

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update February 2025

In this update:

- 1 Suspected soft tissue sarcoma diagnostic clinic at The Royal London Hospital
- 2 NEL Cancer Academy update
- 3 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme name change
- 4 Ovarian cancer awareness campaign launches in north east London
- 5 Lymphoedema awareness week
- 6 Podcast Episode 9: Dealing with Death
- 7 GatewayC resources for GPs
- 8 For more information

1 Suspected soft tissue sarcoma diagnostic clinic at The Royal London Hospital

Following our previous update, we'd like to inform you that the current waiting time for USC referrals at the Royal London Diagnostic Clinic is two weeks.

We currently have a significant backlog of patients on the soft tissue sarcoma pathway awaiting diagnostic tests, and as such are not able to meet the Faster Diagnosis Standard at present. We are working to ensure patients move through the pathway as quickly as possible.

We apologise for the recent service delays and the impact this has had, and we fully understand the worries and concerns that this brings to you, your patients and their families. The long waits are due to understaffing and high referral numbers.

The [PAN London sarcoma referral form](#), [referral guidance](#) and [GP top tips](#) have recently been updated to provide clear referral guidance on when to use the diagnostic clinic or refer direct to a sarcoma centre. The diagnostic clinic at The Royal London is for suspected soft tissue sarcoma only. **Patients with suspected bone sarcoma should be referred to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.**

If you have any questions or if you require an update on a patient, you have referred on the sarcoma pathway, please do contact us:
07715 805 112, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm
bartshealth.sarcoma-admin@nhs.net

2 NEL Cancer Academy update

Book your place now on our next Cancer Update Course on Saturday 5 April, delivered by Red Whale:

<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 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme name change

The Targeted Lung Health Check Programme is changing its name to **Lung Cancer Screening** from 1 April 2025.

While the name and logo are different, nothing else has changed. The Lung Cancer Screening programme's aims are still to help diagnose lung cancer and other cardiovascular and respiratory diseases earlier, when treatment may be simpler and more successful.

The process remains the same too. Over the coming weeks, we will be updating our website and communications materials with the new logo and name.

Our latest figures show very positive lung health check attendance rate above 61%, which is currently above the national average and also the highest against other London ICBs. Since going live, we have diagnosed over 100 lung cancers, with 84 (76%) in stages 1 or 2.

All GPs in Havering and Newham who have not yet signed up to this, please do so now. Please email nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net for more information.

Please see our website for further information:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/tlhc>

4 Ovarian cancer awareness campaign launches in north east London

North East London Cancer Alliance and leading gynaecological cancer charity The Eve Appeal have launched a second phase of their 'You Need to Know' campaign, to raise awareness of ovarian cancer symptoms and improve early diagnosis.

Read more: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/launch-you-need-know-ovarian-cancer-campaign>

5 Lymphoedema awareness week

Lymphoedema Awareness Week takes place 3rd-7th March 2025 and the British Lymphology Society (BLS) is offering free webinars packed with educational content for healthcare professionals, including non-lymphoedema specialist (HCPs) who impact on the care of people with, or at risk of, lymphoedema.

Three sessions will target, in particular, HCPs involved in the care of people with cancer, in oncology and general primary and secondary settings and people affected by cancer.

Webinars for Lymphoedema Awareness Week 2025

Monday 3rd March 2025 | 12:00 - 12:45

Dr Kristiana Gordon - What everyone needs to know about the lymphatic system and Lymphoedema!

Tuesday 4th March 2025 | 12:00 - 12:45

Dr Katie Riches - Lymphoedema: Still a problem after breast cancer treatment?
Please note, this session is only available live.

Wednesday 5th March 2025 | 12:00 - 12:45

Matthew Griffiths - Lymphoedema: Is it a risk after pelvic cancer treatment?

Thursday 6th March 2025 | 12:00 - 12:45

Natalie Phillips - Compression therapy in Lymphoedema: Success or Failure?

Friday 7th March 2025 | 12:00 - 12:45

Dr Anusha Panthagani - Lymphoedema: is it a risk after skin cancer?
Please note, this session is only available live.

Webinar registrations are NOW OPEN!

[Find Out More & Register Now](#)

6 Podcast Episode 9: Dealing with Death

This episode is about how to open up conversations sooner about end of life. Don't miss this heartfelt, powerful episode which explores how talking about dying can actually support cancer patients and loved ones through difficult times.

Guest speaker: Dr Kathryn Mannix, palliative care doctor and best-selling author

Listen now:

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

Apple: <https://bit.ly/3CFCbde>

Amazon: <https://bit.ly/3CvkwVI>

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

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

7 GatewayC resources for GPs

GP's Talk Cancer recap video

GP hosts Rebecca and Sarah sit down to reflect on series two of GatewayC's GP's Talk Cancer podcast. They discuss how conversations with Dr Guy Makin on childhood cancer, Professor Matthew Makin on palliative care and Dr Suzanne Roberts on Myeloma have transformed their practice – from interpreting results differently to changing the thresholds for a blood test.

Watch the GP's Talk Cancer recap video [here](#).

Listen to all episodes wherever you get your podcasts or explore related educational resources [here](#).

8 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>