

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update October 2023

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1 New cancer performance standards

NHS England has published further information about the changes to cancer waiting times standards, which took place on 1 October, including a series of frequently asked questions. This is available on our [dedicated webpage for GPs](#).

2 PCN DES Guidance

We have updated our [PCN DES QOF Support Guide](#) to support practices to deliver the asks in the PCN DES, which has been approved by our GP cancer leads. This is updated on a quarterly basis and changes are highlighted in yellow.

We have also created a [Quick Wins Checklist](#), which is a single page of suggested actions to help you achieve the PCN DES.

More information on support for the PCN DES is available here:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/primary-care/pcn-des>

3 Helping to improve cervical screening services

Cervical Screening London (CSL) and NHSE have asked if GPs could please note the following to improve cervical screening services for patients:

- There have been an increasing number of cervical screening samples taking longer than 5 days to reach the lab. Please could practices make sure that samples are included in collections as soon as possible after they are taken.
- CSL have also reported that they are receiving samples in out-of-date vials, which mean they cannot be processed. Please dispose of any out-of-date vials and contact CSL to order more if these are needed.
- Although there has been an improvement, there are still other programme samples being sent in the collection bag to CSL. Its vital that the samples sent to CSL are only for cervical screening as any other samples will not be sent on to labs for processing.
- It has been noted that sometimes, when a patient has changed address, the forms sent to the lab have been amended and the new address is handwritten. This makes it difficult for the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS) to match the patient's result to their letter. Please can patients' addresses be updated before the forms are printed to ensure there are no delays to patients receiving their cervical screening results.

Important for GPs to note: All sample takers must have completed the UK sample taker training and be registered on the database. Any staff who have completed sample taker training outside of the UK, must also undertake the UK training before taking cervical screening samples.

4 Improving the Urgent Suspected Cancer Referrals process

Our colleagues across our Trusts have asked if GPs could please help improve the referrals process for patients by:

- Ensuring that blood tests at the point of referral are within 3 months
- Completing and attaching clinical information upon submitting suspected cancer referrals
- Encouraging patients to make themselves available for appointments for their diagnostics and treatment
- Making sure that patients clearly understand that they have been referred due to suspicion of cancer
- Ensuring that, when completing a radiology request form for BHRUT, they include their GMC number, that the risk factor box is ticked if appropriate and the form has an e-signature, or the request is forward to BHRUT radiology department from the respective GP email address. Radiology will be unable to accept radiology request form with typed GP names included.

Many thanks for your help and support with this.

5 FIT in secondary care

The Transforming Cancer Services Team in London is launching a project to promote the use of FIT in secondary care, to reduce time to diagnosis for investigation of high-risk patients with lower GI red flag symptoms.

This will use FIT to:

- identify high risk symptomatic patients in urgent care settings - to reduce time to diagnosis / other investigation.
- identify low risk symptomatic patients - to determine need for endoscopy / other investigation.

Posters will be displayed in urgent care settings to advise patients. We do not expect the project to generate any additional work for GPs. There will be a navigator who will follow up on all indeterminate tests.

For more information about FIT in secondary care, watch [NHS England's video](#).

If you have any questions about the project, please email fit.bhrut@nhs.net or phone 01708 435 036. You can also find out more on the [TCST webpage](#).

6 Preparing for the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS) letter

A detailed letter outlining the necessary steps for preparing for the new NHS CSMS is on the official NHS CSMS website. You can access this letter by visiting:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/screening-services/national-cervical-screening/new-cervical-screening-management-system/preparing-for-the-new-nhs-csms-letter>

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to either contact tayo.iloh@nhs.net directly or the screening implementation team via screening.implementation@nhs.net

7 Bowel screening uptake

A campaign is running across London until early December to help encourage the uptake of bowel screening. It includes TV advertising, social media and engagement activity targeted at multicultural audiences.

Please also remember to contact your local PCN facilitators for local support:

Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge: Naeema Akther – 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

8 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme

Thank you for your continued support for our Targeted Lung Health Check Programme which is currently running in Barking & Dagenham and Tower hamlets. The programme offers life-saving scans to residents aged between 55 and 74, and who have ever smoked.

As a reminder, guidance about how to manage coronary calcification identified on the Targeted Lung Health Check scan is available to [download](#).

Communications materials to promote the programme to patients are available for GPs here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/161ZDx5KMaT5mKnvwHxdxJtbStM7D3fcg?usp=share_link

A video for patients is on our [YouTube channel](#) and more information for patients is on our web page: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/tlhc>

9 PMA Awards

Congratulations to Dr Ameesh Patel and Havering North PCN, who were nominated for the PMA awards at the GP best practice conference last week for the category 'Outstanding contribution to General Practice 2023'. They were nominated for their work on improving bowel cancer screening uptake for their local population, by the use of GP endorsed messaging to non-responders.

10 FREE FIT webinars for clinicians

Gateway C will be hosting a webinar on 8 November covering the FIT pathway specifically for primary care clinicians. The webinar will host clinical specialists discussing the clinical guidelines for FIT and how primary care professionals can best support patients.

The webinars will start at 1pm and last for 30 minutes - you can tune in live or on-demand. The sessions will include an optional live Q&A.

The webinars are supported by NHS England and the Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance Early Diagnosis Team. Register your place at <https://bit.ly/3PTi67b>

11 For more information

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