



18 January 2021

Wessex Cancer Alliance Update Bulletin 30.

Please find below, details of the most recent communications and guidance issued for Cancer. Please share this with colleagues and other teams who may find these updates useful.

Wessex Cancer Alliance updates

- Nationally, it is **remarkable to see what has been achieved** in maintaining urgent and essential cancer treatment wherever possible - over 1.2 million people were urgently referred between March and October and over 176,000 people started treatment for cancer, 95% of whom did so within 31 days. This determination to maintain cancer treatment has been reflected in local escalations plans and in the responses we are seeing across the country to the current increase in COVID cases. Across Wessex, we have stood up our [Wessex Surgical Hubs](#) and we will do everything we can to sustain P1 and P2 surgery through the current peak of this pandemic. We are also actively looking at ways to support and sustain chemotherapy and diagnostics where local services are finding themselves under pressure. Please can we take this opportunity to say a really big thank you for all the work you continue to do to maintain cancer services; our team at Wessex Cancer Alliance would like to offer their support and if you need our help, please contact us so this can be progressed.
- Please find attached, updated guidance on managing **the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme** which references the involvement of ICS and Cancer Alliances on actions to take if local services are impacted. The guidance aims to support conversations NHSEI commissioners may have with service providers and sets out the expectation that screening services must continue as contracted, including continuing actions to support the restoration of NHS screening services. Technical guidance to manage invitations and appointments on BCSS is included for information but please note that any service change should be raised by the provider to NHSEI regional commissioners so that it can be considered and mitigations put in place that minimises any disruption to delivery of the screening programmes.
- **Expressions of Interest** applications for three secondment opportunities which will be hosted by Wessex Cancer Alliance on behalf of Health Education England, are now available. Please find the forms attached. The closing date for applications is Friday 29 January 2021.
- **Wessex AHSN** have launched their Innovation Update newsletter, designed to share some of the latest healthcare innovations and offer opportunities to get involved. If you would like to receive these, please [sign up to the Innovation Update newsletter here.](#)

National Information

- Please find attached updated guidance from the National Cancer Team, **urgent cancer diagnostic services during COVID-19.**
- The UK Chemotherapy Board have shared the attached **Clinician FAQ and guidance on the Covid-19 vaccine for patients receiving SACT.**
- **Specialty guidance for cancer** can be found on NICE website and will continue to be published on their Covid-19 pages: <https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19/specialty-guides>
- The Eve Appeal have launched a guide for patients with ovarian cancer on genetic testing called **Ask Eve: genetic testing in ovarian cancer.** The guide has been developed from the



British Gynaecological Cancer Society's clinical guidelines and has been adapted for a patient perspective. It aims to explain gene alterations and genetic testing for ovarian cancer patients so that they have the information and support they need after their diagnosis. The guide is attached, or you can visit their website for more information: eveappeal.org.uk/brcaguide.

- Gateway C have shared details of a new course on cancer and “**Managing Physical Effects**”. Details can be found on their website: <https://bit.ly/2LodG9z>
- Gateway C are also running a webinar on the **COVID-19 Vaccine for Cancer Patients**; Wednesday 27 January 1-1.30pm. Register via this link: <http://bit.ly/38pFF1G>
- The following link provides details for an event taking place in April, launching **The Christie Centre for Living Beyond Cancer Science**; <https://www.christie.nhs.uk/media/9365/lwbc-flyer.pdf>
- The Patient Experience Network (**PEN**) **National Awards** have opened for entries for 2021. There are 22 award categories available this year covering all aspects of patient experience. You can view these and [enter on their website](#). Deadline for submissions is January 29, 2021.

Contact us

If you need to contact Wessex Cancer Alliance, please email:

england.wessexcanceralliance@nhs.net



@NHS_WCA



WCA on LinkedIn

