

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update December 2024



**Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas
and best wishes for the
New Year**



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1 Non-specific symptoms (NSS) Service Update

Following [Bart's update in August](#) they would like to share the current waiting time of **8 weeks** for The Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC) at Barts Health NHS Trust for Non-Specific Symptom (NSS) referrals into their RDC clinic (formerly MRADC).

Read the update in full: <https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/barts-health-the-rapid-diagnostic-clinic-at-barts-health-nhs-trust-for-non-specific-symptom-referrals/>

2 Changes to Gynae suspected cancer referrals 2024

Following the update in [last month's newsletter](#) regarding Urgent Suspected Referrals, there is some useful information on changes to gynae suspected cancer referrals on the North Central London Cancer Alliance website:

<https://gps.northcentrallondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/ncl-cancer-alliance-launches-gynaecology-pathways-to-guide-referrals>

3 Improving the quality of support that cancer patients receive

As a reminder – with a deadline extension - an exciting opportunity has arisen to improve the quality of support that cancer patients receive within the primary care setting through a process of reflection and quality improvement at practice level across north east London.

We are keen to support practices to improve how they:

- Explore and identify cancer patients' unmet needs
- Offer support to help meet these needs

We are asking practices to:

1. Run a CEG search to identify a maximum of 10 historical random cancer patients
2. Import the patients into a Reflection Tool and complete it for each patient
3. Reflect as a practice on the results and review the Resources & Recommendations we will be providing
4. Submit the anonymised search results and your practice improvement plan on what better support would encompass
5. After 2 quarters run the random search again (max 10 patients) and reflect on any changes to the quality of care or support offered
6. Send out a patient questionnaire to these patients (which we will have provided) to help the practice reflect on care provided
7. Submit a final evaluation form including the second search results, your review of your QI and the anonymised patient feedback results

An external evaluation will be conducted by SoWhat? Consulting Ltd. We will be supporting the practices with the above process and have the backing of the Place-Based Cancer GP leads and PCN Cancer Facilitators who are also keen to support in anyway needed.

We are offering £500 to each GP practice to be involved in this Quality improvement project, and we are aiming for 5 GP practices per area.

Any GP practices interested in being a part of this QI project, please forward an email expressing your interest to Navneet.deol@nhs.net by close of play on Friday 10 January 2025.

4 Breast screening coding

Please read the latest Standard Operating Procedure for breast screening coding and forward to those responsible for coding within your practice:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-12/Breast%20screening%20SOP%20V1%20December%202024.pdf>

5 Latest from the NEL Cancer Academy

The first face-to-face Cancer Update Course from the NEL Cancer Academy, in partnership with Red Whale and the North East London Cancer Training Hub, took place on 10 December at the Old Town Hall in Stratford, with around 80 GPs attending.



Other sessions are available in the new year and are filling up fast so please book your space now:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/Cancer-Update-Courses-Primary-Care-NEL-Red-Whale.pdf>

All primary care training resources are on the NEL Cancer Academy website:

<http://nelcanceracademy.co.uk/>

The latest webinar recordings are available here:

Bowel Cancer Webinar: <https://youtu.be/3z5-xTKFJ50>

Lung Cancer Webinar: <https://youtu.be/6PJHJNQ17M>

6 Update on breast screening for people with Severe Mental Illness (ONEL only)

Loxford, New Cross alliance, Barking + Dagenham North, New West and East, Fairlop and Cranbrook have now gone live with LIS activity.

All practices that have launched activity are invited to complete a feedback survey, which can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uuDz1vr5rC>

Please submit feedback by Friday 10 January 2025.

The next PCN launches will begin end of Jan 2025, to allow time for InHealth to manage their workload. PCNs will be contact via email and given 4 weeks to notify their practices and complete the required actions, which will be provided with an update service spec.

Launching in Havering is currently delayed, pending an issue with NELFT register sharing. This is being remedied and an update will be shared in due course. Apologies for the inconvenience.

For any queries, please contact Nikki at Nikki.poland@nhs.net

7 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement Project

An exciting new project is planned for 2025! In partnership with Friends, Families and Travelers and Roma Support Group, North East London Cancer Alliance is seeking to recruit and train 15 community health champions to support their local communities to engage with health services.

Cultural awareness training is being offered to all Social Prescribers and GP receptionists in north east London and resources will be made available via The Training Hub/Cancer Academy. More information to follow. For any queries, please contact Nikki, the project manager at Nikki.poland@nhs.net

8 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme Update

We have 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 over 60% of cancers at stage 1 or stage 2.

Expansion to Havering

We have now launched this in Havering, which follows Barking & Dagenham, Tower Hamlets and Newham (the order of boroughs is determined by smoking prevalence, along with IT integration).

All practices in Havering have been asked to sign a data sharing agreement via their Data Controller Console, and we have written to each practice with instructions. We ask that all practices action this as soon as possible please.

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

[Access](#) patient communications materials to promote the programme in your practice.

9 Cervical screening in patients with Severe Mental Illness

The [NIHR Policy Research Unit in Behavioural and Social Sciences](#) based at Newcastle University is conducting a study that aims to boost cervical screening in patients with Severe Mental Illness (SMI). We are currently looking to involve GP practices in Lambeth to recruit participants.

Summary of the study:

- Nationally, cervical screening rates in patients with SMI is 20% than the general population.
- This study will signpost patients with SMI to advice and support designed specifically for individuals with SMI (a [leaflet](#) and [animation](#)) through enhanced iPLATO text messages (participating GP practices do not need to be signed up to iPLATO to take part).
- We have collaborated with researchers from Kings College London, Newcastle University, University College London, Warwick University, and the University of Surrey, as well as **NHSE London Region**, the South East London Cancer Alliance, Josephine Ruwende (joint Screening and Immunisation Lead for London), local GPs, and cancer leads.
- Full ethical approval has been obtained from the NHS Research Ethics Committee and the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) under section 251 support to process confidential patient information without consent.
- More information can be found on the study website: <https://behscipru.nihr.ac.uk/our-projects/optmise-trial-improving-uptake-of-cervical-screening-in-people-with-severe-mental-illness/>

What is involved:

- All costs incurred by GP practices including time will be covered (based on a costing tool provided by the Clinical Research Network).
- Participating GP practices will be asked to search for eligible participants at their practice) and send the list to iPLATO (search terms will be provided).
- iPLATO will randomise participants (to either the usual text message reminder or enhanced version) and deliver the text messages.

- Afterwards, participating GP practices will be asked to provide data including cervical screening attendance for each participant and send their anonymised data back to us. As this is pilot study, we do not anticipate the numbers to be processed at each practice to be high – our total sample size is 88.
- Participants will be able to opt-out of the study in various ways until the trial period has ended.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation to deliver this important study. Please contact Beth Nichol at beth.nichol@newcastle.ac.uk if your practice is interested in participating for more information.

10 New podcast episodes from the cancer alliance

Please listen to our latest episodes on Targeted Lung Health Check Programme, risk of prostate cancer, breast cancer, and the support available for cancer patients from Maggie's at Barts Health.

Spotify: <https://bit.ly/3Aiy6dq>

Apple: <https://bit.ly/4f7LDDQ>

Amazon: <https://bit.ly/4e3xXIW>

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/4hmd7Yn>

All episodes are available on our website:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/taking-control-cancer>

If you are interested in taking part in an episode, please email p.thomas6@nhs.net

11 GatewayC podcast on national screening programmes

The latest episode of GatewayC's GPs Talk Cancer podcast is out now and covers [national screening programmes](#) - breast, bowel and cervical. Listen now wherever you get your podcasts.

12 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>