

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update 25 May 2021

1 2ww Referral Forms

Communications about this have already been sent out at a local level and a reminder was issued in our last update.

Please make sure you are using the new forms. They all have a date of January 2021 at the bottom of each page. The installation of the new forms is being managed through resource publisher across NEL.

For those practices using C the Signs the new changes are now live within the C the Signs tool and are reflected within the risk assessment, recommendations section and referral forms.

All the updated referral forms and patient information can be found via the HLP webpage: <https://www.healthylondon.org/suspected-cancer-referrals/>

Some practices in City and Hackney are using the old 2ww form when referring to the Royal London Hospital Rapid Diagnostic Centre. Although unpublished and previously archived, the old form can still be found (this is an issue with EMIS). Please use the form named "RP Multidisciplinary Rapid Access Diagnostic Clinic Barts Health CEG V4".

If you have any queries, please contact p.thomas6@nhs.net

2 Bowel screening

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme will be extending the age of eligibility to 50-59 year olds (currently offered to 60-74 year-olds). This will occur in phases over the next four years:

- Year 1 – 56 year olds (to cover the cohort of patients who missed out on Bowel Scope cancer screening aged 55, which has ceased since the pandemic)
- Year 2 – 58 year olds
- Year 3 – 54 year olds
- Year 4 – 50 and 52 year olds

NHS England and NHS Improvement (London) is currently working with providers to offer bowel screening to 56-year olds in 2021/22.

Provisional approval has been granted to the following bowel cancer screening centres for commencement in May 2021:

- London North West Health NHS Trust - St Mark's, North West London
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, West London
- St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, South West London
- Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, North East London

Fuller details will be communicated to all partners, including GP practices in the coming weeks.

3 Cervical screening

3.1 Thank you

A massive thank you to all our GPs and sample takers in NEL for all your hard work with cervical screening. This is reflected in our figures for north east London. From April 2020 to March 2021, GP practices only took 306 fewer samples than the same period in 2019/20.

There is positive news right across the country, as women are responding to their invitations to screen in record numbers – which is great news! CSL is currently receiving 3,500–4,000 samples per day, evidence that the recruitment campaigns run by PHE and Jo's Trust have helped women feel confident and safe in their continued participation.

3.2 NHSE reminder campaign

We are aware that NHSE was running a 'catch-up' campaign, sending out text reminders to women who had not received a reminder between April 2019 and November 2019. This has led to some confusion as a number of women contacted have since been screened. NHSE are aware of this issue and have paused the campaign while they investigate. In the meantime, text reminders will continue to be sent to non-responders in the current screening round. Below is further information from NHSE.

Background

From 1 April 2021, NHS England/Improvement London commenced a cervical screening 'catch-up' project which entails sending a text message to women who were invited between 1 April 2019 and 30 November 2019, did not attend screening, and are not ceased/suspended from screening. All consenting practices are part of this project with the exclusion of the five boroughs participating in the YouScreen study.

What has happened?

An issue with one of the definitions in the dataset used to identify these women being incorrect, and this led to 3,407 women receiving a text reminder who were not due to attend cervical screening.

What measures have been taken?

The 'catch-up' project has been paused and an apology SMS has been sent to all affected women, as follows:

[Practice Name]: You recently received an SMS which incorrectly advised you that your cervical screen is due. Please ignore this message. NHS England apologises for the error. You will receive an invitation letter when you are next due for screening. Your GP practice can help if you need further information.

A multi-partner Incident Panel has been formed to investigate the issue further and advise on the future delivery of the project.

Please note that the main regional programme of sending of text reminders to all women following the initial invitation letter has not been affected by this incident and will continue.

What actions are required of practices and sample takers?

Several sample takers will already have identified a small number of women, who are not yet due for screening, who have contacted the practice to make an appointment following receipt of this text. Sample takers should continue to check that women are eligible for cervical screening and due a test by checking their screening history on Open Exeter.

NHSE/I (London) will issue further communications of the outcome of the investigation and timelines for resumption of this catch-up project.

3.3 Sample taker training assessors

NHSE and the London Regional Cytology Training Centre (LRCTC) have identified a gap in cervical sample taker assessors in London. From 2020, there has been a requirement for trainee sample takers to have a final assessment by an assessor external to their practice to provide quality assurance to the training.

Training providers are responsible for recruiting and inducting assessors, who must be a registered nurse, midwife or physician associate or a GMC registered medical doctor. They should be practising sample takers with at least 12 months continuous experience, having taken at least 50 cervical samples following completion of their own initial training. Assessors must have effective communication skills and ideally hold a relevant mentoring and/or teaching qualification.

Any member of practice staff who meets the above criteria and would like to be a sample taker assessor or would like further information, should contact Mark Terry at the LRCTC. Email: markterry@nhs.net.

