

## The Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre: Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Early Diagnosis Centre?

The Early Diagnosis Centre at Mile End provides specialist diagnostic services and is one of the first of its kind in the UK. It will improve early diagnosis for patients across the whole of north east London with conditions that increase their risk of developing cancer, as well as monitoring patients with early stage cancer who do not need treatment right away.

It supports the system across north east London through providing additional capacity in-hours, with the development of **two endoscopy suites**. This is in addition to **two ultrasound rooms** which are already up and running, co-located with an existing **CT scanner**. An **MRI suite** is planned for 2022.

### Where is the Early Diagnosis Centre located?

The Early Diagnosis Centre is at [Mile End Hospital](#). The full address is: Early Diagnosis Centre, Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London E1 4DG.

### What is the vision for the Early Diagnosis Centre?

The vision is "to provide specialist, person-centred diagnostic care for people in north east London. It will offer patients a consistent quality of service and a greater choice over where and when they receive their treatment".

### What services does it provide?

The Early Diagnosis Centre provides specialist diagnostic services for local communities in north east London. These services will include endoscopy, ultrasound and CT scan, with MRI planned for 2022.

### Who are these services for?

These services are for local people with conditions that increase their risk of developing cancer, as well as monitoring patients with early stage cancer who do not need treatment right away. These conditions include things such as

- Liver conditions
- Gastric Ulcers
- Gastric intestinal metaplasia
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Polyps (pre-cancerous lumps)
- Post Cancer surveillance

### **What are the benefits to patients?**

The Early Diagnosis Centre means greater choice and flexibility of appointments, a broader range of specialist services in one place (for example, patients can have blood tests taken on the day too – a one stop model) and a consistent quality of service. Patients will receive the same high quality care provided by a specialist team.

### **What does this mean for other hospitals in north east London?**

There will be an increased number of diagnostic slots across our hospitals in north east London, created by decanting selected surveillance and low-risk patients to the Early Diagnosis Centre. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of our local people.

By decanting low procedural risk surveillance patients to this dedicated centre, fresh capacity will be generated across our other hospital sites. These sites will be able to reduce the number of patients on their waiting list for surveillance by referring to the Early Diagnosis Centre.

### **What are the opening hours?**

The Mile End EDC is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, with a view to extending this to the weekend, giving patient more options around times and appointments.

### **Are the facilities accessible for wheelchair users?**

Yes, the facilities at the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre are fully accessible. The main entrance to the hospital, the entrance to the reception of the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre and the facilities there can all be accessed by wheelchair users. However, for patient safety and comfort, users who require support from a carer may be invited for treatment closer to home, rather than the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre.

### **Are there overnight facilities?**

There are no overnight facilities as we are keeping inpatients separate from outpatients, which will help us to keep it Covid-protected. If patients need an overnight facility, their diagnosis will take place on a site local to them where they are able to stay over.

## **Will this mean I have to travel further for my appointment?**

Patients will have the best of both worlds: extra appointments to choose from at a time convenient to them at the Early Diagnosis Centre and local diagnostics close to home if they are unable to travel to Mile End.

For patients unable to travel or if they find it difficult to travel to Mile End, they will be able to access diagnostics services close to home. These services will be delivered by the same specialist staff at the Early Diagnosis Centre to ensure they received the same high levels of care.

## **What measures are in place to protect against Covid?**

The Early Diagnosis Centre is part of a green, covid-protected zone. This means that extra measures are in place to prevent the spread of the infection and to keep patients safe from Covid-19. Measures include:

- Patients to show a negative Covid test before entering
- Temperature checks on arrival
- Only patients with appointments allowed in
- No visitors or guests
- New, clean face covering given to all patients on arrival
- Hand sanitising throughout
- Enhanced cleaning of the building and equipment

## **Will I need a Covid test before I go in?**

Yes, as the Early Diagnosis Centre is in a green, Covid-protected zone, you will be asked to have a swab taken approximately three days before your appointment is due. You must be able to show a negative test result in order to proceed with your appointment. This helps keep our patients safe.

## **How do I get to use the services at the Early Diagnosis Centre?**

You will be referred to the Early Diagnosis by your clinician from one of the hospitals across north east London. You will not be able to just turn up and access services without a referral via the correct route. You will also need to have an appointment booked in advance. This is so we can keep waiting times to a minimum, reduce the risk of Covid and make the patient experience more enjoyable.