

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update April 2023

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### 1 New GP Chair for the cancer alliance

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Rob Palmer as GP Chair for the North East London Cancer Alliance. Rob will provide robust clinical input into our cancer programmes, and support enhancing a seamless interface between primary and secondary care for cancer pathways.

He will work closely with the cancer alliance executive team, programme leads and stakeholders from across primary, community and secondary care, as well as representatives from other local partners, to help transform local cancer services.

Rob says “I work as a GP in Stoke Newington, Hackney, but I also have a special interest role in Gastroenterology, working at Homerton, so have a foot in both primary and secondary care. I’ve been involved in clinical leadership roles in City & Hackney for the last 10 years, in gastroenterology and cancer. I’m delighted to have been appointed to this role, and very much look forward to working with you to improve cancer outcomes for our patients across north east London’.

Angela Wong, Chief Medical Officer for the North East London Cancer Alliance, says “This is a critical role for the cancer alliance and it will ensure primary care is considered in all areas of our work. We are delighted to have Rob on board. His skills, experience and local knowledge will really support us in making a big difference to our residents and in helping us to address health inequalities.”

## 2 PCN DES - Early Cancer Diagnosis service requirements 2023/24

NHS England and NHS Improvement have written to PCNs to outline General Practice contract arrangements in 2023/24. The requirements remain broadly the same as 2022/23 and NHSE have developed a support pack [PRN00157-ncds-early-cancer-diagnosis-support-pack.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

The cancer alliance is working to update the local support pack and please do make contact with your PCN Facilitator if you need any further information or support on the early diagnosis DES.

Place	Contact Details
BHR	<a href="mailto:naeema.akther@nhs.net">naeema.akther@nhs.net</a>
C&H/Newham	<a href="mailto:jessica.lewsey@nhs.net">jessica.lewsey@nhs.net</a>
Waltham Forest/Tower Hamlets	<a href="mailto:lubna.patel6@nhs.net">lubna.patel6@nhs.net</a>

## 3 Urgent Suspected Cancer Referrals – GP Top Tips

The Transformation Partners in Health & Care have updated the GP Top Tips for when making an Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) referral for cancer. This provides tips on how you can support our Trusts in delivering the 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard. Providing as much information as possible on the USC referral form as well as having up to date blood tests to support straight to test diagnostics such as CT and MRI enable patients to be told they have cancer, or a cancer is excluded within 28 days of referral.

[GP-Top-Tips-April-2023.pdf \(transformationpartnersinhealthandcare.nhs.uk\)](#)

## 4 Ordering Urgent Cancer Bloods (BHR Patients only)

If you are referring your patient (BHR patients only) on an urgent suspected cancer pathway, please order the urgent bloods via [urgentbloodappointment@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:urgentbloodappointment@nelft.nhs.uk) stating the reason for referral, attach blood test form, and an up to date patient contact telephone number.

A NELFT administrator will contact the patient directly and book a blood test appointment within 2 working days. All patients referred on an urgent suspected cancer pathway require up to date bloods with their referral.

## 5 FIT age extension roll out to 4 boroughs in NEL

The North East London Screening Centre was successful in obtaining approval to continue the roll out of age extension to the population of 54 year olds within four areas of North East London (City and Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest) which started on 4 April 2023.

## 6 Investment and Impact Fund FIT incentive for 23/24

Please find information on the IIF FIT incentive for 23/24 [here](#). A summary of the changes is below:

- The threshold for the payment is now 65-80%
- Following all your helpful feedback, the proposed **personal care adjustment for rectal bleeding has been removed**
- The 14-day post referral window has now been removed to align with the BSG/ACPGBI guidance, the pre-referral window remains at 21 days
- The snomed codes used for the incentive remain the same and can be found [here](#)

You can also view the data on the PCN dashboard which is now available through the [NHS England Applications platform](#)

## 7 Updated FIT guidance Cancer Waiting Times Version 11.1

The Cancer Waiting Times guidance has been revised (version 11.1) and includes updated guidance on the use of FIT.

Lower GI suspected cancer referrals cannot be rejected by secondary care because of missing FIT result or value <10.

Providers can contact the referrer and ask them to withdraw or downgrade the referral if appropriate. These patients can also be discharged or downgraded to a non-urgent pathway after being seen in secondary care if FIT is <10, FBC and physical examination are normal and risk of cancer is assessed to be low.

It is recommended all GP practices follow the [guidance](#) and arrange FIT testing prior to referral to support appropriate clinical decision making in secondary care. FIT result remains unnecessary for patients with anorectal mass or ulceration.

## 8 Targeted Lung Health Check update

Early analysis from Barking & Dagenham residents who have had a scan shows that, for those who are referred after their scan, the median time from date of scan to being seen in the King George Hospital 2WW clinic is **13 days**. This is a great piece of work, especially considering the steps involved following a scan.

Our uptake remains at over 60% compared to a national average of just over 30%.

For more information visit <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/tlhc> or download our communications assets here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/161ZDx5KMaT5mKnvwHxdxJtbStM7D3fcg?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/161ZDx5KMaT5mKnvwHxdxJtbStM7D3fcg?usp=share_link)

## 9 Skin and Bladder Cancer Awareness Month – May 2023

May is the awareness month for both skin and bladder cancer, so you may see an increase in patients coming forward. More information is on the Macmillan website:

Skin cancer: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-awareness/skin-cancer-awareness-month>

Bladder cancer: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-awareness/bladder-cancer-awareness-month>

## 10 Pharmacy project (for info)

The aim is to raise awareness and increase earlier diagnosis of lung cancer through pharmacies advising patients with long term or recurring symptoms to see their GPs. We have 85 pharmacies from across Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham, Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Newham, that have signed up.

As part of this campaign we are asking pharmacies to have targeted conversations with people that come in to purchase cough medicine for a continuous cough. As part of this conversation pharmacy staff are asked to highlight some of the more apparent signs and symptoms of lung cancer and also refer them back to their GP to ask for relevant tests. This campaign will run till the end of August 2023.

## 11 The Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey and Quality of Life Survey

If you or a colleague is asked about either the [Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#) or the [Quality of Life](#) survey by a patient, please encourage them to complete and return the survey as response rates are low across the country.

Communications material to promote the Quality of Life Survey is available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1n1NygHybf7OfrSGitgmsHjOKIR5DK2hU>

## 12 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/@nelcanceralliance>

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