

THAMES VALLEY CANCER ALLIANCE BULLETIN #18 – APRIL 2021

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

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

- **QIS Toolkit New Link:** The latest Toolkit for the Quality Improvement Scheme (QIS) is now available on our new website. Please note, the rest of the website is still under construction. The link to the QIS homepage, which contains the Toolkit, can be [found here](#). To ensure that Primary Care staff have the latest version of the QIS Toolkit, please ensure they use this link. We ask that systems please disregard the previous link sent W/C 05 May.
- **Bowel Cancer Awareness month:** As April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, it is now a great opportunity for cancer systems to raise awareness of the disease. Bowel Cancer UK have put together a really useful [resource pack](#), which **we ask systems to use**. This pack includes suggested social media content, [videos](#) and additional information for newsletters & bulletins. Suggested social media content from Bowel Cancer UK:
  - Around 268,000 people living in the UK today have been diagnosed with #bowelcancer. This April during #BowelCancerAwarenessMonth we're supporting @bowelcanceruk. Find out how you can help: [www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bowel-cancer-awareness-month](http://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bowel-cancer-awareness-month)
  - Now, more than ever, people affected by #bowelcancer need us to raise awareness of the disease. That's why we're supporting @bowelcanceruk this April for #BowelCancerAwarenessMonth. Will you join us? Find out how to get involved: [www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bowel-cancer-awareness-month](http://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bowel-cancer-awareness-month) #thisisbowelcancer
- **Breast referrals:** Our next TVCA education session is scheduled for **this Thursday 22nd April 13:00-14:00pm**. Please can all colleagues share the below to ensure our primary care colleagues are aware of this session. **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. Please click [here](#) to sign up and we look forward to seeing you on the webinar.
- **'Look Good Feel Better'** is hosting a 'Men's Virtual Workshop' running on Friday, 23rd April 1-3pm. "A safe place for men to connect with others on a similar journey, talk about what's going on and share experiences." The session will be hosted by men's grooming expert, Mark Sproston, aka the [Shave Doctor](#). There is also a guest speaker Rachel Smith, who is the Health & Wellbeing Manager at Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation. If you are interested, please use [this link](#) to book.
- **Cancer Rehab Team:** There's a virtual session on 'Eating Well: Dietetics and Cancer' on **Tues 27th April 2021** from 2pm to 3pm. The following topics will be discussed; nutritional issues due to cancer, appetite change, taste changes, fatigue, weight - gaining or losing & healthy weight, dietary recommendations for health, what you should eat, what you "shouldn't" eat and myths around food and cancer. The link to join the call; [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Future Sessions Planned:**

  - Tuesday 11/05/2021 2-3pm Managing Fatigue/Breathlessness
  - Tuesday 18/05/2021 2-3pm Support available for Unpaid Carers



You can also follow TVCA on Twitter via [@ThamesV\\_Cancer](#)

- Tuesday 25/05/2021 2-3pm Psychosexual Concerns & Cancer
- **NHS South East endoscopy animation:** NHS South East have produced a new animation to encourage patients to attend their endoscopy appointment and reassure them of the measures in place to protect them against Covid-19. It also includes a reminder to cancel your endoscopy as early as possible if you're unable to attend so another patient can be offered the appointment. The animation is only a minute long for maximum impact across social media but can also be used on other channels. The video is [available here](#).  
Suggested social media posts from NHSSE:
  - If you're booked for an endoscopy and feeling nervous, watch this [animation](#) from @NHSSE on what to expect and measures in place. #endoscopy #cancer
- **Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign (TVCA #KnowYourCancerRisk):** A very big thank you to everyone who has supported our local lung cancer awareness campaign. We are currently reviewing the impact of the campaign and hope to share details with you in the coming weeks. The national lung campaign, as part of 'Help Us to Help You' is continuing so please do carry on sharing any local [resources](#) we have produced.
- **Vacancy: CRUK Health Professional Facilitator (Thames Valley):** Further details are can be found [here](#). Closing date: April 25, 2021.

#### OTHER CANCER UPDATES

- NHS England and Improvement have published the 2021/22 [Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service \(DES\)](#) with [associated guidance](#) for Primary Care Networks. The contractual start date is 1st April 2021. The [Quality Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) guidance](#) for 2021/22 is also published.  
Delivery of the [Early Cancer Diagnosis service specification](#) (pages 48-50 in the [DES](#)) and the [QOF Early Cancer Diagnosis Improvement Module](#) (pages 96-104 in the [QOF](#)) will support primary care in responding to both the ongoing challenge posed by the pandemic, and to the opportunity posed by the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions for cancer. Both are updated for 2020/21, to reflect evolving clinical policy and the ongoing context of the pandemic.  
[Best practice guidance](#) for Primary Care Networks to help deliver the service requirements has also been published. See the implementation resources in the guidance for more information to help GPs and PCNs get started:
  - A good place to start is the Macmillan [QI module](#) and [CRUK contract hub](#);
  - An important action that all GPs and PCNs can take right now is to start using the correct [SNOWMED code](#) for referrals for suspected cancer so that you have robust safety netting records from the start of the year.Next steps are to make sure our PCN's are aware of these publications and to work with them to commence delivery.
- Latest news from NHSE: **['Covid-Friendly' Cancer Care At Home Extended For More Patients:](#)** Last week, the NHS announced that thousands of people with cancer can benefit from **'Covid friendly' treatments from home, which have been extended until the end of the summer.** These treatments may be extended until the end of March 2022. More than 30 different drugs are available to treat patients, offering benefits such as fewer hospital visits or a reduced impact on their immune system. Around 8,000 people have already benefitted from the treatment 'swaps' since April helping to maintain cancer treatment in the face of coronavirus with more than 250,000 people starting treatment for cancer since the start of the pandemic.
- **Prostate Cancer UK** have published a [report](#) that assesses reasons for the potential under treatment in **black prostate cancer patients**. Prostate Cancer UK organised two focus groups with black men diagnosed with prostate cancer to understand their experience of NHS care following a report by the **National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA)** in 2020 that showed that between 2013-2017, a lower proportion of black men with high-risk and locally advanced



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prostate cancer received radical treatment, compared to White and Asian patients and patients classified as other.

- **Thousands of patients set to benefit from five-minute breast cancer treatment.** A treatment that cuts the amount of time breast cancer patients spend in hospital from two and a half hours to as little as five minutes. Read more about the [new combined treatment called PHESGO](#), which will be offered to breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.
- **CCG Index of Cancer Survival**  
PHE has published an update of the CCG index of cancer survival. This covers survival estimates for adults diagnosed from 2003 to 2018 and followed up to 2019. The publication includes the all-cancer survival index and separate estimates for cancer survival for breast, colorectal and lung.

Summarised top lines are here:

- The all cancer one-year survival rate has increased from 63.6% in 2003 to 73.9% for patients diagnosed in 2018. There have also been increases for five-year survival (54.6% for patients diagnosed in 2014) and ten-year survival (45.7% for patients diagnosed in 2009).
- Variation in the all cancer one-year survival rate has narrowed across Alliances, with the difference of 8.2%age points between the best and worst performing Alliances in 2003 decreasing to 4.3%age points in 2018. A similar pattern is seen across CCGs.
- Due to a lower rate of long term trend improvement in five-year survival, reaching the LTP ambition will require us to improve five-year survival by about 4.7%age points over and beyond the baseline (compared to 4%age points estimated at the time of the LTP).

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