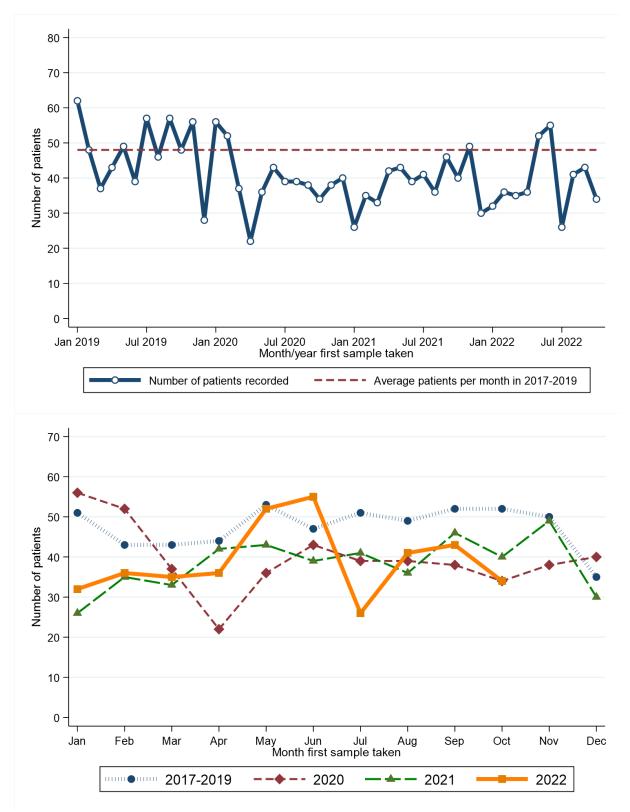


* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

LUNG CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

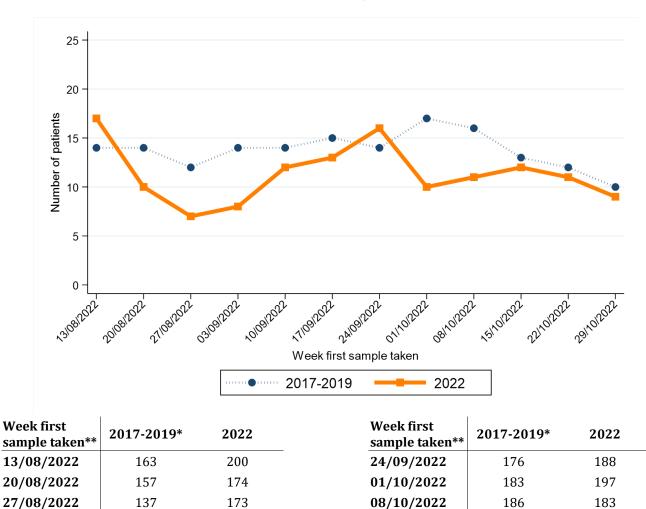
-20.6%



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	51	56	26	32	Jul	51	39	41	26
Feb	43	52	35	36	Aug	49	39	36	41
Mar	43	37	33	35	Sep	52	38	46	43
Apr	44	22	42	36	Oct	52	34	40	34
May	53	36	43	52	Nov	50	38	49	
Jun	47	43	39	55	Dec	35	40	30	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



