

# NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update January 2022

## 1 Keeping cancer services running

Catching and treating cancer early is key and the NHS will continue to prioritise cancer services as we manage the latest wave of COVID-19. To help us do this across north east London, we are making sure that:

- people have rapid access to tests for suspected cancer and screening continues
- urgent cancer surgery is prioritised
- cancer treatment is delivered in [COVID-secure sites](#)
- local hospitals work with local partners to make sure we have sufficient capacity
- effective communications with patients is in place, and patients are involved in decisions around their care.

National 'Help Us Help You' campaigns, supported by local campaigns, have been raising awareness of cancer symptoms and we have seen eight months of record referrals from March 2021 to October 2021 and in October they were at 113% of usual levels across England. **Across north east London, we were at almost 117% of usual levels of 2ww referrals in November 2021.**

Between March 2020 and October 2021, GPs in England referred over 3.8 million people with suspected cancer and over 487,000 started cancer treatment, 95% of whom started treatment within a month of a decision to treat.

**A big thank you to all our GPs for all you are doing to support cancer referrals and cancer treatment.**

## 2 New interim Managing Director for the North East London Cancer Alliance

We are pleased to welcome Femi Odewale as the new interim Managing Director for the North East London Cancer Alliance. Femi brings with him a wealth of cancer experience. He was instrumental in setting up the South East London Cancer Alliance and is currently working as Associate Director of Operations for Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Cancer Services at Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Femi is taking over from Ivor Baker, who has been leading the team for the last 10 months and who is moving on to new adventures outside of north east London. Ivor is leaving the cancer alliance in a good place, having steered us through some challenging times during the pandemic and we thank him for all the great work he has achieved in his time with the alliance.

We look forward to working with Femi and making sure we continue all the hard work the team is doing to not only keep cancer services running during the pandemic, but also to make lasting improvements to cancer outcomes for our local residents.

Work is also underway to recruit a permanent Managing Director for the alliance for Femi to handover to. Given the seniority and importance of this role, we expect this process to take around six months and the recruitment notice for the role will be going out shortly.

### **3 Meeting the Faster Diagnosis Standard**

The latest update on Cancer Waiting Times, which is for November 2021, shows that the North East London Cancer Alliance hit the target for the Faster Diagnosis Standard. We were the top performing London alliance to achieve this, and one of the top performing alliances across the whole country.

The [Faster Diagnosis Standard](#) is the performance standard introduced by the NHS to ensure patients who are referred for suspected cancer have a timely diagnosis. The Faster Diagnosis Standard will apply to patients:

- Referred by their GP on a suspected cancer pathway;
- Referred by their GP with breast symptoms where cancer is not initially suspected; or
- Referred by the National Screening Service with an abnormal screening result.

### **4 Improving the uptake of bowel screening in our Muslim communities**

We continue working with the British Islamic Medical Association and local mosques to help improve the uptake of bowel screening amongst our Muslim communities.

We ran a series of focus groups in December to provide feedback on our planned activities, which are due to take place from February onwards. These will include a presentation on bowel screening at the mosque by a local health and care professional. We are working with the following local mosques:

- Al Madina Mosque (Barking)
- Shah Jalal Mosque (Newham)
- Redcoat Mosque (Tower Hamlets)
- East London Mosque (Tower Hamlets)
- Noor Ul Islam Mosque (Waltham Forest)
- Lea Bridge Road Mosque (Waltham Forest)

If you are interested in hearing more about this project or want to get involved, please email [jake.chambers@nhs.net](mailto:jake.chambers@nhs.net)

## 5 London Cervical screening SMS evaluation report

Attached is the evaluation report from the London Cervical Screening SMS text reminder pilot which started in December 2021, using PDS as the source of mobile phone numbers. In summary, the pilot demonstrated that:

- the data flows are timely, safe and secure
- PDS is an accurate and effective source of mobile phone numbers
- Full roll out across all practices should start from 17 January 2022

## 6 Colonoscopy Confidence Campaign from Bowel Cancer UK

Some people feel anxious or worried when they're told they need a colonoscopy but it's important to have this test if they are referred. Bowel Cancer UK is running a campaign dedicated to helping boost attendance for what could be a life-saving procedure.

