

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update 30 November 2022

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1 FIT - Impact Investment Fund – Lower GI Referral Payments for Practices

As part of the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF), **all 2WW referrals for suspected lower gastrointestinal cancer should be accompanied by a FIT result** (faecal immunochemical test result), with the result recorded either in the twenty-one days leading up to the referral, or in the fourteen days after the referral.


Practices need to code faecal immunochemical test results (FIT results) to qualify for 2WW lower GI referral payments.

We have noticed activity in this area is low, and it appears to be because the FIT results are coming back into EMIS without an associated code. For this reason, practices need to take two actions:

1. **Associate a code with the incoming FIT results so these will be coded automatically upon receipt in future.** We have written instructions on how to do this: [How to associate a code with incoming FIT results.](#)
2. **Code previous FIT results, received on or after 25 March 2022,** with: *Quantitative faecal immunochemical test* (Concept ID: 1049361000000101, Description ID: 2643291000000112).

You can view data on the CEG dashboard by borough, PCN and practice by:

Clicking on Impact and Investment Fund



Click Providing High Quality Care

Providing High Quality Care

CAN-01 is the top KPI

KPI Code	KPI Label	Area	Performance
CAN-01	Pts with 2ww with FIT tests 21 days before or 14 days after referral	Cancer	58.0%

The Cancer dashboards have been uploaded onto the CEG website for you to access, please see below the login details:

New link: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/blizard/ceg/dashboards/>

Your login details:

Username: CEGdashboards
 Password: NELh3@lth

If you have any questions or need support, please get in touch with us via your local CEG facilitator. For anything Covid related, you can also reach us at CEGCovid@qmul.ac.uk

2 Improving the usage of FIT as a pre-diagnostic test in Primary Care

It has been highlighted by the Barts Lab that there continues to be a large mismatch between FIT tube stock requests and returns across many local practices. This is impacting on supply chains and has large Pathology cost implications. The pathology team would like to kindly remind all GP practices to:

- **Endeavour to keep clear and up to date stock taking procedures for FIT tubes** to ensure stock requests are made only when it is confirmed that stocks are running low in practices - there have been examples of additional

orders being made only for large quantities from previous orders to then be found after quantities are flagged by Pathology.

- Clinicians to continue to use FIT appropriately and to avoid methods such as double sampling (providing 2 or 3 tubes at once). **Only 1 tube is needed for FIT testing.**
- Continue to help minimise FIT spoil rates by reception staff supporting patients understanding on how to complete the test - further training and support will be ongoing in this regard. Information to support patients and admin staff can be found below.

<https://www.healthylondon.org/our-work/cancer/early-diagnosis/two-week-wait-referral-repository/suspected-cancer-referrals/patient-information-leaflets/>

<https://www.healthylondon.org/fit-admin-pathway/>

- After providing a FIT tube to patients, please safety net using templates to ensure receipt of the sample back to the surgery within 14 days and chase up if they haven't returned it. There have been instances where patients with worrying symptoms have been lost to follow-up when the tube is not returned.
- Please note that a pre-diagnostic FIT result greater than > 10 'Rules cancer in' for further investigation. A pre-diagnostic FIT result below 10 does **not** 'rule out' bowel cancer. Up to 10% of bowel cancers will have a FIT less than <10. BSG guidelines recommend to safety net (using safety netting templates) and follow up patients with concerning clinical features and re-assess after 6 weeks. Consider secondary care referral if there are ongoing concerns.

The Barts pathology team and Cancer GP Leads thank you for your ongoing support in appropriate usage and provision of FIT testing.

3 Education Session – FIT in Primary Care

A webinar for GPs, Primary Care Leads, Primary Care Networks, and those involved in the Bowel Cancer Pathway is being held on the 7 December from 12:00 – 13:30.

You can register here (please note this is open to all GPs, even though the title on the registration page refers to North East and Yorkshire):

<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/education-session-fit-in-primary-care>

4 Prostate cancer update from CRUK

Urgent referrals for suspected urological cancer had one of the poorest performances during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Around 16,100 fewer people started treatment for urological cancer in England** than expected in the first year of the pandemic. This number is mainly made up of prostate cancer cases.

Incidence of prostate cancer is highest in older men, Black men, and those with family history and the recognition and referral of suspected prostate cancer can be tricky.

The PSA test is a blood test that detects the level of a protein called prostate specific antigen (PSA) in the blood. PSA is a protein produced by both normal and cancerous prostate cells and it's normal for all people with a prostate to have some PSA in their blood. PSA is used in asymptomatic and symptomatic contexts.

Here are some points to consider if you request a PSA test:

- People can have higher PSA levels as they get older
- Cancer can be present with lower PSA levels
- PSA levels can be increased by several things including UTIs, exercising vigorously and ejaculation
- Before offering a PSA test discuss the benefits and limitations of the test to enable the person to make an informed choice

Download a [Guide to prostate cancer](#) to support discussions with patients and for more information on the benefits and limitations of PSA testing, as well as practical steps you can take to support the timely referral of suspected prostate cancer.

