

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update 30 September 2022

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### 1 New website for the North East London Cancer Alliance

We have launched a new website which has a dedicated section for primary care, as well as information for patients and residents. You can access the site here: [www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk](http://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk)

The primary care section is available here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/primary-care>

### 2 Support for the PCN DES

As a reminder, we have produced a practical guide to support primary care with the delivery of the PCN DES for cancer. The guide and further information can be accessed and downloaded here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/primary-care/pcn-des>

### 3 Decommissioning of C the Signs

On 31 August 2022, 'C the Signs' was decommissioned in North East London. Practices in Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest who were taking part in the pilot can access free resources from the Clinical Effectiveness Group (CEG) to continue these aspects of cancer referrals and safety netting:

C the Signs functions	Alternatives
Medical record integration	All data entered using the CEG template: <b>(RP) CEG Cancer Referral and Safety Netting template v1</b> can be saved into patient's GP record.
Data dashboard	CEG support searches for: <b>Fast Track referrals done; Safety netting completed; Outstanding urgent investigations</b> - available in your QOF and DES support folder.
Smart referrals	Updated pan-London Fast Track referral forms available as merged documents.
Automatic tracking	All coded entries can be audited. CEG support searches for tracking <b>Fast Track referrals done</b> are available in the QOF and DES support folder >> Cancer Safety Netting.
Patient education	Useful resources links for Patient Education can be embedded into CEG templates as needed, subject to clinical leads' approval.
Cancer risk prediction	QCancer risk scoring available within 'QCancer Symptom and Follow Up' EMIS templates.

CEG is working with NEL cancer leads on a wider package of primary care support for cancer, which includes a dashboard, templates, searches and an in-practice software tool. The package brings existing and new CEG resources together, making them available to all places in NEL and covering all cancer service specifications. More details to follow.

### 4 Reminder about bloods and patient availability for 2ww patient pathways

Our colleagues in secondary care have asked that we remind all GPs of the importance of diagnostic tests being undertaken when patients are referred on the 2ww suspected cancer pathway. To support Trusts in straight to test pathways and the Faster Diagnosis Standard, there needs to be **up to date blood tests (within 3 months)** available to secondary care when a patient is referred. 2ww referrals without up to date tests can delay overall diagnosis for the patient.

The Trusts are also experiencing several missed or cancelled appointments due to patients being away on holiday or making themselves unavailable. Please remind patients that they need to be available for outpatient appointments and diagnostic tests when referred on a suspected cancer pathway.

### 5 Head and Neck cancer pathway

We are experiencing a drop in the quality and an increase in the volume of referrals for the Head and Neck cancer pathway across north east London. Please make sure GPs in your practice are aware of this and that the appropriate action is taken to address this.

## 6 Cervical SMS reminders read code error

As part of the Cervical Screening SMS Reminder Service in London we have identified an issue which took place between 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022. An incorrect read code has been attached to some patients' records. The read code added to patient records during this period was '908K' instead of '908k' (lower-case k instead of upper-case K). The 908K read code attached was coded for 'smear infected – 3rd recall'

This code is not currently being used within the NHS Cervical Screening Programme. It will not affect any results for patients. It also does not impact patients' OpenExeter records. The risk to patients is LOW.

### Action taken

The issue has been investigated and the correct read code has been added since 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Iplato are responsible for the text messaging service and associated Read Code insertion. They have made changes to their processes. These changes were robustly tested and are routinely checked to ensure that this issue does not happen again.

The clinical risk of this read code error appears to be minimal. The potential harm would include patient confusion and anxiety, and a small risk of being recalled back to the practice.

Unfortunately, Iplato is unable to delete the codes that have been added to the patients' records. However, Iplato have provided information on how practices can rectify the coding error via TPP or EMIS which is attached to this letter. Please note this is not a mandatory action for practices.

If you require any more help on this issue, then all queries can be sent to [help@iplato.com](mailto:help@iplato.com) and the team there will be happy to help.

## 7 The Targeted Lung Health Check programme: update for Barking & Dagenham

We have now scanned over [500 residents in Barking & Dagenham](#), which is a fantastic start to the programme and uptake has been high.

As a reminder, Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) is a free MOT of the lungs for people aged between 55-74, who are current smokers or who have ever smoked, and is by invite only. We are piloting this in Barking & Dagenham and are planning to provisionally go live in Tower Hamlets later this year, with an additional borough next year.

## Data Sharing Agreements

GPs in Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets have been sent separately more detailed communications on the process, including Data Sharing Agreements.

Many thanks to GPs in Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets who have signed up already. If you haven't done so yet, **please sign up to the data sharing agreement, all documents are ready for you to sign in the Data Controller Console (DCC). This is so we can start inviting patients.** If you require any further support with signing up and using the DCC please visit <https://app.datacontroller.org.uk/learning> and <https://app.datacontroller.org.uk/learning/downloadDocument?documentId=26aa0fbd-e4f8-48ef-bfca-ced47791d5d7>

### More information and contact details

To contact the InHealth Support Desk email for GP ISA queries, please email: [supportdesk@health-intelligence.com](mailto:supportdesk@health-intelligence.com)

For further information, email the Targeted Lung Health Check Team at [nelondon.lungcheck@nhs.net](mailto:nelondon.lungcheck@nhs.net) or visit our [web pages](#).

## 8 NHS London Bowel Screening Campaign

NHS London is running a [bowel screening campaign](#) until the end of October called "Your next poo could save your life", to urge people who have been sent a free bowel cancer screening kit to use it.

It aims to increase uptake of bowel cancer screening across London and is particularly focusing on those who are less likely to do the test: men, people sent the bowel cancer screening kit for the first time, people in deprived areas, people from some ethnic and faith communities, and people with a learning disability.

For more information, videos, case studies and campaign resources, please visit [www.healthylondon.org/BCS](http://www.healthylondon.org/BCS).

## 9 Jo's Trust Cervical Cancer Training Sessions

We are working with Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to bring non-clinical staff [free online training sessions](#) on cervical health. The aim is to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of the importance of cervical screening, HPV and the vaccine.

Sign up now:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cervical-cancer-prevention-training-jos-trust-tickets-406136604517>

## 10 Macmillan Cancer Support provides clinically recommended mental health support to newly diagnosed cancer patients in England

Newly diagnosed cancer patients aged 18 and older in the United Kingdom are now able to access safe, effective treatments to support their mental health thanks to a partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support and digital therapeutics provider Big Health. More info can be found at [www.bighealth.co.uk/macmillan](http://www.bighealth.co.uk/macmillan).

Anyone (including healthcare professionals, link workers and non-healthcare professionals) can refer patients to the treatments by using the following links:  
Sleepio (for poor sleep and insomnia): [www.sleepio.com/macmillan](http://www.sleepio.com/macmillan)  
Daylight (for worry and anxiety): [www.trydaylight.com/macmillan](http://www.trydaylight.com/macmillan)

## 11 Quality of Life Survey

Latest results show us that people diagnosed with cancer rate their quality of life quite highly (74.3/100) but slightly below that of the general population (81.8/100). NHS England is working with Cancer Alliances to identify areas of support that can be put in place to help close this gap.

Read more: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/latest-results-cancer-quality-life-survey>

## 12 For more information

Web: [www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk](http://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

For any communications queries, please email [p.thomas6@nhs.net](mailto:p.thomas6@nhs.net)