

THAMES VALLEY CANCER ALLIANCE BULLETIN #16 – MARCH 2021

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

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

- We are delighted to announce **Lyndel Moore will be joining us as the TVCA Nurse Lead** from April 20th 2021, on a 2 days a week basis. Lyndel, a nurse by background, who many of you will know in her current role as Deputy Divisional Director - Head of Cancer services at Great Western Hospital, will form part of our clinical team led by Jen. Lyndel will provide the professional nurse leadership across cancer services in TVCA engaging with trust lead cancer nurses, clinical tumour groups, AHP's and primary care. Lyndel will be integral in developing many of our landmark programmes; implementing rapid diagnostic services, cancer workforce development and ensuring our increasing group of patient representatives are central in informing our programmes. **Welcome Lyndel!**

- **Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign (Weeks 5 - 6):**

As part of the campaign a local lung cancer patient, **Patrick Lunt**, has kindly agreed to share his story to help raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of this disease. Therefore, you can find Patrick's [case study](#) and [video](#) here. Please do communicate out as appropriate.



In addition, **Shah-Bano Razvi** (East Berkshire CCG) has kindly translated Dr Karen Sandhu's [video into Urdu](#). Again, please share as appropriate. Dr Sandhu's video (shared at the start of the campaign, can be [found here](#)). Dr Anant Sachdev has also recorded a [lung cancer awareness video](#) for a local CCG, which can also be cascaded more widely. The **Cancer Allies Programme**, working with local community organisations and leaders, is looking at developing further bespoke messages for lung cancer awareness as well as for other tumour sites.

And finally, our local **Vaccination Centres** (17 in total) are now displaying the **TVCA lung cancer awareness banners** for patients to see. Two such centres include Salt Hill Activity Centre (Slough) (left) and Circuit Lane Surgery (Reading) (right).



You can also follow TVCA on Twitter via [@ThamesV_Cancer](#)

- **Primary Care Webinar on Lung Cancer vs. COVID Symptoms (25th March 2021):**
Thank you to everyone who attended this webinar on Thursday 25th March. The event was very well attended, with some excellent discussion. You can now access the [slide deck](#) here; a recording of the webinar will also be on our Youtube channel shortly. A big thank you to **Dr Anant Sachdev** (TVCA Clinical Lead & CRUK Strategic GP) and **Dr Carolyn Mackinlay & Sister Rachel Smith** (Great Western Hospitals) for their presentations. We ask that CCG Cancer Leads please share the webinar recording and slide deck in their GP Newsletters (and via any other appropriate mediums).
- **Thames Valley and Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliances** are delighted to invite Primary Care colleagues to a short lunchtime session focusing on **breast disease and referrals** for both suspected cancer (two week wait) and symptomatic patients. Primary care staff (GPs, Nurses and AHPs) will all find this webinar beneficial to enhance their knowledge on both managing breast disease within primary care and referring patients where appropriate. There will be a Q+A section to ask any questions around breast disease management and your questions will be answered by a panel of both primary and secondary care colleagues. The education session will be held on Thursday 22nd April 13:00-14:00pm. Please click [here](#) to sign up and we look forward to seeing you on the webinar.
- **FIT Education Session Recordings (Dec 20 to Mar 21):** A massive **thank you** again to everyone involved in the local FIT Education Sessions held in Swindon, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire. All [recordings](#) can now be found on our NHS Future workspace. The webinar slides for all three areas can also be accessed by [clicking here](#).
- **Cancer Rehab Team:** Information is on our [Futures workspace](#) about the next two virtual health and wellbeing workshops that the Berkshire Rehab Team are hosting; **“Carer Session”** on **Tues 30th March 2021** from **2.00pm – 3.00pm** **“Sleeping Well”** on **Tuesday 13th April 2021** from **2.00pm – 3.00pm** [Links for joining each meeting are on the flyers.](#)

OTHER CANCER UPDATES

- On Thursday 25th March, the [2021/2022 Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance](#) was published and the recovery of cancer services continues to be a priority.

The section on cancer in the Planning Guidance states that local systems, drawing on advice and analysis from their Cancer Alliance, should ensure that there is sufficient diagnostic and treatment capacity in place to meet the needs of cancer. Specifically, systems should plan to:

- Return the number of people waiting for longer than 62 days to the level we saw in February 2020 (or to the national average in February 2020 where this is lower); and,
- Meet the increased level of referrals and treatment required to address the shortfall in number of first treatments by March 2022.

TVCA will be working closely with trusts, CCG's and ICS systems to ensure a single plan for cancer is jointly agreed to deliver optimal recovery and ongoing transformation of cancer services to deliver the long term plan priorities for cancer.



- **Cancer Research UK Early Diagnosis Conference:**
Between February and March 2021, CRUK held a number of webinars as part of their bi-annual Early Diagnosis Conferences. A link to all four sessions can be found below. Please note these links take you to MS Teams, in order for you to watch the recordings.
 - Session 1 – [Cancer Screening \(current challenges and opportunities\)](#)
 - Session 2 – [Early Detection & Diagnosis Roadmap](#)
 - Session 3 – [Optimising Management of Suspected Cancer](#)
 - Session 4 – [Prof. Sir Mike Richards on links to improving cancer pathways](#)
- **Gateway C** are running a free webinar this week on Wednesday 31, March 1-2pm; **'Palliative Care for Cancer Patients'**, register here: <https://bit.ly/37FgvLM>
- **RCN Position Statement on Registered Nursing Associates (RNAs) Training in Cervical Screening**
The RCN has [issued a statement](#) acknowledging that they recognise that RNAs carry out cervical screening, in line with national standards. Service and education providers should be confident that appropriate and relevant training and supervision is in place and aware that extra training may be required.
- **PHE Screening 'Advice for women following COVID-19 vaccination':**
On 08 March, a message from Public Health England was sent out to all health systems regarding advice for women following a COVID-19 vaccination. The key points were as follows:
 - [BMJ article](#) (Mar 2021): advice in the US is that breast screening appointments should be scheduled to take place – a) before women receive a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine OR b) 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
 - Also been picked up by the UK press.
 - Within England, breast screening service personnel are advised to be **aware** of the potential for enlarged nodes following a COVID-19 vaccination.
 - Advice regarding the scheduling of mammograms has **not altered**.
 - 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 (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.
 - PHE will continue to monitor the evidence in this emerging area and take advice from relevant experts. Updates will be issued as necessary.
- **Capsule Cameras:** The NHS is trialling [miniature capsule cameras](#), known as a colon capsule endoscopy, which can be swallowed by patients to provide a cancer diagnosis within hours. The cameras will help speed up cancer checks and catch more cancers early when they are easier to treat. An initial group of 11,000 patients will receive these in more than 40 parts of the country.
- **Cancer Research UK** On the [Health Professionals Covid-19 & Cancer Hub](#) are links to COVID-19 related information and resources that have been developed for health professionals. Each



resource is being kept under review and will be updated with new information as and when required. For patient facing information, please see their [COVID-19 and Patient Cancer Hub](#).

- **Specialty guidance for cancer** is on the NICE website on their Covid-19 pages:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19/specialty-guides>

CONTACT US: ENGLAND.TVCAADMIN@NHS.NET



You can also follow TVCA on Twitter via [@ThamesV_Cancer](#)