

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update February 2022

1 Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS)

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 latest results show that North East London Cancer Alliance:

- was 1 of 2 alliances that met the two week wait urgent suspected cancer referral to 1st seen standard in December 2021.
- had the highest FDS performance nationally at 78.6% and was 1 of 4 that met the Faster Diagnosis Standard in December 2021.
- had the highest 31-day decision to treat to 1st treatment performance at 98.3% and was 1 of 4 alliances that met the 31-day decision to treat to 1st treatment standard in December 2021.
- was 1 of 2 alliances that met the 62-day urgent screening referral to 1st treatment standard in December 2021.

2 Breast screening recovery programme: opened and timed invitations (for information, from NHSEI)

NHSEI London region has decided to return to timed invitation appointments (or implementation of a hybrid model) as soon as it is operationally safe to do so, subject to sign off from the NHSEI Regional PH Commissioning team. Further guidance on this will follow.

NHSEI is recommending to services, if possible, to ring-fence a fixed number of weekly appointments prioritising clients who have contacted services but have been unable to secure an appointment to avoid further delays in screening.

For services that are in a position to offer fixed weekly slots, they recommend working closely with Hub colleagues to ensure arrangements are in place to contact and book clients waiting for an appointment into these slots asap.

Patients can contact the breast screening hub on 020 3758 2024 or visit <https://www.london-breastscreening.org.uk/Breast-screening-appointments>

3 Missing cancer patients

There were 918 less treatments in March 2020-Dec 2021 vs baseline data for the same period. This is a slight decrease on the March-October data (1012 less treatments), so we are heading in the right direction.

The main tumour sites with a treatment shortfall are breast (174), lower GI (123), lung (140) upper GI (139) and urology (426).

We are working hard across north east London to try and reduce the number of missing cancer patients, and this is being supported by national campaigns (please see 8, 9 and 10 below).

4 New FIT packs for 2ww pathway

New FIT packs are ready to be delivered and should be arriving at practises in the next week or so. Please make your colleagues aware and look out for them.

This applies to all practices who send FIT samples to Barts from TNW, C&H and selected practices in Redbridge and West Essex.

5 Bowel screening guide for GPs

You can download a new guide [here](#) to help you increase the uptake of bowel screening.

This guide is intended to provide local and practical information for NEL practice and PCN staff to support them with bowel cancer screening uptake. The guide has been produced by the NEL Cancer Alliance with support from the Cancer Research UK Health Professional Facilitator Programme and our two regional bowel cancer screening centres

6 Targeted Lung Health Check: plans for a pilot in north east London are underway

Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) – a free MOT of the lungs for those most at risk of developing lung cancer – will be piloted in a couple of areas of north east London starting in the summer of this year (the exact locations and dates are to be confirmed, depending on the latest data as well as scanning capacity).

The TLHC programme is part of the NHS Long Term Plan ambition that by 2028, 75% of all cancers are diagnosed at an early stage, with 55,000 more people living 5 years or more after their diagnosis, and to reduce inequalities in cancer outcomes.

The NHS Long Term plan commits to rolling out Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) in England, starting with projects in parts of the country with the highest rates of mortality from lung cancer.

We will be working closely with our GP cancer leads, PCNs and LMCs in the locations taking part and we will be sharing more information on how this will work over the coming weeks.

7 Bowel screening awareness with local mosques

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

The first sessions on bowel screening, delivered by local clinicians, will take place on 2 March at Noor Ul Islam mosque in Waltham Forest and a further five mosques are taking part in the initiative during March.

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

8 Prostate Cancer UK Campaign

This February Prostate Cancer UK is launching a campaign in partnership with NHS England, to find the 'missing men' whose prostate cancer has gone undetected as a result of the pandemic.

The campaign will promote a thirty-second risk checker so men who learn they are at high risk of prostate cancer can make an informed choice about speaking to their GP. The details are

- Launching 17 February and running for four weeks
- Targeting over 45s in England
- Encouraging males to complete an online risk checker - we have our own URL for NEL: www.prostatecanceruk.org/nelca-risk so we can see how many of our residents have completed this

Further information for health and care professionals is here:

<https://prostatecanceruk.org/for-health-professionals/email/risk-campaign>

9 Cervical screening London campaign

A National Cervical Screening Awareness Campaign is due to launch in London on 21 February.

The campaign aims to encourage women and people with a cervix to book a cervical screening appointment if they are due an appointment, as well as highlighting the overall benefits of the screening programme.

We recommend that PCNs and practices review their cervical screening appointment slots from the 21 February to ensure that there are available clinics for patients to book in to, and ensure that practice staff are aware of the dates of the campaign.

Further communications will be sent to primary care from NHSE/I London Screening Team, but if you have any questions in the interim, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

10 National 'Help us help you' campaign

A new national Help Us Help You campaign will run in March for four weeks, encouraging people to speak to their GP with signs and symptoms of cancer. It will include TV advertising, social media, and other forms of paid advertising, and we will be promoting this at a local level too. We will provide a link to the resources in next month's update.

11 COVID antibody survey

The NHS launched a national COVID Cancer antibody survey. The survey enables patients to find out your COVID antibody responses following vaccination or infection. It will help understand the level of protection in people living with cancer. A finger prick blood kit will be dispatched to your home and testing will be done through the gov.uk antibody testing program. Individuals can self-enrol at <https://covidcancersurvey.uk/>

12 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 for discussions around ways to help promote the survey.

13 For more information

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

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

For any communications queries, please email p.thomas6@nhs.net