

N. Ireland Cancer Registry Implications of Research for Services

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Paper Title	Diagnostic pathways for breast cancer in 10 International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) jurisdictions: an international comparative cohort study based on questionnaire and registry data
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Conclusion	<p>Evidence suggests that for breast cancer patients a longer time between symptom onset and starting treatment affects breast cancer prognosis.</p> <p>This international collaboration across 10 jurisdictions in 6 counties (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the UK) found large differences in patient, primary care,</p>

	<p>diagnostic, treatment and total intervals between different jurisdictions.</p> <p>The median time from women first noticing symptoms to starting treatment varied from 42 to 92 days across jurisdictions. This is mainly due to differences after first presentation. There is less variation across jurisdictions in the patient interval (time between a patient first noticing symptom and first attending healthcare). In some jurisdictions there is a cohort of women with excessively long waiting times from first noticing symptoms to presentation to healthcare.</p> <p>The study findings suggest some jurisdictions may have more effective strategies to optimise patient pathways and reduce time intervals.</p>
<p>What this means for the service</p>	<p>Targeted cancer awareness campaigns may support more timely diagnosis of breast cancer. Continued monitoring of breast cancer pathways is required.</p>