



23 March 2021

Wessex Cancer Alliance Update Bulletin 37.

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

Dear Colleague,

One year ago today the country entered Covid lockdown, and everyone's world was turned upside down overnight. It feels strangely both like forever ago, and like the blink of an eye, but so much has happened since. Tragically, many lives have been lost and many others profoundly affected by the pandemic and its consequences - the physical, emotional, psychological and financial impact is difficult to measure but easy to sense in those around us.

Those of us working in and with the NHS have seen at first hand (and all too clearly) the impact of this on so many people, but also have witnessed the great power of the NHS to be a force for good in our country. This is, of course, exemplified by the care and dedication of all those who have worked so hard to save lives threatened directly by Covid infection, but also by those who have continued to deliver other NHS services despite the onslaught.

Cancer pathways have been significantly impacted across the country, with clinical teams in primary, secondary and tertiary care really challenged to maintain services - despite this, cancer care in Wessex continues to perform very well indeed.

The most recently available data (January 2021) confirms that Wessex Cancer Alliance has seen the best 62 day waiting time performance of all Alliances across NHS England, with fewest people waiting over 104 days for treatment, and is in addition the best performing Alliance (by some margin) for the 28 day faster diagnostic standard.

For me, this clearly demonstrates how well our teams have pulled together to continue to serve our population so well and is a real testament to all who have played their part in this regard.

Please accept our very grateful thanks for all you have achieved this year, against the odds, and in the best interests of us all. Onwards and upwards!

Matthew Hayes
Medical Director, Wessex Cancer Alliance

- We would like to invite you to the next pre/rehab webinar taking place Tuesday 30 March, 1-2pm. [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#). If you have missed any of our previous webinars in this series, all the [presentations can be found on our website](#).
- The team leading the **ERICA Trial**, which is assessing the effectiveness of 6 electronic risk assessment tools (eRATs) for **cancer in primary care**, are still seeking more practices to take part and have welcomed further expressions of interest from Wessex. Due to Covid and the vaccination programme, they have extended trial recruitment until the end of June 2021. A flyer is attached with further information.



@NHS_WCA



WCA on LinkedIn





- Wessex Cancer Alliance programme manager for treatment, Kate Lippiett along with the Macmillan Survivorship Research Group, are hosting a free webinar “**Care of the dying in the last few weeks of life; a psychosocial approach**”. This will take place on Wednesday May, 19 at 12Noon-1pm. Please [email Kate](#) for a Teams link.

National Information

- Applications are now open for the **Inspire Improvement Fellowship 2021**, a development programme for frontline clinical nurse leaders. For more details please see: <https://www.fons.org/programmes/inspire-improvement>
- **Gateway C** are running a free webinar: Wednesday 31, March 1-2pm; ‘**Palliative Care for Cancer Patients**’, register here: <https://bit.ly/37FgvLM>.
- The (National Institute for Health Research) NIHR have published the following alert this month: “[To improve team decision-making in cancer care: streamline workload, shorten meetings, address logistics and keep a gender balance on the team](#)”
- **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>

Contact us

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

england.wessexcanceralliance@nhs.net