-17.6%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

182

162

179

03/09/2022

10/09/2022

17/09/2022

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

15/10/2022

22/10/2022

29/10/2022

172

183

149

212

165

147

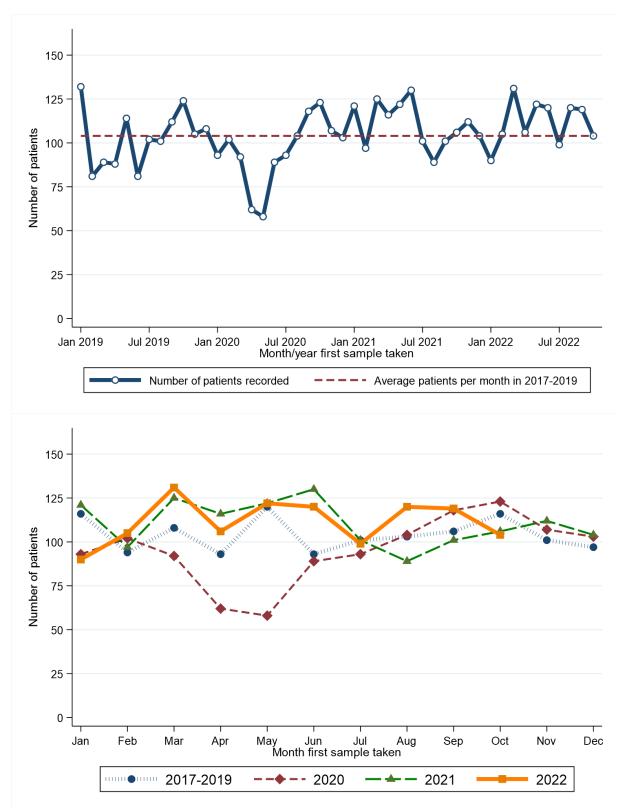
175

186

202

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

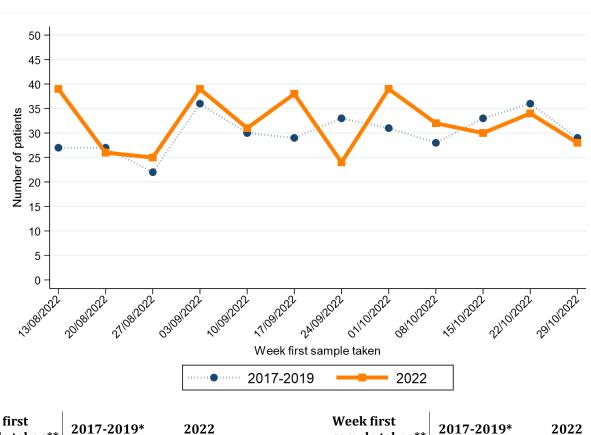
^{+1.6%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	116	93	121	90	Jul	101	93	101	99
Feb	94	102	97	105	Aug	103	104	89	120
Mar	108	92	125	131	Sep	106	118	101	119
Apr	93	62	116	106	Oct	116	123	106	104
May	120	58	122	122	Nov	101	107	112	
Jun	93	89	130	120	Dec	97	103	104	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+6.6%

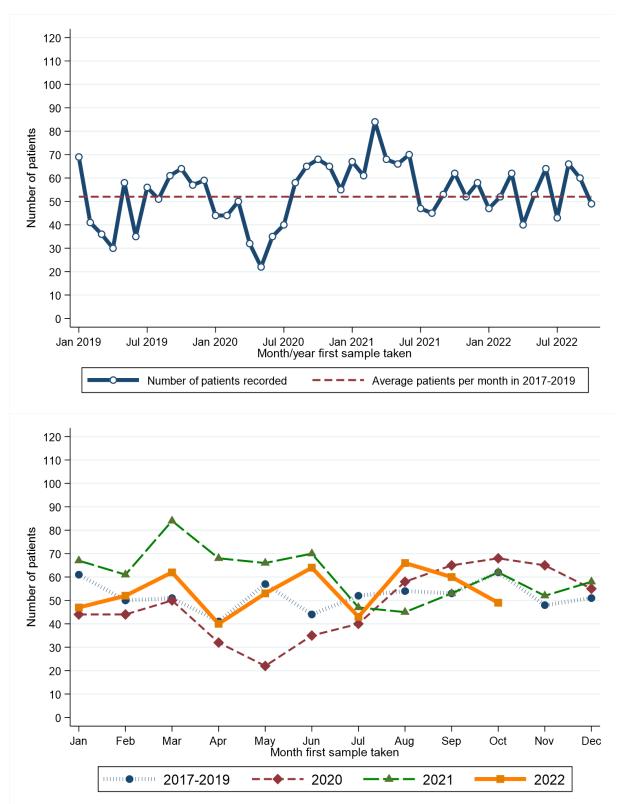
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2022	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2022
13/08/2022	163	200	24/09/2022	176	188
20/08/2022	157	174	01/10/2022	183	197
27/08/2022	137	173	08/10/2022	186	183
03/09/2022	182	175	15/10/2022	172	212
10/09/2022	162	186	22/10/2022	183	165
17/09/2022	179	202	29/10/2022	149	147

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

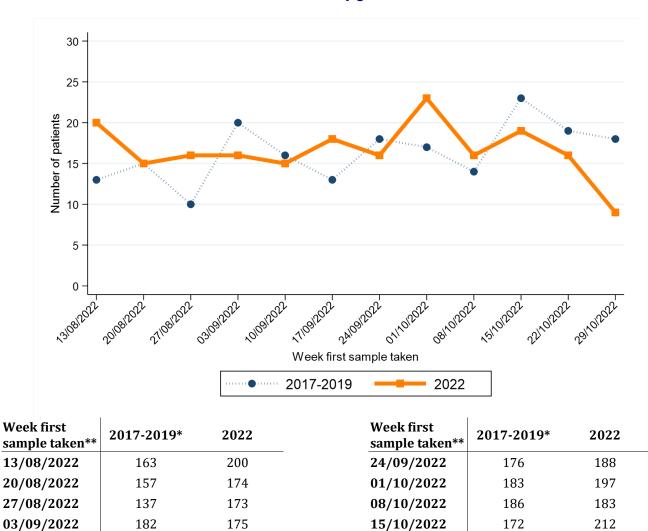
+5.8%



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	61	44	67	47	Jul	52	40	47	43
Feb	50	44	61	52	Aug	54	58	45	66
Mar	51	50	84	62	Sep	53	65	53	60
Apr	41	32	68	40	Oct	62	68	62	49
May	57	22	66	53	Nov	48	65	52	
Jun	44	35	70	64	Dec	51	55	58	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+1.5%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

