

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update

29 March 2021

1 Bowel screening: Age extension

Age extension is not going to start until at least May 2021 as there are some updates to the computer system which need to be completed first. The patients invited for Bowel Scope screening before April 2020, but not screened, also need to be sent a FIT test before age extension starts. These are being sent in early April.

Age extension invitation timeline

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Age	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
60 -74	Invite	Invite	Invite	Invite
58		Invite	Invite	Invite
56	Invite	Invite	Invite	Invite
54			Invite	Invite
52				Invite
50				Invite

2 Breast screening

A recent [BMJ article](#), reported that advice in the US is that breast screening appointments should be scheduled to take place before women receive a first dose of Covid-19 vaccine or 4 to 6 weeks after the second dose where possible. This is due to the potential reaction of **enlarged lymph nodes** (lymphadenopathy) on the side of the vaccination, which could cause unnecessary concern. This has also picked up by the UK press. For the vaccines approved for use in the UK, the frequency from the trials is estimated to be less than 1%.

Within England, breast screening service personnel are advised to be aware of the potential for enlarged nodes following a Covid-19 vaccination. **However, the advice regarding the scheduling of mammograms has not altered. There is currently no requirement for women to be advised to wait for a period of time following a Covid-19 vaccination before attending a screening appointment.**

As per usual practice, women with noted lymphadenopathy at screening must always be recalled for assessment even if they report recent vaccination. This is to ensure that no other pathology exists. It may be useful for clinicians at an assessment appointment to determine the date of a Covid-19 vaccination and the arm in which this was given, where enlarged lymph nodes are being investigated.

3 Cervical Screening

Cervical Cancer Screening Text Reminders- Non-responders

Since the restoration of cervical screening invitations in the summer of 2020, London general practices have put tremendous effort to increase accessibility and attendance of cervical screening appointments. Since August 2020, practices have consistently screened more women each month than in 2019.

Despite this increased activity, it is projected that London region will screen between 30k and 40k *fewer* women in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20. To close this gap, NHSEI (London) will send reminder text messages to women who meet the following criteria:

- invited between 1 April 2019 and 30 November 2019
- did not receive a text message reminder
- have not been screened
- have not been ceased and suspended

Women registered with practices that are currently participating in the London Cervical Screening Text Reminder Project, delivered by iPLATO, will be included in this 'catch-up' exercise. The five CCGs currently participating in the YouScreen HPV Self-Sampling study (Newham and Tower Hamlets in north east London) will be excluded from this catch-up to avoid confusing messages to women and introducing potential bias to the study.

As a result of the text reminders there is expected to be three additional women attending screening in each practice in June, July and August.

NHSEI will send you CCG- specific data on the number of women to receive a text in the next few weeks and iPLATO will send further communication directly to practices.

Taking samples

GPs can take samples once they have been trained. The brief from PHE is "Qualified medical doctors undertake the PHE recommended cervical screening training to enhance their specialist training". Once they have completed training they should get a number from Cervical Screening London (CSL).

Mentors can be a registered nurse, registered midwife, registered physician associate or a GMC registered medical doctor (Licenced to practice). They should be a practising sample taker and have been taking samples in the last 12 months. They also need to have taken at least 50 samples themselves, post training.

CSL is the only lab which analyses cervical samples in London now. Tel: (0) 207 307 9400.

4 Vaccine for cancer patients

You may have seen reports about delaying the second vaccine dose may leave cancer patients vulnerable to virus. The advice is:

- People should continue to have the vaccine whenever it is offered.
- Patients should continue to follow the advice of their cancer team.
- It is important to continue to access cancer care and treatment.
- If patients are concerned about their symptoms (including diarrhoea, bloating or discomfort in the tummy area for three weeks or more) they should contact their GP surgery, who will be able to give them further information.

5 Launch of The Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre: Progress update for info only

Barts Health, Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals, and Homerton University Hospital have been working in partnership together to create a new, innovative Early Diagnosis Centre at Mile End Hospital.

This formally opened for patients on Monday 22 March. Please view our short film introducing the new facilities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30HdpFJtIOM>

Please note that the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre is not currently for direct referrals from primary care, but the decant from the acute sites should ensure better capacity for direct access across north east London.

The Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre is one of the first of its kind nationally. It supports the system across north east London through providing additional capacity in-hours, with the development of two endoscopy suites. This is in addition to two ultrasound rooms which are already up and running, co-located with an existing CT scanner. We are looking to add additional diagnostic capabilities to fully align to the Community Diagnostic Hub model. An MRI suite is planned for 2022.

The key aim for the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre is to provide person-centred care, reducing variation across NEL and ensuring a high-quality diagnostic service for local people. Patients selected for the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre are low procedural risk, as there is no dedicated resuscitation service on site, but all colleagues are trained and there are consultants on site.

Therefore, at this stage, we are not asking GPs to do anything differently, we just wanted to make you aware of the facility which is opening and to be aware that patients being asked to come in for regular surveillance may be asked to attend services at Mile End in the future.

