**Need to Know - national cancer Quality of Life survey – launching Sept 2020**

NHSE&I is launching a nationwide QoL survey in September 2020, for people who were diagnosed with breast, prostate or colorectal cancer approx. 18 months ago, to assess their QoL. Additional cancer types will be included from 2021 onwards.

The information collected from the survey will be used to work out how best to support the growing number of patients living with and beyond cancer. Surveys will be sent direct to patients however they may contact Practices with related questions.

The following information is intended to enable practices to help patients with any queries; and encourage all such patients to complete the survey.

This is an ambitious programme with a scale and depth that isn’t being matched anywhere else in the world. Although patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) that focus on QoL are in use in parts of the NHS, and in clinical trials round the world, the potential for PROMs to improve care and outcomes for patients affected by cancer has not yet been realised. Only by monitoring QoL, using a consistent assessment point with nationwide coverage, can data be made available to help improve care across the NHS.

We are asked to encourage as many people as possible to complete their survey so that the information collected fully represents our cancer population. An experienced patient survey company (Quality Health) is managing the survey invite and response system. All the survey responses are being held securely by the Cancer Registry at Public Health England. The Cancer Registry is linking the survey responses with existing data related to each person’s diagnosis and treatment.

Eligible patients will receive a direct invitation to complete the QoL survey online. A hard copy will also be sent in the post. The survey is easy to complete and generally takes between five and 10 minutes. People’s answers can be related to their cancer diagnosis and treatment, other illnesses, or other things happening in their life.

The survey company is managing a website (under development: [www.CancerQoL.england.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerqol.england.nhs.uk/)) and free helpline 0800 783 1775 to support patients to complete the survey and respond to any queries or difficulties. This is due to go live in the first few weeks of September.

[FAQs](https://bswccg.nhs.uk/for-clinicians/primary-care-documents/primary-care-bulletin-documents/1199-gp-bulletin-28-august-doc-3/file) been produced to answer any questions you or your patients may have regarding the survey.