162

179

10/09/2022

17/09/2022

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

22/10/2022

29/10/2022

183

149

165

147

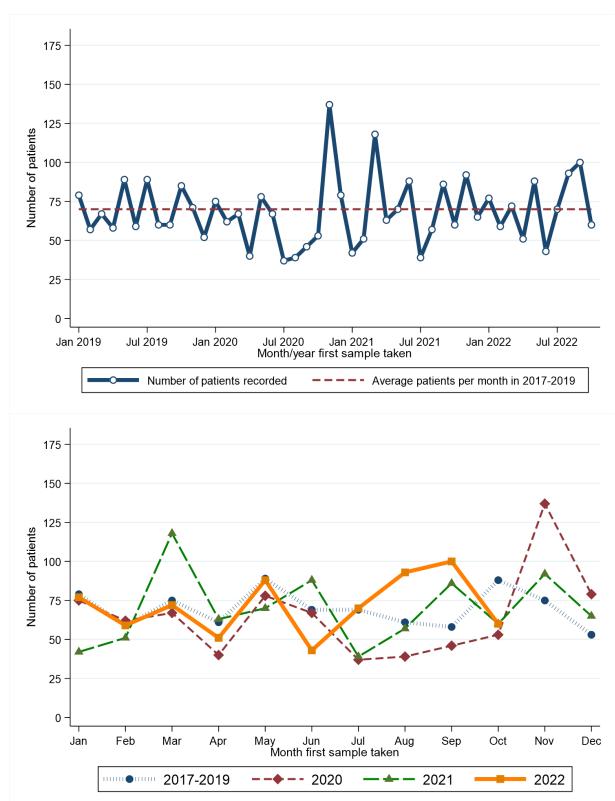
186

202

PROSTATE CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

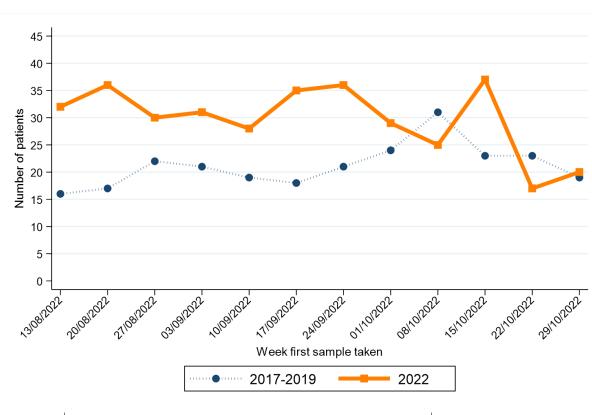




Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	79	75	42	77	Jul	69	37	39	70
Feb	59	62	51	59	Aug	61	39	57	93
Mar	75	67	118	72	Sep	58	46	86	100
Apr	61	40	63	51	Oct	88	53	60	60
May	89	78	70	88	Nov	75	137	92	
Jun	69	67	88	43	Dec	53	79	65	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+40.2%

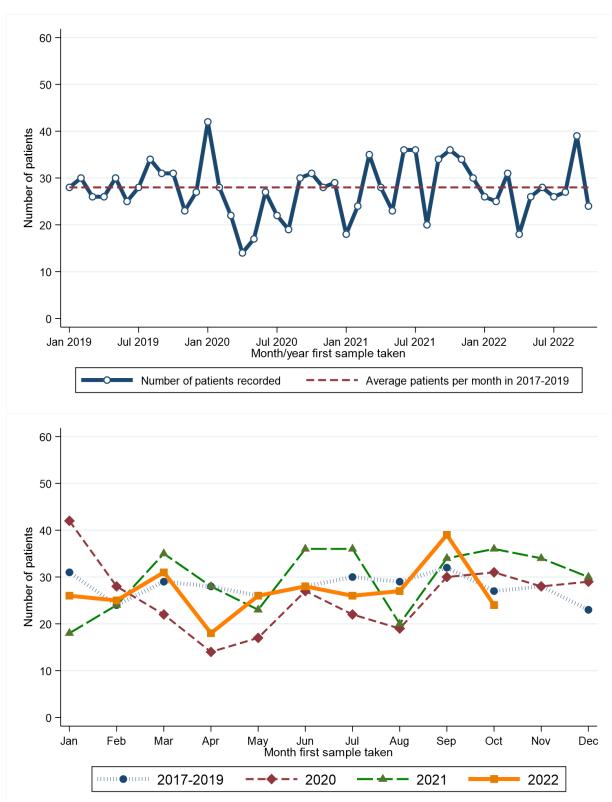
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2022	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2022
13/08/2022	163	200	24/09/2022	176	188
20/08/2022	157	174	01/10/2022	183	197
27/08/2022	137	173	08/10/2022	186	183
03/09/2022	182	175	15/10/2022	172	212
10/09/2022	162	186	22/10/2022	183	165
17/09/2022	179	202	29/10/2022	149	147

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

-4.0%

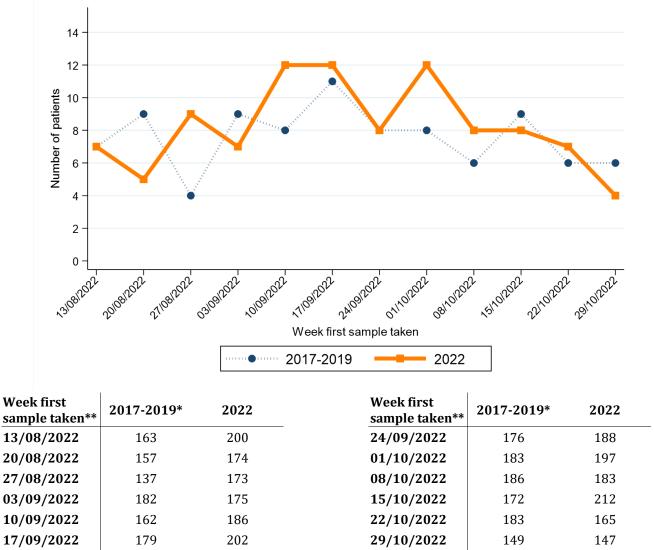


Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	31	42	18	26	Jul	30	22	36	26
Feb	24	28	24	25	Aug	29	19	20	27
Mar	29	22	35	31	Sep	32	30	34	39
Apr	28	14	28	18	Oct	27	31	36	24
May	26	17	23	26	Nov	28	28	34	
Jun	28	27	36	28	Dec	23	29	30	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

