

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update February 2023

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1 Reminder about new 2WW referral forms

The new 2WW referral forms went live on 31 January 2023 and should have already been uploaded to your system, with the old versions removed. Please make sure you are only using the new forms. More information is on our [web page](#).

2 NHS Bowel screening campaign

NHSE has launched a new '[Help Us, Help You](#)' campaign that is encouraging people who have been sent an NHS bowel cancer screening kit to complete the test. The campaign includes TV advertising and runs from 20 February to April 2023.

3 Targeted Lung Health Check

Our Targeted Lung Health Check Programme is approaching 2,000 scans for patients in Barking & Dagenham. We are preparing to extend this programme to other areas of north east London and a timeline has yet to be confirmed for this.

We have also launched an animated video for patients, which is available here: <https://youtu.be/bqEhBH8Sfq8>

4 Referrals for Non-Specific Symptoms (NSS)

Patients with non-specific symptoms of cancer where the GP has a concern, please consider a referral to the Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) at BHRUT or the Multidisciplinary Rapid Access Diagnostic Clinic (MRADC) at Barts Health.

What is the RDC/MRADC?

These clinics offer a referral pathway for patients with non-specific symptoms who have a suspected diagnosis of cancer. The aim of the clinic is to improve cancer outcomes by diagnosing cancers earlier so that treatment can start as soon as possible.

Referral Criteria

The service is for patients:

- with new unexplained, unintentional weight loss, fatigue, nausea, malaise, or bloating/new unexplained vague abdominal pain/new unexplained, unexpected, or progressive pain – or where your gut feeling is that cancer is indicated.
- that fit an existing suspected cancer pathway but are too unwell for OPD or are already under investigation for symptoms are excluded.
- have symptoms that identify two or more suspected cancer referral pathways or abnormal imaging that is suspicious of cancer.

How to Refer:

BHRUT RDC

The RDC can be found on Choose & Book (e-RS) via the following search criteria: Specialty = 2WW, Clinic Type = 2WW Non-specific symptoms, Organisation or Site Name = Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, Priority = 2WW. The Service name is Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) – Queen's Hospital RF4

The RDC Team are available Monday to Friday, 09.00hrs to 17.00hrs if you would like to discuss a patient prior to referral, or would like any further information, please call us on 0208 970 5748 or email: bhrut.rapiddiagnosticcentre@nhs.net

Barts MDRAC

The MDRAC referral form can be found on resource publisher and referrals can be made on eRS by selecting 2WW multidisciplinary rapid access clinic (RLH) – Barts Health NHS Trust – RH1, found under 2WW and cancer of unknown primary.

The service can be contacted on 07715 805 112, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or by emailing bhnt.rapidaccessdiagnosticclinic@nhs.net

5 Patient Review following age adjusted reference changes to Pan-London Referral Guidance for suspected Prostate Cancer

In 2018 PSA referral cut-offs were updated as part of the Pan-London referral guidance, however, the age-adjusted 'acceptable' ranges attached to PSA results by the Barts Lab remained unchanged until June 2022. This caused some results to be considered normal, when in fact they would have met the threshold for urgent suspected cancer referral per pan-London guidance.

In December 2021, NICE reviewed the evidence on fixed and age adjusted thresholds for PSA tests. The guidance and recommendations on referral for suspected prostate cancer were updated, making most thresholds for referral higher than 2018 pan-London ranges, but still lower than the pre-2018 cut offs.

The NEL Cancer Alliance Expert Reference Group for Urology chaired by James Green, Consultant Urologist at Barts Health, has undertaken a review of patients and have identified 138 patients that require further investigation. **We are writing to these patients to invite them for a PSA test and a copy of this letter will be sent to the patient's registered GP practice.**

If the patient's PSA result is above the threshold for investigation for prostate cancer, the patient will be invited for further diagnostics at Barts Health and managed on a consultant upgrade cancer pathway. Patients who do not respond to the offer of a repeat PSA test will be followed up by telephone.