Information for patients, including an introduction video with subtitles in English, Urdu, Gujarati and Bengali is available on our [patient information web pages](#). If you have any questions on the [Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre](#), please contact:

Carlos Simontellez, Associate General Manager: carlos.simontellez@nhs.net

Paul Thomas, Communications and Engagement Manager: p.thomas6@nhs.net

6 Endoscopy services

BHRUT are able to offer endoscopy services at both their hospital sites again and recently, they now have a [new suite at Queen's Hospital](#).

The '5th room' was opened last week. Sas Banerjee, Colorectal Surgeon and Endoscopy Lead and the Endoscopy Clinical Director for NSHE/I London, said: "I am delighted about the opening of the new endoscopy room. It means patients should have their diagnostics much sooner than at present. This has increased our capacity at Queen's Hospital by 20 per cent."

7 Cytosponge and colon capsule

BHRUT has started trialling cytosponge – an innovative alternative to endoscopy. At the moment, it is just a few patients who are using this but the plan is to have a lead nurse to provide training across north east London so we increase its use. More information on cytosponge is here: <https://www.medtronic.com/uk-en/e/cytosponge-patients.html>

Colon Capsule – a camera that records detailed information of the colon – will also be a service trialled in north east London, from April onwards. More information is here: <https://www.medtronic.com/uk-en/e/pillcam-colon-capsule.html>

We want GPs across NEL to be aware of this in case their patient is asked to undergo this procedure instead of the usual endoscopy or colonoscopy. We will be sharing further information, case studies and videos in the future.

8 C the signs webinars

C the Signs is a clinical decision support tool designed by clinicians to help GPs rapidly identify and manage patients at risk of cancer at the earliest and most curable stage.

The webinars will focus on visual demonstration the C the Signs system, how to use the tool and features and this will be presented by Dr Bakshi Bahvagaya. They are hosted by the BHR Training Hub, though if you are from Newham or Waltham Forest and have not yet had a chance to see the demo/receive your training you are welcome to join these Sessions.

More details are attached and the dates are:

Wednesday 31st March 2021 7pm – 8pm

Wednesday 21st April 2021 7pm – 8pm

To book your place, please click [here](#).

Please contact Bola Ademuyiwa bola@manoravenue.co.uk if you have any questions/enquiry about the webinar.

9 Quality of life survey

As a reminder, Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement have launched a nationwide Cancer QoL Survey to help understand what matters to patients.

As of Sept-Nov data, London had the lowest QoL response level out of the entire country (38%). We need as many people as possible to complete the survey so that the information collected fully represents our cancer population. In order to do that we also need people to act as local champions and promote the survey locally.

What you can do to help:

- **Promote uptake of the survey in patients**
- **Consider quality of life across the patient's pathway**
- **Embed culture of personalised care**

From December 2020, all patients diagnosed with breast, prostate or colorectal cancer in England are being invited to complete the survey 18-months after their diagnosis. People with other cancer types will be included from July 2021 onwards.

The information collected from the survey will help us to work out how best to support people living with and beyond cancer. This is an ambitious programme with a scale and depth that isn't being matched anywhere else in the world.

More information is on our North East London Cancer Alliance [webpages](#) or visit www.CancerQoL.england.nhs.uk.

10 GP Nurse Cancer Community of Practice

An opportunity for any primary care nurse in London with an interest in cancer to join likeminded nurses and share ideas.

GENERAL PRACTICE NURSE CANCER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Via MS Teams 12.45-14.00 : April 15th 2021

- Are you passionate about supporting people with or after cancer to live better in the community?
- Have you got ideas about how general practice nurses could lead on cancer as a long-term condition?
- Would you like to join with likeminded nurses to share learning and discuss barriers to change?

The community of practice was launched in 2019 as part of the Macmillan Primary Care Nursing project in SW London . It's open to all primary care nurses across London with an interest in cancer and especially those who have completed the Macmillan Practice Nurse Course or Explore programmes

To register for this event or more information /ANY questions...

Contact Sandra Dyer - Primary Care Lead Nurse Transforming Cancer Services Team for London
sandra.dyer1@nhs.net

11 Patient resources

We are working on a directory of all patient-facing material and will share this with you once completed. In the meantime, here are links to some useful resources:

- **Keeping cancer patients safe video**
 - English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBayrSewju4>
 - Urdu: <https://youtu.be/jxNUEfjQ1YE>
 - Gujarati: <https://youtu.be/M65FtqICmVU>
 - Bengali: <https://youtu.be/ujd0kPpS7FA>
- **Cancer won't wait for Covid video**
 - English: <https://youtu.be/HxozV0ruXol>
 - Urdu: https://youtu.be/3P_sRY_Kpac
 - Bengali: <https://youtu.be/DgMdxyt3S6I>
 - Gujarati: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5aYlW7TnNo>
- Click [here](#) for a list of charity support lines for people living with cancer.
- Click [here](#) to access information about screening for patients with learning disabilities
- Click [here](#) for Macmillan Cancer Support – information for anyone affected by cancer
- Animated breast screening video - helps overcome fears of attending screening appointments and explains the importance of attending. <https://youtu.be/CkMOOA0RTI4>
- Stories of patients attending bowel screening during the pandemic: <https://www.stmarksbowelscreen.co.uk/participants-stories>
- Resources to support patients with lymphoedema: <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/support-for-patients.htm>

12 More information on the NEL Cancer Alliance

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