

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update May 2026

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1 Updates to the cancer alliance team

Following our recent organisational change interviews, we are pleased to announce the appointments for the Cancer Alliance Programme Leads.

We are delighted that Caroline Cook will continue to lead the Early Diagnosis Programme, while Sarita Yaganti remains at the helm of the Personalised Cancer Care and Workforce Programmes. Additionally, Matt Henry will be taking the lead on the Diagnosis and Treatment Programme.

Our Programme Leads are now in the process of recruiting for the remaining vacancies, and we will share further updates regarding the final appointments and the core team structure in the coming weeks.

2 Launch of three new cancer alliance strategies

North East London Cancer Alliance has recently launched three new strategies, which will shape the future of cancer services in north east London. You can view the latest documents and read more about them here:

Workforce Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/our-workforce-strategy>

Health Inequalities Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/health-inequalities-strategy>

Artificial Intelligence Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/artificial-intelligence-strategy>

3 Evaluation of GP-led prostate cancer consultations for Black men in North East London

Queen Mary University of London is looking for GPs (fully qualified or in training) who are interested in improving the service for prostate cancer early detection, diagnosis and referral for a high-risk population - men of Black African or Caribbean origin.

You need to have experience of discussing a prostate cancer referral for either a symptomatic or asymptomatic Black male patient.

You will be invited to a short, audio-recorded interview via MS Teams as a participant.

If you are interested, please contact stephanie.dcosta@qmul.ac.uk

4 Invitation to Participate in UK Survey on Polypharmacy in Cancer Care

Macmillan Cancer Support and the Royal College of Pharmacy (RCP) are undertaking a UK-wide survey to explore how polypharmacy is managed across the multidisciplinary team (MDT) in cancer care.

We would greatly value your input. The [survey](#) takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is open to all healthcare professionals involved in caring for adults with cancer and long-term conditions, including –

- Doctors (oncologists, GPs, Specialty Registrars)
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians (hospital, primary care and community)
- Nurses (oncology, primary care/community, palliative/end of life care)
- Allied Health Professional (dietitian, diagnostic radiographer, occupational therapist, paramedic, physiotherapist, podiatrist, therapeutic radiographer, speech and language therapist)

Your responses will help to:

- Understand current practice and challenges in managing multiple medicines
- Identify unmet needs across services
- Inform national guidance, workforce development, and practical tools to improve medicines optimisation for people living with cancer

The [survey](#) is **anonymous**, and no identifiable information will be collected.

You can access the survey and further information [here](#).

5 Cervical Screening Awareness Training

Online, Wednesday 24 June 2026, 1pm - 2pm

Nurse Gurjit Cholia will present a comprehensive guide for non-clinical staff covering the entire patient screening process, from initial call and testing logistics to managing outcomes and strategies for increasing patient participation.

Agenda:

- Overview of screening
- Screening process – call and recall, what happens during the test, and result timelines
- Outcomes and follow-up – what happens if results are positive and screening frequency
- Increasing uptake – booking patients opportunistically, supporting those who decline, and improving attendance

Register here: https://medtribe.com/courses/nel-cervical-screening-awareness-training?utm_source=share-modal&utm_medium=copy-link

6 GatewayC Training

Upcoming NHSE webinar: [Early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer – recognising red flags with confidence](#)

Date & time: Wednesday 10 June 2026, 12:30–13:15

- This free session supports earlier diagnosis and builds primary care confidence in managing breast-related concerns, with an optional live Q&A.
- **Speaker:** *Dr Andrew Millar*, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust

On-demand NHSE webinar: [Supporting earlier breast cancer diagnosis and managing mastalgia](#)

- **Speaker:** *Miss Clare Garnsey*, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon and Joint Clinical Lead for Breast Services

GPs Talk Cancer – Series 4

The first latest episodes of **GPs Talk Cancer: Series 4** are now live:

- **Cancer and learning disability** – change, consent and access to care [listen here](#)
- **Cancer and diet** – myth-busting, food fear and reassurance [listen here](#)

7 Podcasts

We have released a special three-part series of podcast episodes about the cancer alliance's three new strategies, which will shape the future of cancer services in north east London. Have a listen to them now!

Workforce Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/podcast/episode-54-launching-our-workforce-strategy>

AI Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/podcast/episode-55-launching-our-ai-strategy>

Health Inequalities Strategy: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/podcast/episode-56-launching-our-health-inequalities-strategy>

8 For more information

Web: www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk
X: @CancerNel
Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance
Instagram: @CancerNEL
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