

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update March / April 2024

In this update:

- 1 Cancer performance across north east London
- 2 New soft tissue sarcoma hub and spoke services in London
- 3 Improving the Urgent Suspected Cancer Referrals process
- 4 Breast Screening in SMI ONEL (BHR only)
- 5 Bowel Cancer UK campaign
- 6 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme Update
- 7 FIT in secondary care
- 8 SELCA training videos
- 9 GatewayC
- 10 Skin cancer prevention video
- 11 For more information

### 1 Cancer performance across north east London

We have been praised by the NHS national cancer team for our work locally on cancer performance, and we would like to say a big thank you to all our GPs across north east London for the vital role you play in making this happen.

All our Trusts have met the Faster Diagnosis Standard and have also reduced the 62-day backlog considerably, meeting our targets and actually landing ahead of our trajectory, bringing the backlog down by nearly 40% over the last year.

Dame Cally Palmer and Peter Johnson wrote to us to say: “Throughout the year you have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving services, using your expertise and ability to adapt to what we know will often feel like changing circumstances.

“Your dedication, hard work, and collaboration have been instrumental in this, and we are very grateful for all you have done. We look forward to continuing our journey together and to achieving even greater success in the future. Thank you once again for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to cancer patients.”

For more information visit: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/nhs-england-praises-performance-cancer-north-east-london>

## 2 New soft tissue sarcoma hub and spoke services in London

A new diagnostic pathway has been developed for adult soft tissue sarcoma referrals in London, using a Hub and Spoke service model.

The **'hubs'** will be delivered at tertiary services providing treatment and clinical oversight. 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).

The **'spokes'** will deliver sarcoma local diagnostics services, from further imaging to pathology. The London Spokes are:

- **North east London (a pilot for imaging and out patient referrals only)**
  - Barts Health, Royal London Hospital (**A Soft Tissue Sarcoma (NOT BONE) Urgent Suspected Cancer Assessment Service RAS – (RLH) – Barts Health NHS Trust – R1H** **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\***)
  
- **West London**
  - Chelsea and Westminster Hospital (**Urgent Suspected Cancer - Sarcoma RAS Chelsea and Westminster Hospital RQM01**)
  - West Middlesex Hospital (**RAS - Urgent Suspected Cancer - Sarcoma West Middlesex Hospital RQM91**)
  - Kingston Hospital
  - Croydon Health Services (**USC Soft Tissue Sarcoma CAS (USC proforma only) DO NOT ATTEND @ Croydon University Hospital - RJ6**)
  
- **North central London**, RNOH will act as a spoke for NCL
  - RNOH Bolsover Street (**Suspected Cancer Services Sarcoma RAS Service - Surgical - 16 years+ - Generic - RNOH B (RAN) telep**)
  - RNOH Stanmore (**Suspected Cancer Services Sarcoma RAS Service - Surgical 16 years+ Generic RNOH S (RAN) tele clinics**)
  - UCLH (**2ww Sarcoma - UCLH - RRV**)
  
- **Southeast London**
  - Patients should be referred to the hub or spoke most convenient for the patient.
  
- **Out of London referrals:**
  - 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 and the wider referral geography.

## Actions for referrers:

- The RLH Sarcoma service is a **Soft Tissue Sarcoma service only** and **does not accept Bone Sarcoma referrals** – these should be sent to RNOH as above.
- The RLH service is now live on eRS and the Urgent Suspected Cancer referral form is available on the RAS on eRS
- Adult patients with a mass that could be a soft tissue sarcoma based on clinical evaluation (soft tissue lump with one of the following features: increasing in size, size>5cm, painful) should be referred for a direct access urgent ultrasound. Please see Sarcoma clinical guidelines for healthcare professionals: <https://sarcoma.org.uk/healthcare-professionals-hub/clinical-guidelines/>
- Areas that have GP direct-access MRI soft tissue, please continue to use this service as per local guidelines
- 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](mailto:england.tcstlondon@nhs.net)

## 3 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.

Thanks very much for your help with this.