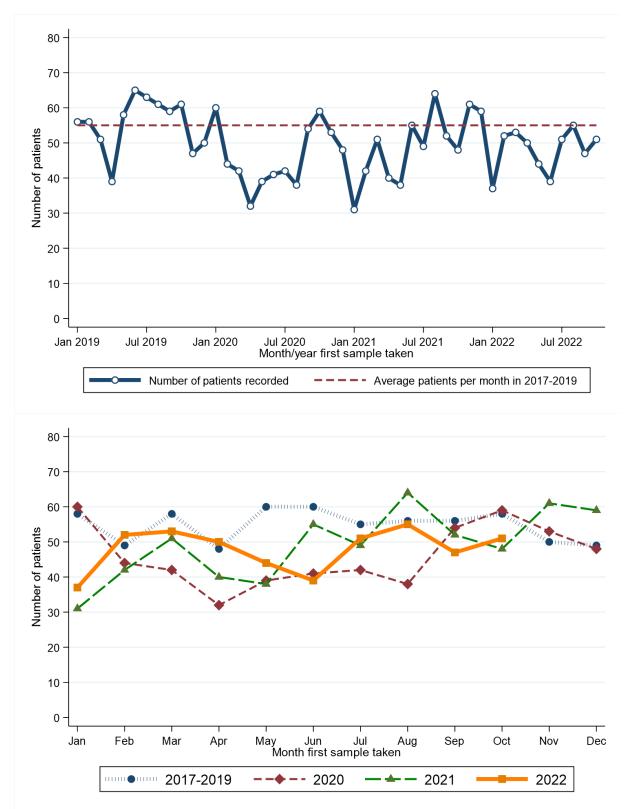




* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

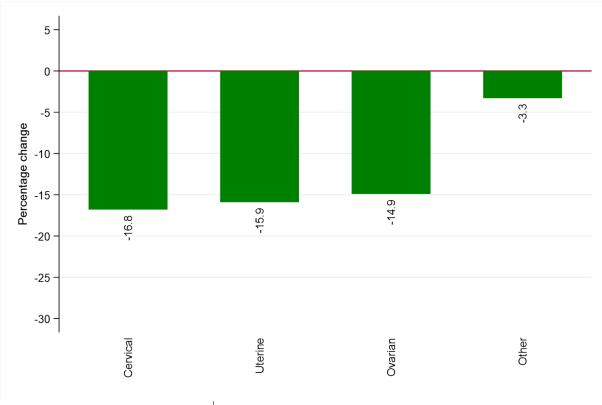
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

^{-14.1%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	58	60	31	37	Jul	55	42	49	51
Feb	49	44	42	52	Aug	56	38	64	55
Mar	58	42	51	53	Sep	56	54	52	47
Apr	48	32	40	50	Oct	58	59	48	51
May	60	39	38	44	Nov	50	53	61	
Jun	60	41	55	39	Dec	49	48	59	
	-								

<u>CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding</u> <u>Altnagelvin</u>



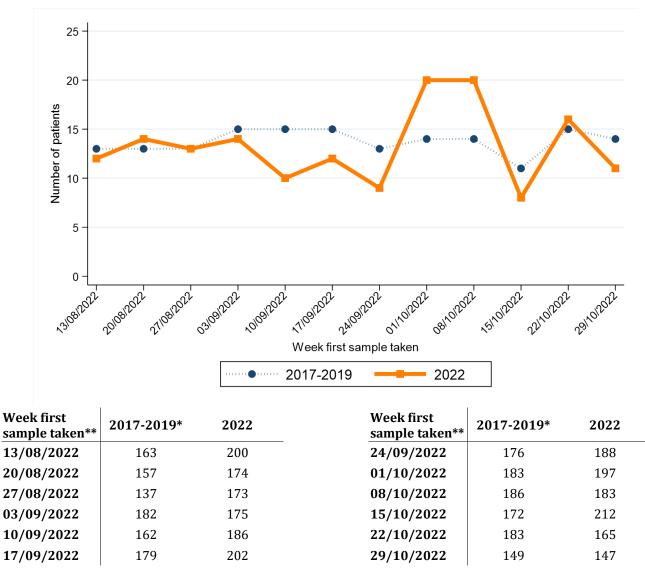
Concontuno	Number of patients (March 2020 to October 2022)					
Cancer type	Expected number*	Recorded number				
Cervical cancer	351	292				
Uterine cancer	854	718				
Ovarian cancer	598	509				
Other gynaecological cancer	181	175				
* D						

* Based upon average monthly number of patients from 2017-2019.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



