

THAMES VALLEY CANCER ALLIANCE BULLETIN #14 – MARCH 2021

Please note that documents referenced in this bulletin; are all available on our NHS Futures workspace

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

- **TVCA Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign (Week 3):** Thank you to everyone who continues to support the TVCA #KnowYourCancerRisk: Lung campaign, as part of the national drive. Please do continue to use our [social media pack](#) to post messages on your social media accounts. On 12th March, **Dr Anant Sachdev** will discuss lung cancer signs and symptoms on **Wycombe Sounds Radio Station**. We will look to providing a link to this recording in the next bulletin. We are also keen for lung cancer awareness messages to be posted on **GP Practice digital platforms** where possible (websites, digital screens and social media). Therefore, the appropriate [web banners](#), [images](#) and [social media toolkit](#) have been sent to all CCG Cancer Leads today to cascade out to Primary Care. Thank you again to the CCGs for their support on this.
- **Primary Care Webinar on Lung Cancer vs. COVID-19 Symptoms:** We are delighted to invite ALL Thames Valley Primary Care teams to a short lunchtime session to discuss the differences between patients presenting with Lung Cancer and COVID-19 symptoms. This is part of the TVCA Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign. The webinar will be held on **Thursday 25th March (13:00 – 13:45)** pls use [this link to register](#). An MS Teams invite will be sent to those who register nearer the time. We will send out a separate email to all CCG Cancer Leads also, **please share details of webinar in GP Newsletters (and via other channels)** on a rolling basis until the session.
- **Local FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Test) in primary care GP Sessions:** Today, Buckinghamshire CCG and TVCA ran an educational session for local GPs on the Lower GI Pathway & FIT Symptomatic. The purpose of the webinar was to clarify the pathway with updates, as well as to hear how FIT was working locally. Thank you to **Dr Katie Massey** (Bucks GP Macmillan Lead), **Dr Brian Nicholson** (GP NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer, Nuffield Department of Primary Care), **Mr Arnold Goede** (BHT Consultant Colorectal Surgeon) and **Dr Anant Sachdev** (TVCA Prevention & Earlier Diagnosis Lead) for your excellent and engaging presentations. A recording to all Bucks GPs will be sent out next week. We will also look to include the recording here. As mentioned in the last bulletin, **Berkshire West** held its local FIT session on 25th February. The recording is now [available here](#).
- A reminder about our **RDS (Rapid Diagnostic Service) update:** We have sent invitations for a one-hour socialisation workshop for each Trust and partnered CCG via MS Teams. Dates and times are below:
 - Tuesday 9 March - 11:30 – 12:30 – BHT
 - Tuesday 9 March – 16:00 – 17:00 – OUHFT
 - Wednesday 10 March – 12:00 – 13:00 – GWH
 - Wednesday 10 March – 14:30 15:30 – RBHPlease contact abimbola.odubayo@nhs.net if you would like further details about the workshop.
- The **Cancer Rehab team in Bracknell** is running the following virtual event:
 - **Physical Activity and Cancer** on Tuesday 9 March 2021, 2pm – 3pm. Topics that will be discussed include; defining physical activity and general exercise advice before, during and after treatment, being safe while exercising, an interaction “Let’s Move” section (- you will need a glass of water or squash and a comfortable stable chair i.e. dining /



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kitchen chair.) The session is being run virtually on MS Teams; [Click here to join the meeting](#)

- The **NHS Cancer Programme is launching an open call for innovation** in cancer care on 17 March. The funding competition of up to £15million, which will be delivered by NHS England and NHS Improvement in partnership with SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme, will swiftly bring new and existing cancer care innovations to the NHS frontline. The goal is to ensure practical translation of leading research and innovation, directly into cancer care, seeking to directly benefit patients by addressing the challenges of early detection and diagnosis along with the diagnostic efficiency of cancer services. Applications are welcomed for innovative, creative and future proof ideas across medical devices, digital health and equipment, behaviour intervention and new models of care. This competition will accelerate future innovation in the healthcare sector, focusing on cancer. The contracts awarded will be for a maximum of 18 months for up to £5million (incl. VAT), subject to justification. For further details of the competition, eligibility criteria, and the application and assessment process, please refer to the relevant documents on the competition pages of the SBRI website. <https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/competition/sbri-healthcare-cancer-programme/> . Contact: sbri@lgcgroup.com

OTHER CANCER UPDATES

- A reminder that the Cancer Quality of Life Survey is still running and patients are encouraged to respond if they have received a survey. The following video, featuring TVCA's Dr Anant Sachdev, has been produced by the national team to promote the survey and the importance of quality of life for cancer patients: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi7qWtiRxHY>
- No Smoking Day 2021 is next week on Wednesday 10, March. A [toolkit has been shared online](#), with suggested social media graphics and messages you may wish to share. As we know, stopping smoking can reduce people's cancer risk and so we would encourage you to share this message.
- As from the 1st April 2021, "Stop for Life Oxon" will be the new smoking cessation service, for Oxfordshire. It has been commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council and will be operated by ICE Creates. Stop for Life Oxon provides universal and targeted smoking cessation support and awareness for residents and people working across Oxfordshire. This service provider will replace the current services offered by Smokefreelife
- If you need to provide a patient with [cancer information in an accessible format](#), Macmillan Cancer Support have numerous Easy Read, BSL and audio booklets on their website which are all free to access and share.
- The NHS is to provide human papillomavirus virus home testing kits to reduce cases of cervical cancer. More than 31,000 women will be [offered kits to carry out smear tests at home](#) in a new trial. The swab tests will be posted or given out by GPs to increase the take-up of screening for the human papillomavirus virus (HPV), which can lead to cervical cancer. Professor Peter Johnson, National Clinical Director for Cancer, said: "This is an important new way to make screening easier for thousands of women. We know there are lots of reasons why women might not attend a screening appointment, including worries about COVID".
- Chemogiftbags are a charity who offer FREE gift packages, which contain items that patients undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer, might find useful. Bags contain the likes of a cushion, blanket, digital thermometer, puzzle book, organic toiletries etc and are available by



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request from patients in Thames Valley. Further information and how to obtain leaflets about this service, to give to patients can be obtained via Lynne Shipton

- lynne.shipton@chemogiftbags.org

- **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



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