

THAMES VALLEY CANCER ALLIANCE BULLETIN #12 – FEBRUARY 2021

Please note that documents referenced in this bulletin; are all available on our [NHS Futures workspace](#)

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

- **The Cancer Rehab Team at the Berkshire Cancer Centre** have shared details of a virtual interactive workshop about '*Cancer & Psychology; Ideas and Tools for Coping with the Impact of Cancer*' taking place on Tuesday 2 March 2021, 2.00pm – 3.00pm. Topics that will be discussed include: Introduction and overview of clinical health psychology service; impact of cancer on psychological well-being; tools and strategies for coping; services and self-help resources for psychological support. The session is being run virtually on MS Teams. [Click here to join the meeting](#). For further information please contact cancer.rehabilitation@nhs.net.
- Week beginning 8th March we look forward to holding **Rapid Diagnostic Services Socialisation sessions** across each trust footprint to share the progress to date. We have started work on the lung and colorectal pathways, but in time, all tumour sites will be included. We want to develop this in a collaborative way, so please do contribute if asked and share any ideas or suggestions you have with the team. Please contact england.tvcaadmin@nhs.net for more information.

NEWS FROM THE SE REGION

- Further to our previous communication about the **national lung cancer campaign** we are pleased to now share with you links to the national campaign resources: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/search?query=&f.content/resource/campaign000=Help%20Us%20Help%20You>. The campaign is running as part of the 'Help Us Help You' series and links to all the various resources that you can access to promote and share these messages during the campaign. Thames Valley Cancer Alliance has also developed a local [Communication Plan](#), detailing how we plan to support this national campaign in our Alliance region, as well as a [Social Media Toolkit](#). We hope you will find this useful and ask you to please support us in getting these important messages out to the public, patients and carers. Should you have any questions about any of the information supplied so far for this lung cancer campaign, please do let us know.
- **Cancer Weekly Programme Update:-**[Green Book Guidance](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations: Following some queries on the timing of dosage for patients undergoing cancer treatment, we'd like to confirm that the Green Book states (pg. 15) that "Where possible, it would also be preferable for the 2-dose schedule to be completed prior to commencing immunosuppression. This would entail offering the second dose at the recommended minimum for that vaccine (three or four weeks from the first dose) to provide maximum benefit that may not be received if the second dose was given during the period of immunosuppression." This will include patients undergoing chemotherapy (as per the definition on p11).
- On Thursday 11th February the [December Cancer Waiting Times \(CWT\)](#) data was published. This highlights the latest monthly official statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing NHS services.
- **Primary Care Update: Access to General Practice (GP) communications toolkit** - Key messages, new assets and suggested draft text for GP practices, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Primary Care Networks are available on Public Health England's Campaign Resource Centre and Comms Link, for GP services to use through their channels, to reach the communities they support. This



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is to support individual practices to communicate with the public, about access to GP services whilst also running the vaccination programme.

- **NHS Cervical Screening Programme** - Many practices continue to provide screening services however some complaints have been received from women who are unable to book their cervical screening appointment and have been advised by their GP practice to call back. In conjunction with PHE, the advice issued for providers of NHS Cervical Screening sample taking services is for primary care providers to continue to prioritise cervical screening appointments, including both high risk and normal call/recall invitations to screening. Providers should ensure that cervical screening appointments are booked for all eligible women who request screening. Women **must not be advised to contact the practice at a later date** to arrange their appointment. If the provider is unable to deliver the scheduled screening appointment, then the appointment should be rescheduled rather than cancelled in order to avoid losing the individual from the system.
- **NHS Cervical Screening Programme** - It is essential that [Public Health England's \(PHE\) training guidelines](#) are followed for new, existing and returning sample takers. As outlined in Public Health England's training guidelines, new sample takers should not be taking samples without completing a **minimum of 12 hours initial training** which includes 3 hours practical training (classroom or virtual), and should not be taking samples without supervision until they have had an interim sign off conducted by the cervical screening mentor. Returners to Practice must contact the laboratory to check their pin/code number status and for any changes to the liquid-based cytology (LBC) system previously employed.
- Sample takers must update the following skills for an absence of 12 months – five years (and over): complete the [cervical screening update eLearning](#) (if over 12 months), complete [eLearning for health primary HPV screening for sample takers](#) (if over 12 months), have two sample-taking sessions peer reviewed (if over 12 months – five sessions if over five years). If you have any queries about sample taking training requirements, then please contact [your regional NHS England and NHS Improvement Public Health Commissioning team](#).
- **Vaccination record query helpdesk** - A new COVID-19 vaccination information [web resource and helpdesk](#) is being set up for practice managers to help find out answers to questions about records of vaccinations. Find out how COVID-19 vaccinations are recorded, how long it takes, common errors or difficulties and how to get help.
- **The National COVID-19 Vaccination procurement channel** - All new vaccination sites must be setup using the National COVID-19 Vaccination procurement channel. This applies to all vaccination sites: Hospital Hubs, Vaccination Centres and Local Vaccination Services sites. There are no exceptions to this rule and no sites should be attempting to procure items through alternative channels, such as NHS Supply Chain or Primary Care Support England (PCSE).
- **#Quit4Covid** – As part of the South East Region's 3-month campaign to "Tackle respiratory emergency admissions" the **#QuitforCovid** campaign is to raise awareness and help people quit smoking. It highlights evidence-based support and interventions available to smokers who may be considering a quit attempt, helping them to avoid a potentially more severe outcome if they catch COVID-19. Resources can be found on their [#QuitforCovid page](#).

OTHER CANCER UPDATES

- The following booklet has been created by Ellie, an inspirational young woman who has survived cancer and is about to embark on her journey to train as a doctor, and Dr Louise Newson a Menopause Expert - [A-Young-Woman's-Guide-to-Menopause-After-Treatment-for-Cancer.pdf](#) ([menopausedoctor.co.uk](#)).

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