

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update September 2026

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1 [Update: HPV self-testing in England](#)

On 25 August, the NHS commenced the roll-out of HPV self-testing (HPV self-screening) across England.

This initial offer is limited to an eligible group of women and people with a cervix who have not attended cervical screening following previous invitations. The NHS will invite women and people with a cervix to take part in HPV self-testing through the NHS App, in a text message (SMS), an email or a letter.

Once an individual has been invited, they can order a free kit in the NHS App, their NHS online account or via the order telephone line. This national offer is by invitation only and is being phased in across the country.

What does this mean for London?

The national HPV self-testing pathway is being rolled out in phases. Eligible women living in London will not be included in the first phase. They cannot opt in to the national offer and will need to wait to be invited to participate.

In London, HPV self-screening is available and can be requested by eligible women, and people with a cervix, via all GP practices and some sexual health clinics.

Once it is live, in the region, the national offer will align and complement the London opportunistic HPV self-screening pathway. Further guidance on this will be issued shortly.

What does this mean for GP Practices, Community Settings, ICBs and Cancer Alliances in London?

All GP Practices, and participating sexual health clinics, should continue to promote and offer HPV self-screening to their eligible patients, adhering to the [professional guidance](#).

ICBs and Cancer Alliance colleagues should continue to support the implementation of the London pathway and encouraging their eligible population to access the offer.

NHSE London will shortly issue more detailed information on the alignment between the London and national HPV self-testing pathways.

2 NHS London HPV Self-Screening for Cervical Screening Workshops

NHSE London will be running interactive online workshops for Healthcare Professionals offering opportunistic HPV self-screening pathway. We have arranged two dates to enable as many colleagues as possible to be able to attend.

You will only need to attend ONE of the following dates:

Friday 25th September 13:00 – 14:30, or
Thursday 1st October 13:00 – 14:30

These workshops are to give a brief update on progress made with implementing the pathway in London and to give practices opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

We will also explain how the London pathway compliments the national HPV self-testing offer, their differences and how both are improving access to cervical screening, increasing uptake and helping identify people at risk earlier.

To register for one of the workshops please click [here](#).

These sessions will not provide detailed training on the pathway. The workshops are aimed at practices and HCPs that have completed the training module and assessment and provide opportunistic HPV self-screening. The training module and assessment for HPV self-screening in London can be found [here](#).

3 Join the NHS London HPV Self-Screening NHS Futures Workspace

NHS London have developed an NHS Futures Workspace for the London HPV self-screening pathway.

Becoming a member will ensure that you will receive all future updates and invites directly, access additional training resources such as workshop recordings, and peer to peer support.

We encourage all professionals to join who:

- work in primary & community care, and offer HPV self-screening to their patients
- work for an ICB, Cancer Alliance, or other professional organisation that support the implementation and or promotion of the pathway.

Join today: [NHS London HPV Self-Screening for Cervical Screening Pathway - Futures](#)

To contact the NHSE London Screening Commissioning Team regarding any of the above messages, please email england.ypa@nhs.net.

4 Lung Cancer Screening Update

The Lung Cancer Screening programme in north east London is preparing to expand into Waltham Forest, having successfully launched in Barking & Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Havering.

Materials to help raise awareness of the programme are available here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/161ZDx5KMaT5mKnvwHxdxJtbStM7D3fcg?usp=drive_link

More information about Lung Cancer Screening is on our webpage: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/lung-cancer-screening>

More information about the location of the scanning truck in Waltham Forest is available here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/lung-cancer-screening-waltham-forest>

5 Webinar on lung cancer screening

GatewayC (a leading earlier cancer diagnosis resource for primary care professionals) is hosting a webinar on lung cancer screening on Thursday 24th September, specifically aimed at GPs and primary care professionals.

During the webinar, attendee's will hear from expert speaker Dr Haval Balata, Lung Cancer Physician, who will also discuss the role primary care can play in improving uptake and engagement with lung cancer screening programmes, followed by a live Q&A.

Register here: https://webapp.spotme.com/login/eventspace/nhse-webinar-series-supporting-lung-cancer-screening-smoking-cessation-and-earlier-diagnosis-in-primary-care?utm_source=nhsenews

6 What else is new at GatewayC?

- Kevin Keegan's story shines a spotlight on stomach cancer diagnosis. [Read now.](#)
- Recognising the key signs and symptoms of sarcoma in adults. [Read now.](#)
- Bonus podcast episode: Too young for bowel cancer? [Listen now.](#)
- Course of the month: Urological cancers. [Start now.](#)
- Podcast: The episode, "[Prostate Cancer: The PSA Conversation Every GP Should Be Having](#)", features **Consultant Urologist and Urological Surgeon, Mr Sotonye Tolofari**, in conversation with GP hosts Dr Rebecca Leon and Dr Sarah Taylor. The discussion explores prostate cancer risk, PSA testing, referral pathways, screening, overdiagnosis, and the evolving evidence and policy landscape around early prostate cancer detection. Podcast [link here.](#) YouTube [link here.](#)

7 Taking Control of Cancer

Latest episodes from the cancer alliance's series, [Taking Control of Cancer](#), include [busting myths of skin cancer](#) and [checking your prostate cancer risk](#). The latest episode follows a [breast cancer patient](#) who made a film about her treatment.

8 For more information

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