

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update May / June 2024

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1 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.

2 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

3 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/>

4 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).

5 Closure of Jo's Trust

We are sad to share the announcement about the closure of Jo's Trust (<https://www.jostrust.org.uk/>). This is such sad news and a loss to the cancer system.

We have been downloading the resources from their website to make sure they are still available to partners across north east London and these will be added to the cancer alliance website in due course.

6 Take action on early diagnosis for ovarian cancer

This year, the Early Diagnosis Network has partnered with Arden's EMIS Web national trainer and Peninsula Cancer Alliance to produce a tailored webinar demonstrating the options and opportunities for setting clinical IT alerts and organising gold standard safety netting for patients with persistent abdominal symptoms (bloating, feeling full quickly and/or loss of appetite, pelvic or abdominal pain and urinary symptoms). You can find out more about this workstream and join the Early Diagnosis Network [here](#).

Target Ovarian Cancer are looking for primary care teams to adopt and further test these tools. It would be great if patients in north east London could benefit from these simple, cost-effective tools.

Please contact Target Ovarian Cancer to find out more. You can reach them at: commissioners@targetovariancancer.org.uk.

7 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](#)

8 GatewayC

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

9 Brain tumour Primary Care Advisor Group

The Brain Tumour Charity are currently recruiting volunteers for a Primary Care Advisory Group to work with so they can truly understand the barriers and potential solutions for brain tumour diagnosis – they are particularly interested in the routes for GPs to directly order MRI/CT scans for people they suspect could have a brain tumour as per the NICE guidance.

The full description of the role is [here](#) on their volunteering site [here](#), which also provides further information about the charity and volunteering for them.

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>