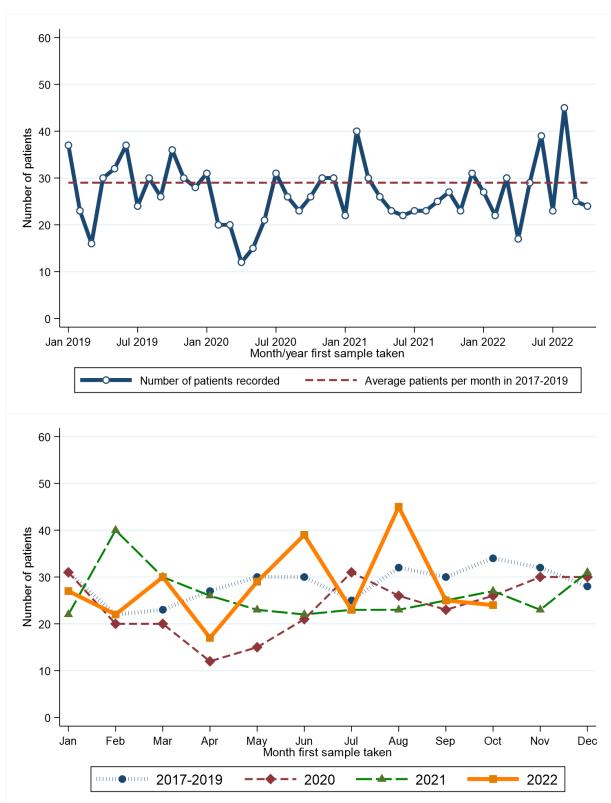


* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

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

-9.7%

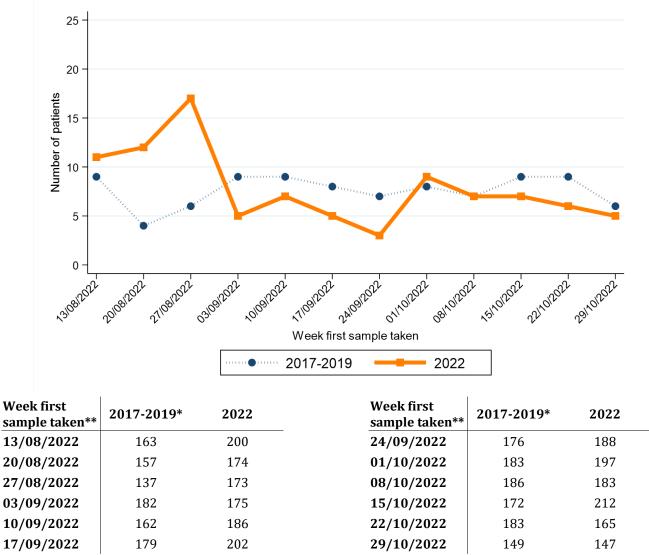


Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	31	31	22	27	Jul	25	31	23	23
Feb	22	20	40	22	Aug	32	26	23	45
Mar	23	20	30	30	Sep	30	23	25	25
Apr	27	12	26	17	Oct	34	26	27	24
May	30	15	23	29	Nov	32	30	23	
Jun	30	21	22	39	Dec	28	30	31	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

