

# NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update January 2025

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## 1 Issues with recall for cervical screening for women over 60

We have been made aware of an issue with the new Cervical Screening Management System. Many patients over 60 have been assigned as ceased to be invited, even though they may still be within the eligible age range.

The Screening Quality Assurance Service (SQAS) have advised that, while the issue is being investigated and resolved, sample takers should continue to code recalls and screen eligible people according to national guidance if they are due a test, and document on the form/flag with the lab that the person is eligible to ensure the sample is processed.

CSL have been alerted to the issue and have made sure lab staff are aware, to reduce the risk of the sample being rejected as out of programme. In the meantime, if you would like to report this issue, complete and submit a screening incident assessment form (SIAF) with the details, which can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657b2a0f254aaa00d050de3/Screening\\_incident\\_assessment\\_form\\_2023\\_12\\_08.odt](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657b2a0f254aaa00d050de3/Screening_incident_assessment_form_2023_12_08.odt)

## 2 NEL Cancer Academy Update

We have been running cancer awareness sessions for GPs and places are filling up quickly for the next two events, 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/6PJHAJNQ17M>

## 3 NHS rolls out home testing for bowel cancer to over 50s

People aged 50 and 52 are now starting to automatically receive a home test kit every two years by post when they become eligible, marking the final phase of the NHS ambition to offer everyone 50-74 the screening test. Around 850,000 additional people in England a year will be eligible for the screening test, with over 4 million more people invited since roll out began in 2021

See more: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/01/nhs-rolls-out-lifesaving-home-testing-for-bowel-cancer-to-over-50s/>

## 4 Breast screening for people with a Severe Mental Illness (ONEL only)

By the end of 2024, Loxford, New Cross alliance, Barking & Dagenham North, New West and East, Fairlop and Cranbrook have gone live with LIS activity in practices.

Since launching, there is up to a 5% reduction in unscreened SMI patients in each active PCN. 92 invitation letters have been sent to patients, however only 11 outcome letters have been received by InHealth, with 6 patients continuing through to their appointments.

The submission deadline for the survey is now closed. Thank you to those who took the time to feedback. Opportunity to provide further feedback, including identifying patient barriers to attend, will be provided again in due course.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** Due to the ongoing issues with NELFT register sharing process and following the survey feedback, it has been agreed by the project steer group that **NELFT register alignment is no longer required**. This has been updated in the service spec which will be circulated to all PCNs ahead of launching.

**Barking and Dagenham Central, East One and West One PCNs have been given notice to launch, with the go live date from 3 February.**

**The next PCNs will receive their launch notice on 31 January.** PCNs will be contacted via email and given 4 weeks to notify their practices and complete the required actions, which will be provided with an updated service spec. Please ensure practices receive the updated service spec as this provides all the guidance required to carry out the project.

For any queries, please contact Nikki at [Nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:Nikki.poland@nhs.net)

## **5 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Engagement Project**

The GRT engagement project is coming soon! In partnership with Friends, Families and Travelers and Roma Support Group, we are seeking to recruit and train 15 community health champions to support their local communities engage with health services.

An invitation for all ICB and Public Health members to meet the champions online will be sent out this Spring, with cultural awareness training webinars for Social Prescribers and GP receptionists in north east London from Summer 2025.

In the meantime, the charities have worked with the GRT communities to co-produce some screening leaflets which are included below. All resources will be made available via The Training Hub, so please keep an eye out for updates. For any queries, please contact Nikki, the project manager at [Nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:Nikki.poland@nhs.net)

### **Leaflets**

**Healthy Lifestyles:** [How to reduce the risk of cancer for Gypsies and Travellers](#)

**Men's Health:** [FFT Gypsy and Traveller Health Leaflet](#)

**Cervical screening:** [FFT Screening resources for Gypsies and Travellers](#)

**Breast screening:** [FFT: Breast Cancer Information for Gypsies and Travellers](#)

You can view the **Cancer Awareness videos** by visiting the Friends, Families and Travellers YouTube Channel. **This can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).**

## **6 Targeted Lung Health Check Update**

The programme is progressing well, and our lung health check attendance rate is above 61% and currently above the national average and also the highest against other London ICBs.

The latest year to date figure for staged lung cancer diagnosis is 32, of which 26 (81%) are in cancer stage 1 or 2.