Over 20,000 colonoscopies are carried out across the UK every year. They give endoscopists a close-up view of the inside of your bowel so they can clearly see if there's anything wrong. A colonoscopy can feel a little uncomfortable, but it's an important part of maintaining good all-round health and attending could save your life.

Please share the resources on the [Bowel Cancer UK](#) web pages with family, friends and colleagues.

You can also watch their [short video](#) to find out more.

## 7 Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES)

This year, there is a new design for the Cancer Patient Experience Survey, which asks for feedback from cancer patients (16 years and over\*), to inform and improve local cancer services across England.

The survey asks **those who were treated for cancer as an inpatient or day-case, and left hospital in April, May or June 2021** to take part in the survey. Please note this for information in case a patient asks you about it.

The NHS will use the results to understand what is working well and which areas need improvement. The results enable them to identify national and local priorities and work with patients and partners to deliver change.

The results will be available next year. For more information on the survey and how to access help and support in completing it, please visit [www.ncpes.co.uk](http://www.ncpes.co.uk).

*\*A new survey has been launched for those aged 16 and under: [www.under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk](http://www.under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk)*

## 8 Quality of Life Survey

The Quality of Life survey was launched in September 2020. Phase one was rolled out to all patients diagnosed with breast, prostate or colorectal cancer in England and from October 2021, all cancer patients are being invited to complete the survey. Patients receive the survey around 18-months after their diagnosis.

**Response rates in London have been low. Please can GPs encourage patients to complete the survey if they are approaching 18 months post-diagnosis.**

The [first results](#) of the survey show that cancer patients reported lower quality of life than non-cancer patients in key areas, such as mental health. We are looking at how we can close this gap.

The results demonstrate some variation between Cancer Alliances and different cancer types and can enable local systems to act on the data as appropriate.

**Please email [barbara.kruszynska@nhs.net](mailto:barbara.kruszynska@nhs.net) for discussions around ways to help promote the survey.**

## 9 Cancer videos for patients

As a reminder, here are the links to our patient videos. You can also find the latest resources for primary care on our dedicated web page:

<https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/primary-care.htm>

### 9.1 Keeping Cancer Services Safe Videos

Keeping cancer patients safe (English): <https://youtu.be/ZBayrSewju4>

Keeping cancer patients safe (Urdu): <https://youtu.be/jxNUEfjQ1YE>

Keeping cancer patients safe (Bengali): <https://youtu.be/ujd0kPpS7FA>

Keeping cancer patients safe (Gujarati): <https://youtu.be/M65FtqICmVU>

### 9.2 Cancer Won't Wait for COVID videos

Cancer won't wait for Covid (English): <https://youtu.be/HxozV0ruXol>

Cancer won't wait for Covid (Urdu): [https://youtu.be/3P\\_sRY\\_Kpac](https://youtu.be/3P_sRY_Kpac)

Cancer won't wait for Covid (Bengali): <https://youtu.be/DgMdxyt3S6I>

Cancer won't wait for Covid (Gujarati): <https://youtu.be/l5aYlW7TnNo>

### 9.3 Bowel screening video links

Animated bowel screening video with voiceover in English:

<https://youtu.be/53PObqeNtPk>

Animated bowel screening video (English): <https://youtu.be/Zsjl55sQE4o>

(Please note that translated versions are currently being produced).

### 9.4 Breast screening video links

Animated breast screening video with voiceover in English:

<https://youtu.be/5F3eolM8KqI>

Animated breast screening video (English): <https://youtu.be/CkMOOA0RTI4>

Animated breast screening video (Bengali): [https://youtu.be/qDvIFYs\\_AmA](https://youtu.be/qDvIFYs_AmA)

Animated breast screening video (French): [https://youtu.be/l\\_2yYo\\_7mhl](https://youtu.be/l_2yYo_7mhl)

Animated breast screening video (Gujarati): <https://youtu.be/6yheyrNEuug>

Animated breast screening video (Hindi): <https://youtu.be/AGYwU5hbKOM>

Animated breast screening video (Italian): <https://youtu.be/8qsOAvhVgCg>

Animated breast screening video (Lithuanian): <https://youtu.be/wfK2J5sSUbY>

Animated breast screening video (Polish): <https://youtu.be/QhWtGyBSOUU>

Animated breast screening video (Romanian): [https://youtu.be/3kozcAf\\_v-l](https://youtu.be/3kozcAf_v-l)

