

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update December 2022

### In this update:

- 1 Cervical Screening SMS Reminder Service: Code error
- 2 Upcoming changes to urgent suspected cancer (2 week wait) referral forms
- 3 Reminder about bloods and patient availability for 2ww patient pathways
- 4 Free mental health support for cancer patients
- 5 Genomics training
- 6 Cancer in the community Programme
- 7 Education Session: FIT in Primary Care
- 8 Important information for all primary care referrers regarding Urgent Suspected Cancer (2 Week Wait) soft tissue sarcoma referrals
- 9 Patient digital access to GP records
- 10 1,000 free lung scans
- 11 Cancer videos
- 12 Neuroendocrine tumour video
- 13 Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2022 fieldwork is open
- 14 For more information

### 1 Cervical Screening SMS Reminder Service: Code error

As part of the Cervical Screening SMS Reminder Service in London, NHSE/I identified an issue which took place between 15 December 2021 and 16 March 2022. An incorrect Read code has been attached to some patients' records. However, the correct SMS message was sent to patients. This means that patients received the correct information and results directly.

Changes have been made to the processes for the adding the Read codes, which have been tested and are monitored routinely. Unfortunately, the incorrect Read codes that were sent to patients' records cannot be deleted by iPlato (the text message provider). **However, instructions have been provided on how practices can do this. Please note that this is not a mandatory action for practices.**

Read more here: <https://gps.northcentrallondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/cervical-screening-sms-reminder-service-code-error>

## 2 Upcoming changes to urgent suspected cancer (2 week wait) referral forms

In January, the pan-London Urgent Suspected Cancer Referral Forms (2 week wait referral forms) will be changing. The changes reflect feedback from primary and secondary care colleagues on how to better capture important clinical information that supports the urgent referral and investigation process.

Read more about the changes here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/changes-urgent-suspected-cancer-2-week-wait-referral-forms>

## 3 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.

## 4 Free mental health support for cancer patients

Big Health are expanding their partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support so that anyone living with or beyond cancer can access the support they need for their mental health and quality of life.

Free digital treatments for anxiety and sleep management are now available to all cancer patients in the UK - at no cost - day or night, at home or in hospital, without having to wait for in-person therapy appointments. Read more on our [webpage](#).

## 5 Genomics training

In January 2023 the NHS North Thames Genomic Medicine Service is holding two free genomics training workshops for NHS staff. Registration details are below:

### Prenatal Genomics Introduction

12 January 2023, 9:30am to 11:30am

This 2-hour online, interactive training programme is an introduction to prenatal genetics. Find out more and register: [Prenatal Genomics Introduction – North Thames Genomic Laboratory Hub \(norththamesglh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.norththamesglh.nhs.uk/prenatal-genomics-introduction)

## **Genetic testing: How to request this for your patients**

19 January 2023, 9am to 12:30pm

This half-day virtual training programme aims to provide a practical tool-kit for healthcare professionals to request genetic testing. Find out more and register: [Genetic testing: How to request this for your patients – North Thames Genomic Laboratory Hub \(norththamesqlh.nhs.uk\)](https://norththamesqlh.nhs.uk)

## **6 Cancer in the community Programme**

Community Nurses and General Practice Nurses can apply for a place on a 4-day Cancer in Community Training Programme by 13 January 2023.

The training takes place in March on the following dates: 1, 2, 8 & 22 March 2023 (Only 30 spaces are available).

To register your interest please complete this [Expression of Interest Form](#) by Friday 13 January 2023 (All applicants will be notified if they have secured a space on March cohort by end January 2023) Please note: We will be offering a further 30 spaces on an additional cohort run in April/May 2023 (The EOI form provides optional dates for those applying).

Read more: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/cancer-community-programme>

## **7 Education Session: FIT in Primary Care**

The recording of the recent NHSE/I webinar on FIT in Primary Care can be viewed [here](#) (login required) and the slide pack is available [here](#).

## **8 Important information for all primary care referrers regarding Urgent Suspected Cancer (2 Week Wait) soft tissue sarcoma referrals**

The London and South East Sarcoma Network is currently experiencing high numbers of referrals for soft tissue sarcoma, with volumes impacting the start of treatment for adults with known sarcoma.

Short term mutual aid arrangements are currently in place between the Royal Marsden Hospital (RMH) and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH).