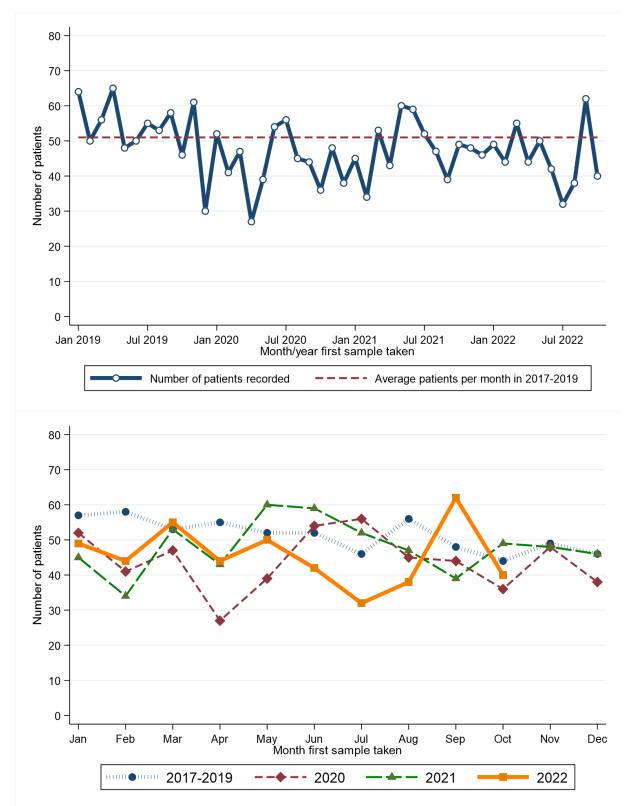




* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

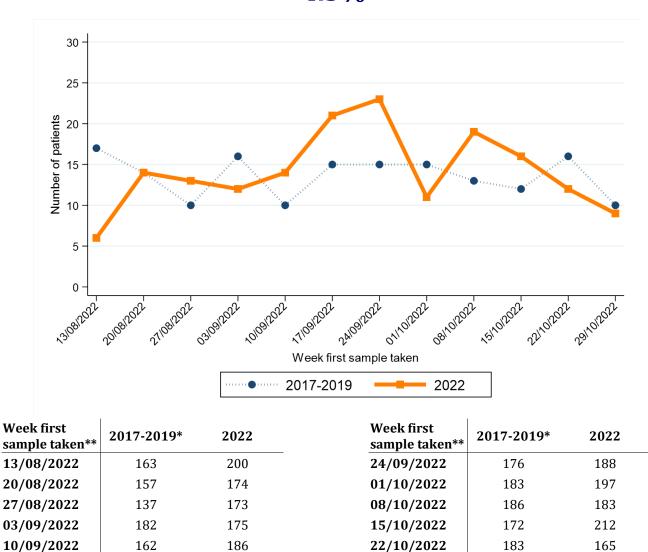




Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	57	52	45	49	Jul	46	56	52	32
Feb	58	41	34	44	Aug	56	45	47	38
Mar	53	47	53	55	Sep	48	44	39	62
Apr	55	27	43	44	Oct	44	36	49	40
Мау	52	39	60	50	Nov	49	48	48	
Jun	52	54	59	42	Dec	46	38	46	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+4.3%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

179

17/09/2022

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

29/10/2022

149

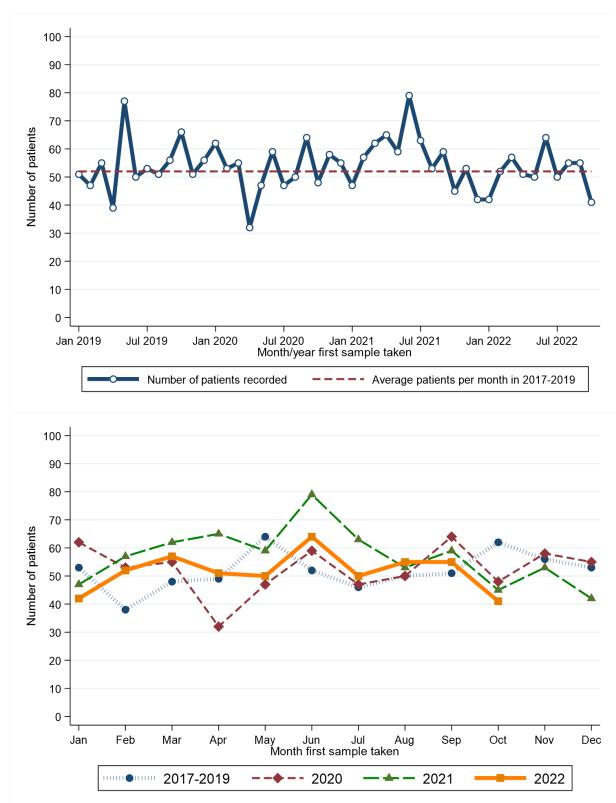
147

202

HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

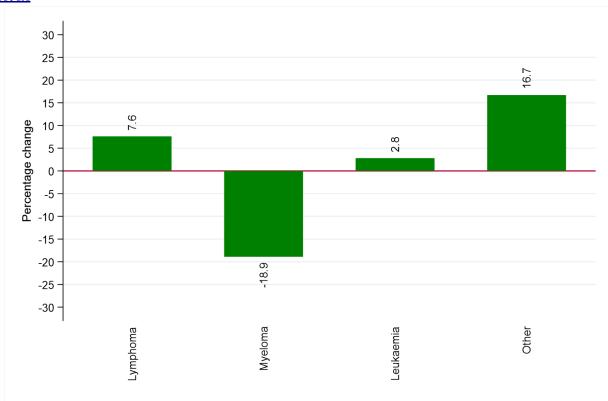
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

^{+3.0%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	53	62	47	42	Jul	46	47	63	50
Feb	38	53	57	52	Aug	50	50	53	55
Mar	48	55	62	57	Sep	51	64	59	55
Apr	49	32	65	51	Oct	62	48	45	41
Мау	64	47	59	50	Nov	56	58	53	
Jun	52	59	79	64	Dec	53	55	42	
-	52	59	/9	64	Dec	53	55	42	•

<u>CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding</u> <u>Altnagelvin</u>



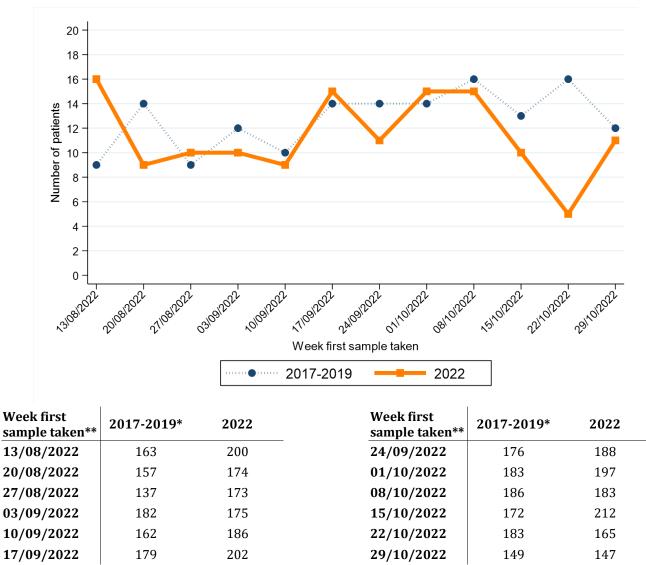
Number of patients (March 2020 to October 2022)					
Expected number*	Recorded number				
1,262	1,358				
249	202				
145	149				
24	28				
	Expected number* 1,262 249 145				

