

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update November 2023

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1 RDC Update

Please see the latest update on the MRADC clinic (also known as rapid diagnostic clinic, RDC) at Barts Health, which is **fully open**.

Click on this link: [Multidisciplinary Rapid Access Diagnostic Clinic \(MRADC\) at Barts Health – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare/primary-care/rapid-access-diagnostic-clinic/)

If you have any questions about the service, please contact us on 07715 805 112, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or by emailing: bhnt.rapidaccessdiagnosticclinic@nhs.net

2 North East London Cancer Alliance Clinical Leads

Throughout everything we do as a cancer alliance, it is essential that we work very closely with our colleagues in primary care. Your work is fundamental to helping reduce health inequalities and to improve cancer diagnosis, treatment and care for our local residents.

Here is a quick introduction to the key primary care roles within our cancer alliance: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/primary-care-clinical-leads>

3 Increasing uptake of bowel screening

A big thank you to all practices who have been making efforts to improve uptake of screening services in north east London.

Please could you make sure you carefully consider the cohort of patients being contacted. For example, we have been made aware that patients who have requested to be ceased from screening as they have no bowel, have received text messages asking them to contact the screening centre.

It's also important to ask patients to contact the bowel screening hub, not the individual services.

Both screening services, based in Homerton and BHRUT, would be happy to help and advise GPs on any local projects to increase uptake of bowel cancer screening, so please do contact them about that.

In addition, both services include Health Promotion Specialists, who can help with the DES requirements, bowel screening projects and training for staff and patients. We would encourage you to make use of this excellent resource – both are very knowledgeable and experienced. They can be contacted via email:

City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Waltham Forest – Leena Khagram:
leena.khagram@nhs.net

Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering – Phillippa Hickey:
phillippa.hickey1@nhs.net

4 New soft tissue sarcoma hub and spoke services in London

*****Please note that this diagnostic pathway does not apply to Bone Sarcoma. ALL suspected BONE Sarcomas must be referred to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital service ONLY*****

A new diagnostic pathway has been developed for adult soft tissue sarcoma referrals in London. Services will be divided into 'hubs' (tertiary services providing treatment and clinical oversight) and 'spokes' (services delivering local diagnostics, from further imaging to pathology).

The Hubs are the Royal Marsden Hospital (RMH) and the London Sarcoma Service, which is a joint service between the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) and University College London Hospitals (UCLH).

- In north east London, there are plans for a spoke to be developed at Mile End. GPs will be informed when this change takes place and the exact NEL spoke pathway can be shared at that point.

- In west London, spokes are currently located at Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust (either the Chelsea or West Middlesex site), Croydon Health Services and Kingston Hospital.
- In north central London, RNOH will act as a spoke for NCL.
- In south east London, patients should be referred to the hub or spoke most convenient for the patient.

The London Sarcoma Service Hub, RMH Hub and all Spoke services are open to receive urgent suspected sarcoma cancer referrals from general practices in all London Integrated Care Systems.

Actions for referrers:

1. Adult patients with a mass that could be a soft tissue sarcoma based on clinical evaluation should be referred for a direct access urgent ultrasound.
2. Based on the ultrasound report and the clinical findings patients with:
 - A mass which could be a soft tissue sarcoma or another tumour (e.g. lymphoma) should be referred to one of the Spoke services for further evaluation, depending on the clinical picture and and/or patient choice.
 - Masses which are highly suspicious of or confirmed as soft tissue sarcomas should be referred directly to one of the Hubs.

For further information, please contact england.tcstlondon@nhs.net

Sent on behalf of the London & South East Sarcoma Network and NHS England (London Specialised Commissioning team).

5 Referring NEL patients into EUROPAC for pancreatic cancer surveillance

Primary care clinicians can now refer people who might present opportunistically to primary care, with a very strong family history of pancreatic cancer to the European Registry of Hereditary Pancreatic Diseases (EUROPAC) for annual surveillance.

What is EUROPAC?

EUROPAC is a registry for families with histories of familial pancreatic cancer and hereditary pancreatitis. The EUROPAC study also runs surveillance programmes for people with high-risk factors. Surveillance is offered on a yearly basis, using a combination of CT, EUS, MRI and blood tests.

Why refer patients?

Around 10% of pancreatic cancers are caused by inherited risk factors. These can occur in families with a history of either pancreatic cancer or hereditary pancreatitis or in people who carry an at-risk genetic mutation.

NICE guidance (NG85) recommends pancreatic cancer surveillance for people with inherited high-risk factors.

How to refer?

Please see eligibility criteria outlined here: [European Registry of Hereditary Pancreatic Diseases \(EUROPAC\) | North East London Cancer Alliance \(nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk\)](#)

For eligible patients, a GP can complete the [referral form](#) and email the completed referral form to Emma Crowe who is the North East London EUROPAC coordinator: emma.crowe@rlbuht.nhs.uk

Patients can also be directed for self-referral if appropriate. Individuals can self-refer with EUROPAC through the 'contact us' section of the EUROPAC [website](#), emailing europac@liv.ac.uk or calling +44 (0)151 795 1256.

The nearest surveillance centre for patients in North East London is University College London Hospitals NHS Trust.

6 Training - Pancreatic Cancer Information Toolkit

To support primary care in early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, a [toolkit](#) has been produced by Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance.

Please see their website to access the toolkit and chapters: [Early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer :: Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance](#)

7 PCN DES Guidance

As a reminder, 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>

We have three PCN facilitators for north east London:

Barking and 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 progress has been quicker than expected, we will shortly be moving to our next borough to keep the momentum going. This will be Newham, based on a combination of smoking data, current scanner location and IT integration already being in place.

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 Pan-London Research Fellowships

The latest information is available for the pan-London research fellowships. Please click on the link for more details.

[Applications open for pan-London research fellowships - RM Partners](#)

There are several projects related to Personalised Care and supporting people living with and beyond cancer. Please share with your teams.

10 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>