We have now launched the programme in Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Tower Hamlets and Newham.

**We still have a handful of practices in Newham and Havering who have not yet signed up and we urge them to do so as soon as possible.**

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

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

## 7 EUORPAC GP leaflet for patients with family history of pancreatic cancer

The European Registry of Hereditary Pancreatic Diseases (EUROPAC) is in the first instance a registry for families with histories of Familial Pancreatic Cancer and Hereditary Pancreatitis. It aims to help spot pancreatic cancer sooner.

A new [EUROPAC GP information leaflet](#) is available for primary care and more information is on our [web page](#).

## 8 Payment for HPV Vaccinations

Please be aware that the HPV catch-up programme is available for young people who missed their vaccination and remains available to them until their 25th birthday. GP practices will be reimbursed for this activity.

Please note that as of September 2023, the catch-up cohort has moved to a one-dose schedule.

Please ensure eligible patients are informed and offered vaccination.

For more information on HPV Vaccination please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hpv-universal-vaccination-guidance-for-health-professionals/hpv-vaccination-guidance-for-healthcare-practitioners>

## 9 FIT education resources

South East London Cancer Alliance has developed a FIT module for primary care. It has a powerful patient video from a 36-year-old who was given a FIT and was subsequently diagnosed with stage 3 bowel cancer.

[Introduction to FIT for primary care | 10 minute overview](#)

## 10 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey

NHSE has launched the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES), asking for feedback from cancer patients (16 years and over\*), to inform and improve local cancer services across England.

We want our patients to have the best experience possible and hearing about your experience is crucial in helping us deliver what you need and want. The NHS and cancer charities use the results to understand what is working well and which areas need improvement. The results enable them to identify national and local priorities and work with patients and partners to deliver improvements.

Those who were treated for cancer as an inpatient or day-case, and left hospital in April, May or June 2024, will be invited to take part in the survey.

**If any patients ask you about this, please ask them to fill out the questionnaire.**

If they need support completing the survey or need it made available in another language, they can call the free helpline number 0800 103 2804.

For more information about the survey and other ways to provide feedback on cancer care please visit [www.ncpes.co.uk](http://www.ncpes.co.uk).

## 11 Podcast Episode 8: Spotting symptoms of gynae cancers

In our latest podcast, Steve Bland and Femi Odewale talk to stand-up comedian Karen Hobbs, who works with the leading gynae cancer charity, the Eve Appeal.

In her own brutally honest, but hilarious way, Karen shares her personal experience of cervical cancer and also talks about her work with The Eve Appeal and the cancer alliance on the '[You Need To Know](#)' womb cancer campaign.

Download and listen now:

Spotify: <https://bit.ly/4jvu839>

Apple: <https://bit.ly/40vsXYK>

Amazon: <https://bit.ly/4g8L5ha>

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3CgcG21>

All our podcasts are available from our webpage: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/taking-control-cancer>

## 12 Macmillan survey on FIT in primary care

Macmillan have launched a short survey to understand [current use and engagement with Faecal Immunochemical Tests \(FIT\) in primary care](#). We would be grateful if you could complete the survey and share across your networks. The deadline to complete the survey is **21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**. Further details of the aims of the survey are set out below.

### **What is the aim of this survey?**

To capture information on the usage of and engagement with FIT for symptomatic patients, in primary care.

### **How will the information be used?**

The results of this survey will help to describe current practice in using, recording and safety netting of FIT. This subsequently help to identify key areas where access to FIT can be improved, and therefore, earlier identification of patients with suspected colorectal cancer.

### **Who can fill this survey?**

It is appropriate for any member of the primary care healthcare team that regularly provides or deals with FIT.

### **Who will have access to this information?**

This work is being undertaken by the Centre of Clinical Expertise at Macmillan Cancer Support.

### **Will the results of this survey impact how I work?**

In the short term, this survey will help Macmillan to understand the current practice and challenges in symptomatic FIT. In the longer term, Macmillan hope to use this information to standardise and streamline the use and recording of FIT in primary care.

Link to the survey: <https://forms.gle/SaNQFkqvn82mEzG9>

Thank you in advance for supporting this work. If you'd like any further information about the project, please contact Macmillan directly at: [pzarringhalam@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:pzarringhalam@macmillan.org.uk).

## 13 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>