The likelihood any harm has come to an individual is low, however should any of the patients identified be diagnosed as having prostate cancer, a clinical harm review will be undertaken.

BHRUT patients are not affected by this as their reference ranges attached to PSA results were updated in line with the pan-London changes.

TCST have revised all the pan-London referral forms and the [Urology referral form](#) and [referral guideline](#) incorporates the new recommended PSA thresholds. Further information on the new forms can be found here:

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

For any further queries about this review please contact bartshealth.urologypsa@nhs.net

6 New MRI suite provides 4,500 more scans for north east London residents (not currently for direct GP referral)

North East London Cancer Alliance, in partnership with Barts Health and Barts Charity, has formally launched a new MRI scanner at the [Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre](#). This will provide an extra 4,500 scans a year for all residents across north east London, on top of the additional 16,500 additional procedures already provided by the centre.

The formal launch took place on Thursday 2 February, although the unit is already up and running and has scanned over 1,000 patients since it opened in November last year.

7 Cancer awareness in schools (Havering and Redbridge)

North East London Cancer Alliance has funded a project being run by CATTs (Cancer Awareness for Teens and Twenties) that is delivering a series of engaging cancer awareness workshops to Year 11 pupils in secondary schools in the boroughs of Redbridge and Havering.

The project is running for this academic year, only and looking for secondary schools that are interested in this free offer to sign up by contacting Jake Chambers, Jake.Chambers@nhs.net or Natasha Francis, natasha@wearecatts.co.uk

The cancer awareness workshops will cover: what is cancer, the signs and symptoms of cancer, how to check your body including breasts and testicles and encourage, how to reduce your chances of developing cancers including sun safety and promote positive health seeking behaviours. All in line with the PSHE curriculum.

8 FIT in patients with signs or symptoms of colorectal cancer: guidelines webinar (a reminder)

A reminder that you can watch a [30-minute video](#) with guidelines on FIT in patients with signs or symptoms of colorectal cancer, which has been produced by the National Cancer team reflecting the guidance created by the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Society of Gastroenterology.

9 Free Oesophageal Cancer course

Free online course (1 hour or bitesize)

GatewayC's Oesophageal Cancer course (1 hour CPD) is available free for all primary care professionals in England. You'll receive the key information for primary care settings, and the course can be paused and resumed at any time.

[Take the course](#)

10 Educational resources for cancer in children

Acute Leukaemia

In 2016, 430 of the 793 new cases of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia diagnosed in the UK were in children. Patients may present with persistent fatigue, unexplained joint pain and bruising, petechiae and pallor. In our free course, 'Acute Leukaemia – Early Diagnosis', we spoke to Leila about her experience.

[Watch this short video on social media](#)

[Access the 'Acute Leukaemia – Early Diagnosis' course](#)

Brain Tumour

Tumours affecting the brain and central nervous system are the second most common type of childhood cancer in the UK. A very urgent referral should be considered for children with new abnormal cerebellar signs or other abnormal central neurology. Refresh your knowledge in GatewayC's online course.

[Access the 'Brain Tumour – Early Diagnosis' course](#)

Sarcoma

Sarcoma is a rare cancer, however, some types are more common in children. Primary care professionals should consider a very urgent ultrasound for children with an unexplained lump that is increasing in size. Explore the signs and risk factors to look out for in our free training module, and claim 1 hour of CPD.

[Access the 'Sarcoma – Early Diagnosis' course](#)

11 Cancer awareness events

We have recently undertaken some events in north east London to speak to local residents and raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer. This included the [national cancer bus visiting Stratford](#), as well as information stalls at the East London Mosque and the Royal London Hospital.

We spoke to well over 1,000 people and are planning more events in the coming months.

12 Cancer alliance comms and engagement strategy and plan

We are currently developing the cancer alliance communications and engagement strategy and plan for 2023/2024. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our communications to primary care, please email p.thomas6@nhs.net

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/>

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

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