## 4 Breast Screening in SMI ONEL (BHR only)

North East London Cancer Alliance has shared the updated service specification with the PCN and Clinical Leads and attended the joint PCN CD meeting to present the project and take questions.

The response from the meeting was positive and we now need to hear back from the leads to confirm their sign-on, as soon as possible. **We will send out contracts to all PCNs in BHR and would like these signed and returned no later than Friday 10 May 2024.**

Data sharing/processing agreements will follow shortly after with information on how to sign these and LIS payments to PCNs will be arranged in this time. We will be looking to start inviting patients in Wanstead and Woodford and Loxford in the first month (aiming to start 29 May 2024), followed by Seven Kings and Fairlop in the second month.

Primary care SMI patient and carer focus groups are being arranged to ensure patient involvement and information. InHealth have delivered training to NELFT mental health staff to support the initiative and can be contacted for primary care training via the contact details in the service spec.

For any questions, please contact Nikki Poland via email at [nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:nikki.poland@nhs.net)

## 5 Bowel Cancer UK campaign

In May 2024, Bowel Cancer UK is launching an awareness campaign called 'Tell Your GP instead' which aims to change the behaviour of people experiencing symptoms of bowel cancer.

It will run across national media, ethnic media channels, local radio and press, poster advertising and digital advertising.

Instead of a short burst like other campaigns, this one will run over 9 months on a 2 week on / 2 week off basis. The effect should be a sustained level of engagement, rather than a short spike. This should mean there isn't a sudden big uptake in appointments being made with GPs – the results should be seen gradually over the longer term.

## 6 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme Update

Many thanks for your continued support for our Targeted Lung Health Check Programme. We continue to have one of the highest uptakes in the country. Our average uptake rate is 52.2% compared to a national average of 44.6.

**As of 31 March 2024, we have so far completed 21,925 telephone triages and over 9,000 CT scans. 67.7% of lung cancers found were at stage 1 or stage 2.**

It is currently running in **Barking & Dagenham, Tower Hamlets and Newham**. The programme offers life-saving scans to residents aged between 55 and 74, and who have ever smoked.

**Urgent message for practices in Newham: if you have not yet done so, please sign the data sharing agreement and respond to InHealth regarding data extraction.**

**We have had 100% sign up from practices in Barking & Dagenham and Tower Hamlets and we are aiming for the same in Newham.**

**For more information**

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

[Visit](#) our website

[Access](#) patient communications materials

## 7 FIT in secondary care

As a reminder, the Transforming Cancer Services Team in London have launched 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 is currently being offered in A&E at Queen's Hospital, while Whipps Cross Hospital is due to begin offering it soon.**

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.bhрут@nhs.net](mailto:fit.bhрут@nhs.net) or phone 01708 435 036. You can also find out more on the [TCST webpage](#).

Read more here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/finding-bowel-cancer-earlier-when-it-easier-treat>

## 8 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](#)

## 9 GatewayC

GatewayC is an excellent free source of cancer resources for GPs and **we encourage all practice staff in north east London sign up.**

Sign up is quick and easy and can be done via this link:  
<https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/registration/>

Latest assets from GatewayC include:

Bowel cancer: Resources cover earlier detection, screening and FIT. Available to all primary care clinicians. [Learn more.](#)

Early Diagnosis resources GatewayC are sharing their free cancer early diagnosis resources to support clinicians detect prostate, brain, colorectal, and ovarian cancer. Confidently identify, refer and support patients with symptoms of suspected cancer. Free CPD available. Learn more.

- [Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Brain Tumour](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer](#)
- [Ovarian Cancer](#)

## 10 Skin cancer prevention video

A new cancer alliance video is available which provides advice on skin cancer and skin care: <https://youtu.be/S59IXrHCDYo>

This is part of a series of cancer prevention videos:  
<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/top-tips-lower-your-risk-cancer>

## 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>