NICE Guidance states that all referrers should consider **urgent** ultrasound or MRI for a suspicious lump and an Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC/2 Week Wait) referral should be made if the imaging report is suspicious. Urgent ultrasound reports should have a turnaround time of two weeks or less.

Therefore, ideally in all cases an imaging report should be arranged urgently to guide referral pathway choice. Please ensure the report is attached to the referral. Locally provided ultrasound reduces unnecessary travel and worry for patients and their loved ones, particularly if travelling to known specialist centres for tests.

In addition to direct access to urgent ultrasound, there are a small number of named sarcoma diagnostic services currently accepting USC sarcoma referrals: Kingston, Croydon, West Middlesex, Brighton, Southampton and Norwich.

If sarcoma is detected, these patients will be referred by the imaging team to tertiary services at RMH or the London Sarcoma Service at RNOH/UCLH, with a copy of the advice being sent to the original referring GP.

If you cannot get direct access to an urgent ultrasound, please ensure you tick the box on the form to explain why you believe there is a high clinical risk of soft tissue sarcoma. If you suspect bone sarcoma, you should refer your patient to RNOH accompanied by x-ray results.

The Sarcoma UK Support Line is available for patients and healthcare professionals. It is open Mon-Fri 10am-3pm on 0808 801 0401. You can also email them on [supportline@sarcoma.org.uk](mailto:supportline@sarcoma.org.uk) and expect a response within two business days.

***Notes for local commissioners of direct access urgent ultrasound:***

- Direct access urgent ultrasound should be available with a turnaround time of two weeks from time of referral
- The direct access form should clearly state whether the ultrasound is for soft tissue or bone sarcoma
- Rapid diagnostic clinics would not normally be used for sarcoma referrals.
- London region Imaging Programme, together with the London and South East Sarcoma Network, is developing a protocol and education package for sonographers so that ultrasound reporting will have one of four outcomes:
  - **low suspicion** - return to primary care with advice & guidance on next actions.
  - **medium suspicion** – refer to local sarcoma diagnostic service OR tertiary centre if local service is too far away, for MRI and possible excision biopsy.
  - **high suspicion sarcoma** – refer direct to tertiary sarcoma service (LSS bone and soft tissue, RMH soft tissue only).
  - **high suspicion of a different cancer** – refer direct to appropriate MDT.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Transforming Cancer Services Team on [england.tcstlondon@nhs.net](mailto:england.tcstlondon@nhs.net)

## 9 Patient digital access to GP records

Most patients will automatically be given access (via the NHS app, other GP online services or by speaking to their GP surgeries) to more information added to their GP record from November 2022 onwards. This includes letters, test results and appointment notes. It should also include screening where information has been sent to the GP.

There will not be a mass comms campaign to launch this as practices are switching on gradually and it is only about new information that is added, rather than historical information.

Patient information is here: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/how-to-get-your-medical-records/>

Information for GPs to give to patients is here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/nhs-app-guidance-for-gp-practices/guidance-on-nhs-app-features/accelerating-patient-access-to-their-record/patient-communications-for-practices>

## 10 1,000 free lung scans

Over 1,000 residents in Barking & Dagenham have now received a free lung scan, as part of the Targeted Lung Health Check programme. We will be expanding this pilot to Tower Hamlets in 2023. Read more about the programme on our [webpage](#).

## 11 Cancer videos

The North East London Cancer Alliance has produced a number of videos for both patients and GPs to help tackle cancer, covering a range of topics from screening to treatment. These are all available on our YouTube channel. Subscribe now!

<https://www.youtube.com/@northeastlondoncancerallia1186>

## 12 Neuroendocrine tumour video

A GP diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour shares their experience to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms:

<https://www.neuroendocrinecancer.org.uk/semi-retired-gp-talks-to-ncuk-about-his-symptoms-prior-to-diagnosis/>

## 13 Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2022 fieldwork is open

The Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES) fieldwork has opened and will close on 2 February 2023.

All adult NHS patients with a confirmed primary diagnosis of cancer, discharged from an NHS trust after an inpatient episode or day case attendance for cancer treatment between April and June 2022 will be sent a survey about their experience of cancer care via post.

Find out more:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/national-cancer-patient-experience-survey>

## 14 For more information

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

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-london-cancer-alliance/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@northeastlondoncancerallia1186>

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