* Based upon average monthly number of patients from 2017-2019.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average





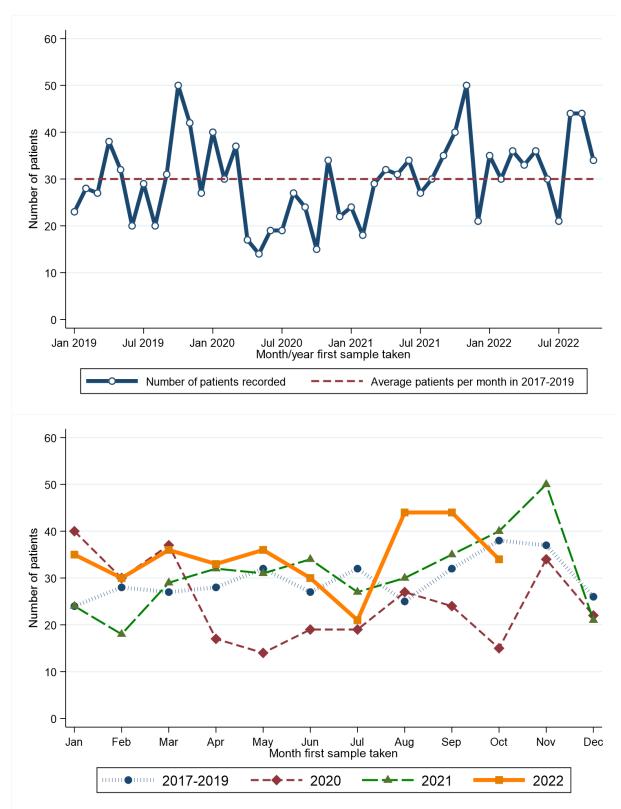
* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

MELANOMA

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

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

-1.2%

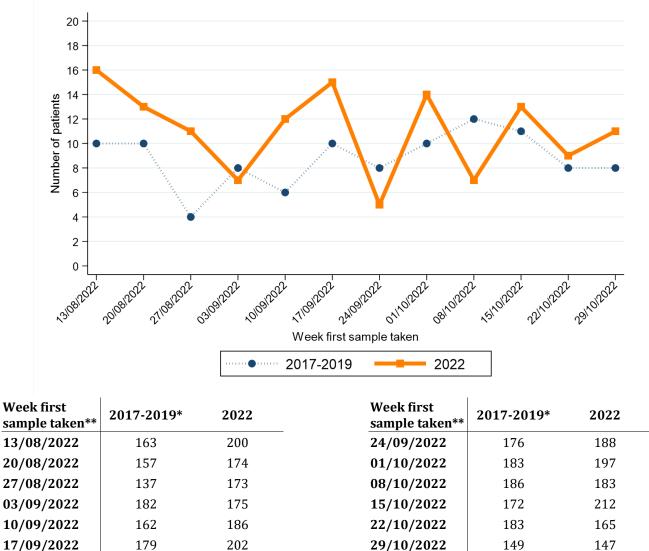


Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	24	40	24	35	Jul	32	19	27	21
Feb	28	30	18	30	Aug	25	27	30	44
Mar	27	37	29	36	Sep	32	24	35	44
Apr	28	17	32	33	Oct	38	15	40	34
May	32	14	31	36	Nov	37	34	50	
Jun	27	19	34	30	Dec	26	22	21	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



