

# NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update July 2024

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## 1 PCN DES and QOF Support Guide

The new improved Early Cancer Diagnosis [PCN DES & QOF Support Guide](#) for primary care is now available to download on the Cancer Alliance PCN DES webpage.

There is also a 'quick wins' checklist available to download, as well as a link to further resources in our Google drive. Visit <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/primary-care/pcn-des>

Watch a Primary Care PCN Des webinar by Dr Rob Palmer:  
<https://youtu.be/hwnXPGskhS0?si=VDNoq0peqIHodvSb>

## 2 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 up to date contact details are available, including email addresses, to support pathway management
- Encourage patients to come to their appointments as we get a high level of 'Did Not Attend' or patients stating they are on holiday, not realising they are on an urgent suspected cancer pathway.

Thanks very much for your help with this.

### 3 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme Update

We have now completed over [10,000 CT scans and 25,000 telephone triages](#) as part of the Targeted Lung Health Check Programme (a free check for 55-74 year olds who have ever smoked).

Our uptake rate is one of the highest in the country and we are diagnosing around 65% of cancers at stage 1 or stage 2.

This is taking place so far in Barking & Dagenham, Tower Hamlets and Newham. Preparations are now underway to extend to Havering as the next borough (the order of boroughs is determined by smoking prevalence, along with IT integration).

For more information visit <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/tlhc> or email [nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net)

#### For more information

[Download](#) a slide pack for healthcare professionals

[Visit](#) our website

[Access](#) patient communications materials

### 4 Self-sampling HPV kits could screen an extra million people for cervical cancer

We are delighted to say that the results of the YouScreen study for cervical screening at home have been published in eClinicalMedicine.

In summary, researchers found offering self-sampling kits to under-screened women when they attend their GP practice and by posting kits to women's homes could boost the numbers screened in England by about 400,000 each year.

It has been picked up by the BBC  
here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjk3z57nd1do>

The news also features on the North East London Cancer Alliance website  
here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/self-sampling-hpv-kits-could-screen-extra-million-people-cervical-cancer>

Thanks again to those who participated in, and helped with, the study. Your involvement made it a success and we look forward to the continued development of HPV self-sampling in the NHS cervical screening programme.

## 5 Important update on the Multi-Cancer Blood Test Programme

NHS England has taken the decision to hold off on proceeding with the Multi-Cancer Blood Test Programme, which we were expecting to pilot in north east London.

The rollout of the programme was dependent on receiving positive preliminary first-year data from the NHS-Galleri Trial. Following analysis of this data, NHS England concluded that the data was not compelling enough to warrant further investment at this time.

They have instead chosen to wait for the final results of the NHS-Galleri Trial, which will be available in 2026, before considering any future large-scale implementation.

Whilst this is disappointing, it is understandable that any large scale roll out is based on sound evidence and final full-term results.

If you want to understand the decision in a bit more detail, Prof Peter Johnson has written a very informative blog post on the NHSE website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/an-update-on-the-ongoing-nhs-galleri-trial/>

## 6 Breast screening for people with Severe Mental Illness (BHR only)

The project is currently delayed for launching, whilst awaiting Information Governance to share the Data Sharing and Processing documents. These are expected to be shared with PCNs and NELFT by the 20 July.

Please keep an eye on email inboxes for a letter notifying when the documents are ready, with links for signing to be shared 48 hours later. **We ask all PCNs to please read and sign documents promptly to prevent further delays.**

**Please do not initiate patient invites until further notice.** Nikki, the project manager will be in touch further with each PCN ahead of launching and can be contacted for queries at [nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:nikki.poland@nhs.net). In the meantime, can all PCNs ensure that they have sent their LIS invoices over, as directed, to ensure timely transfer of funding.

## 7 Cancer screening resource directory

[A directory of resources](#) is available for health and social care professionals to help encourage screening participation. It includes resources in accessible formats. The cancer screening resource directory was developed in partnership with NHSE (London Region) Cancer Screening Commissioning Team and Transforming Cancer Services Team for London (TCST).

## 8 Homelessness survey

The North Central London Cancer Alliance is currently running a project to improve access and participation in cancer screening for people experiencing homelessness (PEH). Currently, the reasonable adjustments are being piloted in North Central London. [Homeless Link](#) has been commissioned to capture the learnings from the project through a process evaluation to inform regional implementation.

**This brief survey is intended for all primary care providers in GP Practices (both clinical and non-clinical) who support patients experiencing homelessness across London. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.**

As part of the evaluation, the aim to gather insights on the challenges and existing processes and opportunities within primary care settings that seek to improve access and participation in cancer screening for PEH.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/primarycarelondon24>

For any queries relating to the project or evaluation, please contact [Ekta.Patel9@nhs.net](mailto:Ekta.Patel9@nhs.net) (Senior Project Manager, North Central London Cancer Alliance).

## 9 SELCA training videos

South East London Cancer Alliance recently launched a new education resource to support primary care professionals to identify patients who require an urgent suspected cancer referral. These are available free of charge for GPs in north east London.

The modules can be completed online within 10 minutes. The following modules are now available:

- [Head and Neck cancer](#)
- [Pancreatic training module.](#)
- [Lung Cancer training module.](#)
- [Myeloma training module.](#)
- [Oral cancer](#)
- [Oesophageal cancer](#)
- [Brain and Central Nervous System cancer](#)

## 10 GatewayC

GatewayC have released a range of free on-demand FIT resources for primary care clinicians and administrators in England. [Access resources](#).

## 11 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>