

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update July and August 2023

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### 1 Early Cancer Diagnosis DES

The NEL cancer GP clinical leads have developed a practical and pragmatic support guide for delivering the early diagnosis PCN DES and quality outcome framework.

The guidance can be found here: [PCN DES | North East London Cancer Alliance \(nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk\)](https://nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk)

This guide will be reviewed quarterly with the next review planned in September, given the evolving transformation work across NEL that will further support the service requirements.

The PCN Facilitators, Naeema, Lubna and Jess, are working closely with the PCNs to deliver best practice and use the myriad of tools and guidance available.

PCN Cancer Facilitator (Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest)	<a href="mailto:lubna.patel6@nhs.net">lubna.patel6@nhs.net</a>	Lubna Patel
PCN Cancer Facilitator (Newham and City & Hackney)	<a href="mailto:jessica.lewsey@nhs.net">jessica.lewsey@nhs.net</a>	Jessica Lewsey
PCN Cancer Facilitator (Barking, Havering and Redbridge)	<a href="mailto:naeema.akther@nhs.net">naeema.akther@nhs.net</a>	Naeema Akther

## 2 Targeted Lung Health Check programme expands

We have now expanded the programme in north east London to Tower Hamlets and residents aged 55-74 who have ever smoked will start receiving their invites for their lung check, on a practice-by-practice basis. If you have any questions, please email [nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net) or visit <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/tlhc>

## 3 Availability for cancer appointments

With the holiday season underway, please remind patients that they need to be available for appointments if they have been referred on an urgent suspected cancer pathway. Patients should be informed that they are on this pathway and make sure that they are available for appointments 4-6 weeks after you have made their referral.

## 4 Support services for people affected by cancer at Maggie's Centre, St Barts Hospital

Maggie's Barts offers emotional, practical and psychological support for anyone affected by cancer at any stage of the cancer pathway and experience. Our support is available, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, and no appointment is needed to speak with one of Cancer Support Specialists.

No referral is needed to access the support and they can use the support regardless of the hospital they are having treatment at - please tell them to just come in.

The [timetable of groups and activities](#) at the centre is free of charge.

Centre Address – London (City & East), St Bartholomew's Hospital, W Smithfield, London, EC1A 7BE

E-mail: [barts@maggies.org](mailto:barts@maggies.org)

Telephone: 020 3904 3448

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Website link for further information: <https://www.maggies.org/our-centres/maggies-barts/>

## 5 Treatment-induced menopause workshop

Maggie's at St Barts Hospital are looking for a GP to co-facilitate a treatment-induced menopause workshop for women who are undergoing/have undergone cancer treatment. The workshop will run every other month for 90 mins and will be delivered with a member of the Maggie's team.

We are looking for someone who can commit to a minimum of 3 workshops. However, it will be an unpaid opportunity and so may suit someone looking to gain

specific experience in this area. The workshop can be delivered online or in person, depending on preference/availability.

Topics to be covered will include understanding treatment-induced menopause, managing symptoms, treatment options such as HRT and side effects.

For more information, please get in touch with Victoria Curran, Centre Head [victoria.curran@maggies.org](mailto:victoria.curran@maggies.org)

## 6 Lynch Syndrome

Lynch Syndrome is being included in the bowel cancer screening service across north east London from this month. They will be doing retrospective and prospective testing and will be operating a call and recall service.

### Lynch Syndrome Training for GPs

There is free [Lynch Syndrome online training for primary care clinicians](#), provided by RM Partners and you can download a [quick guide for GPs](#).

Visit our [web page](#) to find out more about what we are doing for Lynch Syndrome across north east London.

## 7 Skin cancer GP education (TNW only)

The Whipps Cross dermatology team invites GPs from Tower Hamlets, Newham and Waltham Forest to a comprehensive training session at our TWW clinic, focusing on improving skin cancer recognition and benign lesion recognition.

Led by experienced clinicians, the training aims to enhance GPs' diagnostic skills for early detection of skin cancer, as well as accurately identifying benign skin lesions, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

GPs interested in participating can contact Iffy on [onifeoma.oyelami@nhs.net](mailto:onifeoma.oyelami@nhs.net) for enrolment details. More information is on our [webpage](#).

## 8 Barts reduces 62-day backlog

Latest figures from NHS England and Improvement show that Barts Health has been reducing the backlog for treatment for urgent suspected cancer patients who have been waiting more than 62 days. Read more:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/barts-health-makes-great-progress-reducing-its-cancer-backlog>

## 9 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey Results

The [latest results](#), released this month, show that cancer patients have given a rating of 8.88 out of 10 for their overall experience. Results relating to GPs are as follows:

- 74% of NEL patients who had contacted their GP practice said they only spoke to a primary care professional once or twice before cancer diagnosis, as opposed to more numerous visits to the GP before diagnosis (against a national score of 77.7%).
- 60% of patients who had contacted their GP practice said that the referral for diagnosis was explained in a way they could completely understand (against a national score of 65.4%).
- 21% of patients said they have had a review of cancer care by their GP practice (against a national score of 20.7%, an increase from 18.0% in 2021).

Visit the [Cancer Patient Experience Survey website](#) to see the full results. A [national report](#) and accompanying [easy read report](#) set out the headline findings. A new [interactive dashboard](#) has also been launched for this year, which allows you to explore the survey results in more detail.

## 10 GatewayC's new podcast on lung cancer

GPs Talk Cancer with Dr Rebecca Leon and Dr Sarah Taylor for GatewayC is out now. Listen to GPs bust myths and share their clinical experiences. The first episode covers lung cancer. Download it here: <https://bit.ly/3NTSzZa>

## 11 Patient cancer awareness materials for GPs to use

We have a number of posters, leaflets and videos that GPs can use to send out to patients to raise awareness of cancer. Please click on the links below to access the materials on our Google Drive.

[Womb cancer awareness](#)

[Signs and symptoms campaign aimed at older people](#)

[Quality of Life Survey for cancer patients](#)

[It's Not a Game: campaign aimed at men with a focus on stomach, bowel, lung and prostate cancer](#)

[Best For My Chest: breast screening campaign aimed at the LGBTIQ+ community](#)

We have also produced more videos aimed at helping people reduce their risk of getting cancer. Please add these to your websites and share with patients.

- Bowel screening: <https://youtu.be/ieHkvyh5kT8>
- Diet: <https://youtu.be/h261rOsTSVQ>
- Physical activity: <https://youtu.be/9-j9WT4AsT0>
- General preventing cancer advice from Azmina: <https://youtu.be/BqsNwWFe06s>

## 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)