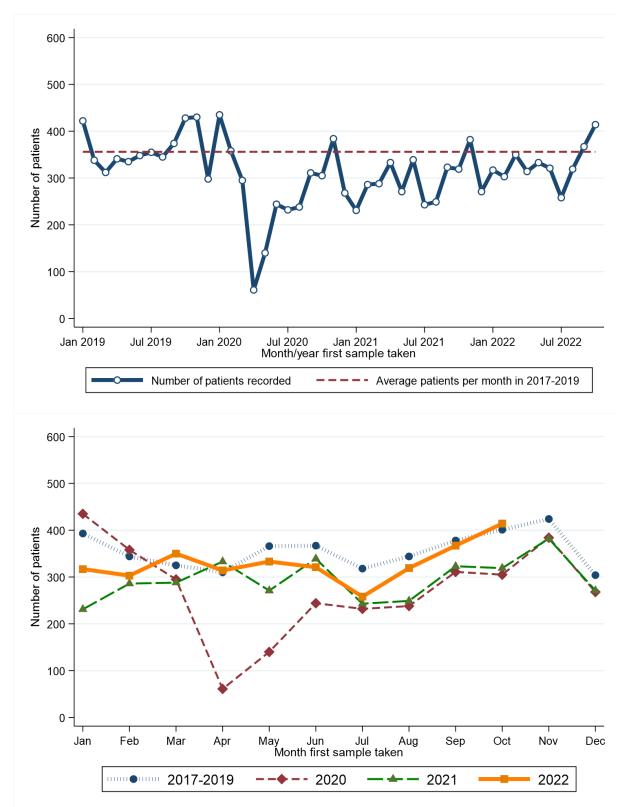


* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

^{-18.0%}

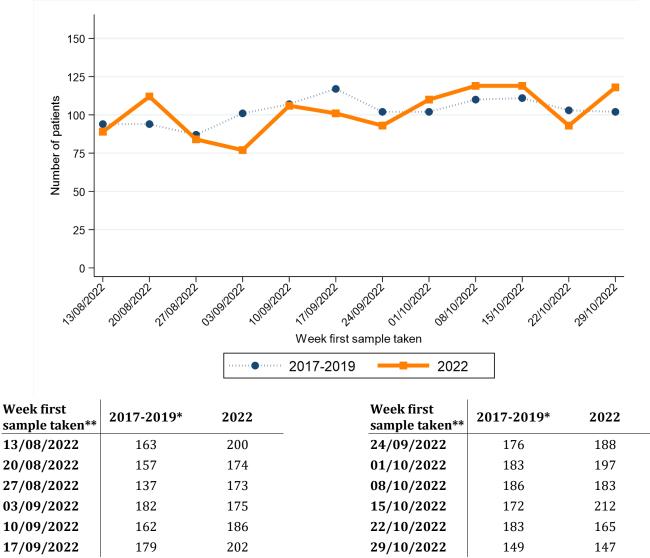


Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	393	435	231	317	Jul	318	232	243	258
Feb	344	358	286	303	Aug	344	238	249	319
Mar	325	295	288	350	Sep	378	311	323	367
Apr	310	61	333	314	Oct	401	305	319	414
May	366	140	271	333	Nov	424	384	382	
Jun	367	244	339	321	Dec	304	268	271	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



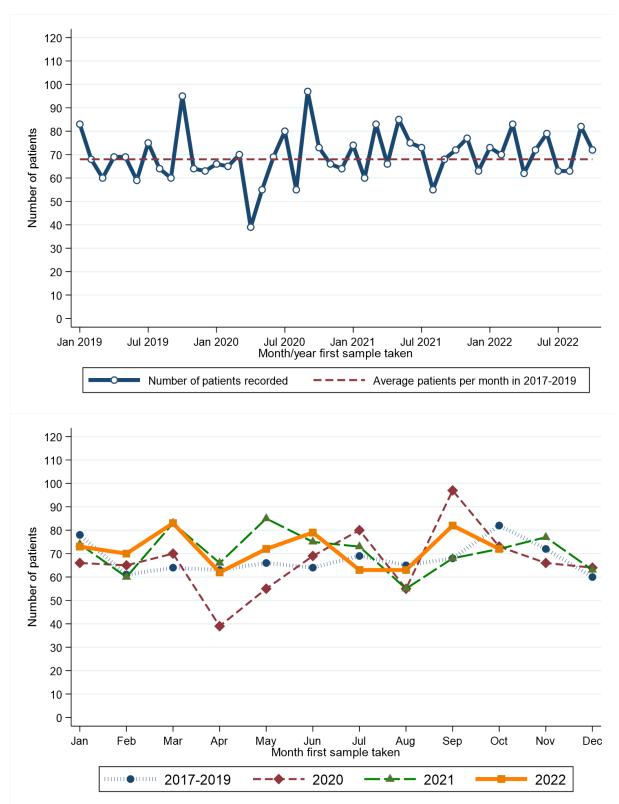


* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

OTHER CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

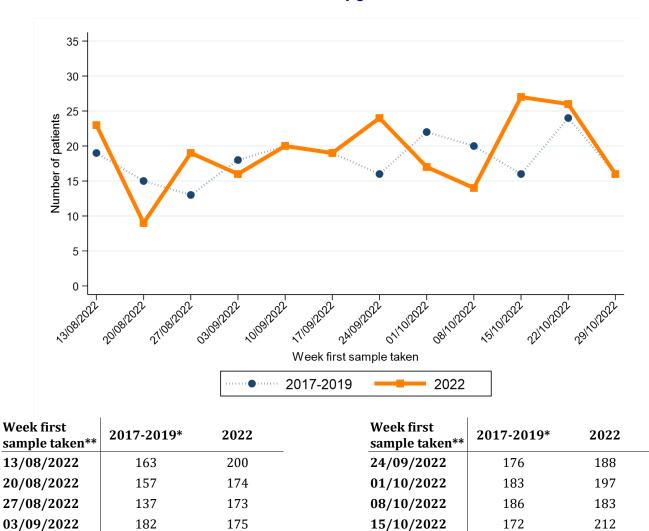
^{+3.4%}



Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022	Month first sample taken**	2017- 2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	78	66	74	73	Jul	69	80	73	63
Feb	61	65	60	70	Aug	65	55	55	63
Mar	64	70	83	83	Sep	68	97	68	82
Apr	63	39	66	62	Oct	82	73	72	72
May	66	55	85	72	Nov	72	66	77	
Jun	64	69	75	79	Dec	60	64	63	

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/10/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average



+5.5%

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

162

179

10/09/2022

17/09/2022

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

22/10/2022

29/10/2022

183

149

165

147

186

202

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 October 2022. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following October 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, pancreas, 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.