North East London Cancer Alliance

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update October 2026

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1 Prostate Progress Register

From the 28 September, patients in our region who have been identified through their NHS records as having had a diagnosis of prostate cancer will be contacted by letter by Prostate Cancer Research and invited to join the Prostate Progress Register.

As you may be aware, Prostate Progress is a national, ethics-approved research programme led by Prostate Cancer Research in partnership with the NHS. The programme aims to support and accelerate research into prostate cancer by enabling eligible patients to contribute to this important national initiative.

We have an HCP letter, which provides all the information you need about the programme and patient invitation process, including information to help you support any patients who may have questions. Let us know if you would like us to email you this.

You can also find further information in the NHS Press release which can be found here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/08/nhs-inviting-500000-men-to-join-major-prostate-cancer-research-programme/

Please do let us know if you would like any of the new signposting materials to support patients who may have questions or would like further information. Simply email Progress@pcr.org.uk with your name, hospital dept, building and full address.

2 HPV Self-Testing

If anyone women or people with a cervix are registered at a GP practice in London, aged 25.5 to 64 and are at least 6 months overdue cervical screening, they can contact their GP practice to discuss if HPV self-testing is right for them.

If it is, they will need to complete an HPV self-testing kit in the general practice in a private space in the practice, and their sample will be sent to the laboratory for testing. All GPs in north east London are now offering this service.

Information for patients: https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/hpv-self-testing

Information for healthcare professionals: https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/hpv-self-sampling-information-healthcare-professionals

3 Macmillan Primary Care Survey Educational Resource

Macmillan Cancer Support is working with primary care colleagues and networks to better understand how primary care professionals support people living with cancer who are receiving Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT).

Through this survey, we want to understand current knowledge, confidence and educational needs within primary care, as well as identify any gaps or challenges experienced when caring for people receiving SACT. The survey is primarily aimed at nurses and support workers working in primary and community care, although we welcome perspectives from other relevant primary care professionals.

Your feedback will help us to develop practical and accessible educational resources for primary care professionals, supporting them to recognise and respond to the needs of people receiving SACT and provide safe, informed and coordinated care closer to home.

Please complete the form here: Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy education in Primary Care- Fill in Form

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 Skull base/pituitary service in north east London

A skull base/pituitary service is offered at Royal London Hospital. They have a regional skull base MDT that is commissioned and approved by NHS England, which has been running for many years now. The service covers all aspects of skull base surgery (anterior and lateral), and they offer a high-quality service to patients.

It is run by Professor Paraskevopoulos and Mr Bal. The service has grown significantly over the past few years, and they are delighted to be able to have regular pathology and endocrinology representation within the MDTs.

Should you require any further information or perhaps would like to consider any educational talk or meeting, they would be delighted to provide that as well.

The skull base MDT email for referrals is bartshealth.skullbaseMDT@nhs.net

If you have any queries, please email jagdeep.virk@nhs.net

6 Primary care education event on improving bowel screening uptake

Join a primary care virtual education event on **Thursday 12 November 2026**, delivered online via Zoom, **7 - 8pm**.

This virtual education event will provide primary care teams with an introduction to the bowel cancer screening programme, the benefits and barriers of screening and initiatives developed by primary care teams to increase uptake of bowel cancer screening.

You'll also have the opportunity to participate in a Q+A session at the end of the event.

The session will be led by Sally C Benton, FRCPath. Sally is a Consultant Biochemist and Clinical Lead for Clinical and Specialist Biochemistry at Berkshire and Surrey Pathology Services, Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust.

Sally is also the Hub Director for the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening South of England Hub and Honorary Professor at the School of Medicine, University of Surrey.

Register now

7 What is new for primary care at GatewayC?

- Early warning signs of testicular cancer. Read
- NHS introduces HPV self-testing as part of the cervical screening programme. Read
- Patient story GPs Talk Cancer podcast episode – Georgia's experience of cancer as a teenager. Listen
- Featured course: Urological cancers. Start
- Transitional cell cancer (TCC): A rare cancer with familiar red flags. Read now.
- Is breast pain a symptom of breast cancer? Read now.
- Prostate cancer podcast episode: The PSA conversation every GP should be having. Listen now.
- Course of the month: breast cancer recurrence. Start now
- Cancer screening for patients with learning disabilities webinar. 18 November, 12:30 – 13:15. Register now.

8 Taking Control of Cancer

Latest episodes from the cancer alliance's podcast series, Taking Control of Cancer, include a special focus in October for breast cancer awareness month.

9 For more information

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