

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update June 2026

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1 HPV Self-Sampling

We wanted to give you an important update on HPV Self-Sampling (a service that GPs can offer to women and people with a cervix who have never, or do not regularly, attend cervical screening).

In north east London, HPV Self-sampling has only been rolled out to a few practices in the first couple of phases and we have written directly to all practices involved.

Phase 1 started in September 2025 in 18 practices. Phase 2 launched in May 2026 to a further 37 practices.

NHS England plans to open the offer to all practices in London in the next few months (the date is yet to be confirmed) and will send training and access information just before they plan to launch.

Please note however that some GP practices not in phase 1 or phase 2 may have recently received HPV self-sampling welcome materials (including a multilingual booklet and posters) from the Cervical Screening Laboratory. These were sent in error earlier than planned and ahead of formal communication on the launch of this pathway from NHS England London.

Please do not take any action until you receive communication from NHS England that HPV self-sampling can be introduced in your practice (unless we have already written to you directly if you are in phase 1 or phase 2).

In the meantime, please visit our [webpage](#) to find out more about HPV Self-Sampling and further information and resources are on the [NHS England cervical screening webpage](#). If you have any questions, please email nelondonicb.nelcanceralliance@nhs.net

2 HPV Self-Sampling – The We Care Project

The We Care Project is looking at measuring the impact of enhancing cervical screening care for women who have experienced sexual violence and abuse.

They want to learn whether HPV self-sampling could help make cervical screening more accessible, sensitive and compassionate for women who have experienced sexual violence or abuse.

If you are aware of any patients who:

- Live in or around London and/or eligible to access cervical screening care in London
- Are a women aged 25 to 64
- Have a cervix (i.e. eligible for cervical screening)
- Have experienced sexual violence and/or abuse

Please direct them to the survey via this link:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/bangor/hpv-self-sampling-survey>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Ceryl Teleri Davies, Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME), School of Health Sciences, Bangor University, North Wales. Email: ceryl.davies@bangor.ac.uk

3 Correct email address for Urgent Suspected Cancer Forms

Urgent Suspected Cancer referral forms **should not** be sent to the TCST email address (england.tcstlondon@nhs.net) as they contain patient identifiable information. The Transforming Cancer Services Team for London do not process Urgent Suspected Cancer referral forms. Referral forms for urgent suspected cancers should be submitted directly to your secondary care provider.

The hospital directory link is here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/london-clinical-networks/our-networks/cancer-earlier-diagnosis/urgent-cancer-referrals/hospital-directory/>

You can look up your local hospital's team for suspected Lower GI cancer using the above link. If you are unable to refer via eRS, please make the referral via secure email to the secondary care provider using the Urgent Suspected Cancer referral form.

4 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

5 Breast Cancer Now Train the Trainer Programme

Share life-saving breast health messaging in your community. Join Breast Cancer Now's Train the Trainer programme and gain the knowledge, skills and resources to help share life-saving breast health information.

You can choose from either their online workshop, eLearning course, or in-person workshop. And by joining, you'll:

- Learn all about breast cancer, from the signs and symptoms to common risk factors and screening
- Gain the skills and resources you need to promote breast awareness in your community and help save lives
- Get ideas for how to deliver breast awareness information in your community
- Earn a certificate of completion

For more information on becoming a member of their Train the Trainer programme, contact trainthetrainer@breastcancernow.org

6 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>

7 For more information

Web: www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk
X: @CancerNel
Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance
Instagram: @CancerNEL
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-london-cancer-alliance/>
TikTok: @nelcanceralliance
WhatsApp: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb72x5N9Bb5qdWARV13I>
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