Animated breast screening video (Somali): <https://youtu.be/WySHYbu1Kms>

Animated breast screening video (Spanish): <https://youtu.be/S3vURYqy06>

Animated breast screening video (Tagalog): <https://youtu.be/G8pmDDrePLk>

Animated breast screening video (Tamil): <https://youtu.be/GmdaDi2sZw0>

Animated breast screening video (Turkish): <https://youtu.be/Dw8VHvalLuk>

Animated breast screening video (Urdu): <https://youtu.be/lr54AiyN-JE>

## 9.5 Cervical screening video links

Animated cervical screening video (English with voiceover):

<https://youtu.be/5F3eolM8KqI>

Animated cervical screening video (English): <https://youtu.be/XMBFvN4ioBE>

Animated cervical screening video (French): <https://youtu.be/ADvFstqVi8M>

Animated cervical screening video (Bengali): [https://youtu.be/T9NCK\\_CKvcA](https://youtu.be/T9NCK_CKvcA)

Animated cervical screening video (Gujarati): <https://youtu.be/ha7bUQRtJGQ>

Animated cervical screening video (Hindi): <https://youtu.be/7R0c535fQ9E>

Animated cervical screening video (Italian): <https://youtu.be/ml7K5In9SgE>

Animated cervical screening video (Lithuanian): <https://youtu.be/vvNk5-JPVHM>

Animated cervical screening video (Panjabi): <https://youtu.be/Ke3UEjd4aqq>

Animated cervical screening video (Polish): <https://youtu.be/lA0Dvsxzuzs>

Animated cervical screening video (Romanian): <https://youtu.be/QeETYHRGYy4>

Animated cervical screening video (Somali): <https://youtu.be/Y2sl7dx1Z0o>

Animated cervical screening video (Spanish): <https://youtu.be/rCWLnqs6Dv0>

Animated cervical screening video (Tagalog): <https://youtu.be/4VvzOI2UCOM>

Animated cervical screening video (Tamil): <https://youtu.be/gpFY-rqKU5Y>

Animated cervical screening video (Turkish): <https://youtu.be/2klhX7LBTLw>

Animated cervical screening video (Urdu): [https://youtu.be/iOb\\_6Q0rOm4](https://youtu.be/iOb_6Q0rOm4)

## 9.6 Overview of your chemotherapy treatment

Overview of your chemotherapy treatment (English): <https://youtu.be/HmrvFfQHtcg>

Overview of your chemotherapy treatment (Bengali): <https://youtu.be/-gnW38XkuE8>

Overview of your chemotherapy treatment (Bulgarian):

<https://youtu.be/qUxV1Evx2PE>

Overview of your chemotherapy treatment (Polish): [https://youtu.be/Re\\_uM3tonEw](https://youtu.be/Re_uM3tonEw)

Overview of your chemotherapy treatment (Turkish): <https://youtu.be/6vVpemhI9vY>

## 9.7 Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects

Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects (English):

<https://youtu.be/s7xO-jsfM6c>

Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects (Bengali):

[https://youtu.be/t\\_bNwcLINzM](https://youtu.be/t_bNwcLINzM)

Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects (Bulgarian):

<https://youtu.be/a7sTYhNmXmw>

Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects (Polish):

<https://youtu.be/mGUDNcnzdn0>

Understanding your potential chemotherapy side effects (Turkish):

<https://youtu.be/wSwEqPelAul>

## 9.8 Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects

Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects (English):

[https://youtu.be/\\_uxblaNLKIM](https://youtu.be/_uxblaNLKIM)

Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects (Bengali):

<https://youtu.be/bSp-DQ7ds7A>

Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects (Bulgarian):

<https://youtu.be/CErnw-imJb8>

Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects (Polish):

<https://youtu.be/EVJpbE7d4Po>

Overview of your immunotherapy treatment and potential side effects (Turkish):

<https://youtu.be/4nXw105xRiE>

## 10 For more information

Web: <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/north-east-london-cancer-alliance.htm>

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

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