3.4 Jo's Trust Cervical Training

North East London Cancer Alliance being supported by North East London Training Hubs is providing virtual training sessions so non-clinical GP practice staff across North East London can improve their awareness and understanding of cervical screening. The training is provided by Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust.

Target Audience: Non-clinical administrators, receptionists and other primary care staff who are often patient-facing or tasked with speaking to patients.

What will you learn?

You will learn the below topics, which will enable you to have conversations with people in your community:

1. What is cervical cancer and how is it caused?
2. What are the signs & symptoms?
3. How can cervical cancer be prevented?
4. Barriers to screening & improving confidence in screening during the pandemic

The aim is to help improve their knowledge of the importance of cervical screening and facilitate conversations with patients.

By providing staff with the education and skills to improve their confidence when engaging with patients about screening, it is more likely that patients will be able to make an informed choice, particularly in low participating groups.

This also supports requirements for the PCN DES and quality improvement for screening.

For full details, including how to book, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nel-jos-community-connector-cervical-health-training-tickets-148329863615>

4 Recruitment for patient and carer representatives

We are actively seeking more patient and carer representatives to join our Patient Carer Voice in Cancer. This is our group of patient and care representatives who are working with us to make a real difference to people living with cancer in north east London.

If you know anyone who has personal experience of cancer as a patient or carer in north east London, we would like to hear from you.

To qualify, they should have received cancer treatment, or cared for someone with cancer, in north east London in the last five years. More information is on our [Patient Carer Voice in Cancer web page](#).

To find our more or if you have any questions, please email thccg.pcvc@nhs.net or phone 07341 134 455.

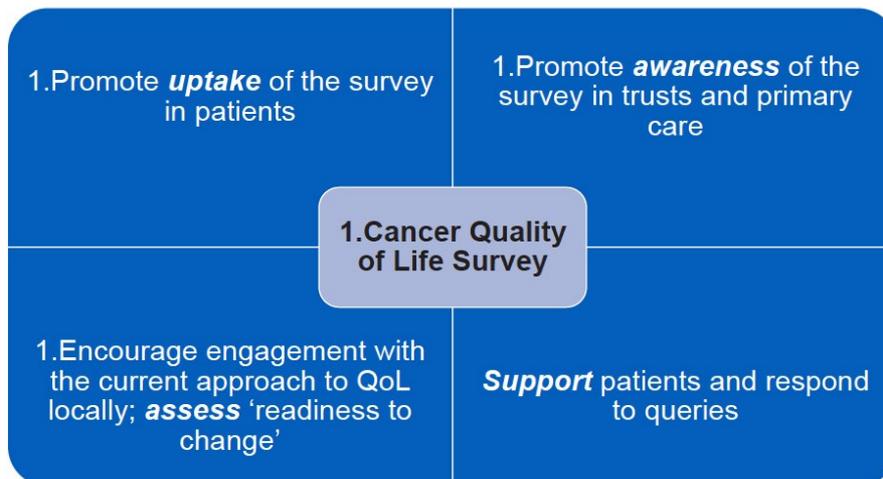
5 Quality of life survey

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

London had the lowest QoL response level out of the entire country and north east London has the lowest score overall.

We need over 50% 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



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.

6 Mile End EDC

The first patients from BHRUT have now received treatment at the Mile End Early Diagnosis Centre (as a reminder, as a GP you can't currently refer patients directly to the Mile End but this is for your info). A case study of the first patient is here:

<https://www.bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/news/mile-end-early-diagnosis-centre-opens-its-doors-to-bhrut-patients-2986>

7 BHRUT Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC)

BHRUT has gone live as a 'soft launch' with its RDC and is restricted to a handful of practices currently, which is why it hasn't been promoted more widely.

Their RDC consultant starts on 21st May, so it will open fully at that point.

We wanted to limit the number of referrals to allow us to fully test the process with live patients to provide assurance. We updated the C the Signs dashboard to reflect the changes within Barking and Dagenham and have attached a one page summary of further information and contact details.

8 Gateway C Webinars

For the attention of **Primary Care Leads**, GatewayC are hosting a cancer **webinar** that might be of interest:

- Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) in suspected bowel cancer (**Thursday 25th May, 13.00 – 13.30**). You can find out more and register your interest [here](#).

9 An introduction to the NEL Cancer Alliance

A slide pack introducing the work of the NEL Cancer Alliance has recently been sent to all NEL PCN Directors. The slide pack is attached and is also available on our [primary care cancer alliance web page](#). For more information, the alliance can be contacted at thccq.nelcanceralliance@nhs.net.

10 Patient resources

A full list of patient resources is here:

<https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/patient-information.htm>

This includes:

- **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 leaflets to support patients who have been referred to hospital with a suspected cancer, available in 11 of the most common languages spoken in London.
- 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> (available in 15 languages on this page: <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/patient-information.htm>)
- 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>

11 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