

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update March 2023

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1 New PCN facilitators

We are pleased to welcome our three PCN facilitators. They will be doing a similar role to the previous CRUK facilitators and will be supporting PCNs with achieving the requirements of the DES. There are three for NEL:

- Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge: Naeema Akhter – Naeema.akther@nhs.net
- City & Hackney and Newham: Jessica Lewsey – jessica.lewsey@nhs.net
- Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest: Lubna Patel – lubna.patel6@nhs.net

They will be starting to contact practices in the next few weeks.

2 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 have symptoms that identify two or more suspected cancer referral pathways or have abnormal imaging that is suspicious of cancer.

Exclusion criteria

- Patients which fit an existing 2ww pathway, those who are too unwell for OPD or those who are already under investigation for symptoms, are excluded

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

3 Addition of non-specific symptoms code to SNOMED CT dictionary

NHSE's request for the addition of a SNOMED CT code for non-specific symptoms has been accepted. [Fast track referral for suspected cancer due to non-site-specific symptoms \(procedure\)](#) has been added to the February 2023 release of the UK edition of SNOMED CT.

Please ensure your referral coding systems are updated so that this code is used when referring patients onto a Non-Specific Symptoms (NSS) pathway, as this will help patients to be tracked through the pathway, and their outcomes.

4 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](#).

5 NHS catching more cancers earlier than ever before

Thanks to your tireless work we are catching more cancers earlier than ever before.

- In 2021 to 2022, over 100,000 patients were diagnosed with cancer at stages one or two when it is easier to treat – the highest proportion on record.
- Record numbers of people are getting checked for cancer – 600,000 more patients were checked between March 2021 and December 2022 than in the same period before the pandemic.
- Thanks to extensive NHS campaigns and early diagnosis drives, 635,414 more people were referred for cancer during this period – helping to recover the shortfall of 370,000 in people coming forward during the pandemic
- This is really encouraging news and spurs us on as we seek to achieve the NHS's ambition to diagnose 75% of cancers at stage one or two by 2028. We shouldn't under-estimate it – this is the first significant increase in early diagnosis rates in a decade since data was first published in this form.

Thanks for your continued help and support in helping spot cancer sooner.

6 Targeted Lung Health Check

At a national level, as of the end of December 2022, over 1,600 cases of lung cancer have been found as a result of the Targeted Lung Health Check Programme. 76% of these are at stage one or stage two.

In Barking & Dagenham we have scanned over 2,000 residents since July 2022. We have one of the highest uptake rates in the country, which is currently 64.4% against the national average of 39%. We are finding a similar percentage of cancers at stage one and stage two.

We are preparing to extend the programme to Tower Hamlets as the next borough. This will ultimately be rolled out to all areas across north east London.

Communications materials to promote the programme to patients (for GPs in Barking & Dagenham and Tower Hamlets) are available here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/161ZDx5KMaT5mKnvwHxdxJtbStM7D3fcg?usp=share_link

This includes a video which is available in 17 different languages: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNCKfoH3HGc2F8d26KK9xtu9CYSWPD44D>

7 Awareness campaign for older people

We have launched a campaign to encourage people to come forward with signs and symptoms of cancer to help spot cancer sooner. It raises awareness of the main symptoms to look out for and is being promoted across north east London through a range of communications channels. More information is on our webpage: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/TellMeAboutIt>

8 Womb cancer awareness campaign

Our campaign to raise awareness of the main symptom of womb cancer – bleeding after the menopause – continues to get a lot of positive media coverage. More information is on our [web page](#) and you can watch the campaign video here: <https://youtu.be/qSAIoJX93Nk>

9 Project to improving uptake of breast screening in women with an SMI (BHR only)

We are running a project in conjunction with our outer north east London breast screening provider, InHealth, to improve the uptake of breast screening in women with a serious mental illness (SMI). Practices in Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge will receive information via their PCNs about the local incentive scheme details. Any practices in BHR that are interested in participating, please contact Jake Chambers on jake.chambers@nhs.net

10 Cancer awareness events

We recently engaged with over 1,000 residents to 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 are planning more events in the coming months. If you would like to get involved or have any suggestions, please email p.thomas6@nhs.net

11 Screening videos in different languages

As a reminder, we have produced videos to help increase the uptake of the three main cancer screening programmes. These are available in 15 different languages, as well as English, from the links below:

Bowel screening: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/resources/videos/bowel-screening-patients>

Breast screening: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/resources/videos/breast-screening-patients>

Cervical screening: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/resources/videos/cervical-screening-patients>

12 Quality of Life Survey

We continue to promote the NHS national Quality of Life Survey, which patients receive around 18-months after their diagnosis. We are doing all we can to encourage people to complete the survey.

If patients show you their survey or ask you about it, please encourage them to complete it. We currently have one of the lowest uptake rates at 32% against a target of 50%.

Please help us by raising awareness of the survey amongst your patients. More information is here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/QoL>

There are some new flyers and posters which you can download and print to go in your surgery. They are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n1NygHybf7OfRSGjtgmsHjOKIR5DK2hU?usp=share_link

13 Transforming Cancer Services Team: Community of Practice event: 1pm-2pm, 12 April

For primary care nurses, community nurses and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) who are passionate about improving cancer services for patients. Guest speaker is Jo Betterton, Primary Care Programme Lead at the NHS Leadership Academy, who will outline the leadership programmes and learning opportunities available through them. We'll also be hearing from nurses and AHPs about their own personal experiences of leadership programmes. For more info: <http://bit.ly/3IAPL9i>

14 Cervical Cancer Training by Jo's Trust

The next Jo's Trust [cervical cancer training](#) dates are

- 1pm to 2.30pm on Wednesday, 19 April
- 1pm to 2.30pm on Thursday 20 April
- 1pm to 2.30pm Wednesday 26 April
- 1pm to 2.30pm Thursday 27 April

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

15 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/@nelcanceralliance>

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