

## Alarming Poll Sheds Light on Public's Diminished Faith in NHS's Timely Cancer Treatment

More than half of people have no faith they would receive timely treatment on the NHS if they were diagnosed with cancer, a poll has suggested.

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This poll is shocking! 7% of respondents attempted to remove the mole or lump themselves, risking bleeding and infection. Patients are losing trust in the NHS when we should strive for Outstanding!"

CQCX

comprehensive poll conducted by <u>Savanta</u>, encompassing the views of 2,185 adults, an unsettling trend has emerged. A majority, specifically 52%, have expressed deep-seated concerns regarding the ability of the NHS to offer prompt cancer treatment. This growing distrust underscores the multifaceted challenges plaguing the NHS and signals an imperative for immediate and robust reforms.

Diving deeper into the study's findings, several troubling behaviours have emerged. Due to apprehensions about extended waiting times to see a general practitioner, many individuals are sidelining critical health indicators:

An unsettling 13% of those polled willingly chose to overlook the presence of a lump or mole. A significant 11% bypassed professional medical advice and resorted to internet-based self-diagnosis. Most concerning of all, 7% took the drastic step of attempting a self-removal of the lump or mole.

These behaviours are not just isolated incidents but are symptomatic of a larger issue. The NHS, revered for its long-standing commitment to public health, is currently wading through uncharted waters with an unprecedented surge in demand. This has culminated in waiting times for cancer treatment reaching an all-time high. NHS England's data paints a grim picture: more than 62,000 individuals found themselves in the agonising position of waiting in excess of two months for their initial cancer treatment in February alone. To add perspective, this figure is the highest since tracking began in October 2007. Even more disconcertingly, it represents more than a twofold increase from the numbers reported in February 2014.

CQCX, in response to these disconcerting findings, is launching a clarion call to the government. The time to act is now. The NHS requires substantial investment and strategic planning to regain the public's trust and, more importantly, to ensure every individual is afforded timely, comprehensive, and compassionate care.

In a world where healthcare is paramount, institutions like the NHS must be equipped, both financially and resourcefully, to address the evolving needs of the public. A collaborative effort between policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the community is the need of the hour.

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