5 Research study: exploration of GP and patient attitudes towards prescribing for managing low-risk non-specific symptoms

UCL's Department of Behavioural Sciences and Health (BSH) is carrying out a project which aims to understand how prescriptions are used to manage non-specific low-risk symptoms in primary care.

Participation in the study is a 30-minute (recorded) interview to discuss 6 hypothetical clinical scenarios in relation to clinical reasoning and decision making. Attached is a copy of the participation information sheet as well as the consent form.

If you wish to participate in the study, please email a completed consent form to bethany.wickramasinghe.19@ucl.ac.uk



GP Consent
Form.docx



Participant
Information Sheet C

6 Lung cancer awareness month 2022

North East Cancer Alliance has been working on a range of activity to raise awareness of lung cancer signs and symptoms, as part of Lung Cancer Awareness month. More information is on our [webpage](#).

Please also see some useful information for GPs on [lung cancer diagnosis](#), particularly in those who have never smoked.

7 Results from the Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2021 (for info)

The Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2021 results are now available and show the consistently high levels of care young cancer patients receive. Cancer care providers will analyse these results in detail to learn where they could do even better.

Key results show:

- 9.01 out of 10 was the average parent/carer rating of the overall experience of their child's care
- 89% of parents/carers rated the overall experience of their child's care as 8 or more out of 10

Join a webinar at 1pm on 8 December to unpick the results in more detail. This will help NHS teams, providers, charities, commissioners, and the public to understand the results and identify areas for action. Book now: <https://bit.ly/3zQTLq3>

Read more about the results on the North East London Cancer Alliance's [webpage](#).

8 Best For My Chest: a unique breast screening campaign in north east London for the LGBTIQ+ community (for info)

North East London Cancer Alliance, in partnership with leading LGBTIQ+ cancer charity Live Through This, has successfully launched a new awareness campaign for breast screening which is designed to speak specifically to the LGBTIQ+ community.

It aims to overcome fears and barriers the community is facing, encouraging more people to come forward for breast screening which will help save many lives.

Read more about the campaign on the [North East London Cancer Alliance](#) website and watch a BBC interview with Stewart O'Callaghan, founder of Live Through This (start watching from 1hr 50 mins): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0d87vn7>

9 Engaging on cancer signs and symptoms with older males through sport (for info)

North East London Cancer Alliance has been working for the last few months with Leyton Orient Football Club to reach out to older males who traditionally do not come forward with signs and symptoms of cancer, as part of our [‘It’s not a game’](#) campaign.

This included attending a [health awareness day](#) at a home game for Leyton Orient FC on 29 October. Throughout the day, we spoke to a number of local residents to highlight the importance of getting checked if you have [signs or symptoms](#) of cancer, as well as handing out leaflets with essential cancer information on.

We are looking at expanding the campaign to more areas and additional sports in 2023. For more information, visit the [North East London Cancer Alliance](#) website.

10 Targeted Lung Health Check Update

We continue to scan Barking and Dagenham residents aged 55-74 who have ever smoked and have now scanned over 700 people since July 2022.

80% of GPs in Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets have signed the data sharing agreement for the programme and we urgently need the remaining GPs in these two boroughs to sign up.

[A BBC film crew visited the site](#) of our Targeted Lung Health Check scanning truck in Barking & Dagenham on 9 November for a programme on BBC Newsnight, to look at the hard work we are doing to help spot cancer sooner.

For more information on our Targeted Lung Health Check Programme, visit the North East London Cancer Alliance’s [webpage](#). The programme is managed by Meena Pawar from the cancer alliance and the team can be contacted via email at nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net

11 NHS ‘Help us Help you’ campaign for abdominal and urological symptoms (for info - may experience uptake in appointments)

NHS England is encouraging anyone who has had tummy troubles such as discomfort or diarrhoea for three weeks or more, or seen blood in their pee – even just once, to contact their GP practice. Campaign activity targets men and women aged 50 and over and particularly those from lower socio-economic groups and ethnic minority groups.

This campaign will run until early December. Visit our [web page](#) for more information.

12 King's Health Partners Primary Care Webinar series

The seventh in this year's King's Health Partners **Primary Care Webinar** series on **Wednesday 14 December, 1pm-2pm** (online), is titled '**King's Centre for Global Health**'.

You will hear from:

- **Laura Hucks**, Director, [King's Global Health Partnerships](#).
- **Andrew Leather**, Director, [King's Centre for Global Health and Health Partnerships](#), and Professor, Global Health and Surgery, King's College London.

For more information and to register visit the [Eventbrite page](#).

13 For more information

Web: www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

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

For any communications queries, please email p.thomas6@nhs.net