

NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update September 2025

In this update:

- 1 Free Cancer Education Sessions
- 2 New Urgent Suspected Cancer referral forms (version 01/06/2025)
- 3 Gynae Cancer Awareness month
- 4 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement project
- 5 ONEL SMI Breast Screening project (BHR only)
- 6 Red Whale cancer updates courses
- 7 Free services from Saint Francis Hospice (BHR only)
- 8 Patient Partners Community of Practice annual event
- 9 Life After Cancer Services
- 10 Cancer Care Map
- 11 Podcasts
- 12 For more information

1 Free Cancer Education Sessions

Free cancer education sessions are available to all healthcare professionals in primary care or secondary care with an interest in cancer, or those working as nurses and AHPs in cancer at a minimum band 5/6. They take place online and last for an hour. The first session – **Leadership in Cancer** – is at 9am on Friday 26 September.

Book your FREE place now: <https://bit.ly/3Jkl7vf>

2 New Urgent Suspected Cancer referral forms (version 01/06/2025)

The Pan London Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) referral forms have recently been updated. The website hosting the forms, educational resources and support information has changed and they are all available at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/london-clinical-networks/our-networks/cancer-earlier-diagnosis/urgent-cancer-referrals/>

The latest Pan London Urgent Suspected Ophthalmology Cancer referral form can be downloaded here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/09/Pan-London-Urgent-Suspected-Ophthalmology-Cancer-Referral-Form.docx>

The latest Pan London Urgent Suspected Head and Neck (Dental) Cancer referral form can be downloaded here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/09/Pan-London-Urgent-Suspected-Head-and-Neck-Cancer-Referral-Form-Dental-2.docx>

The full suite of the updated referral forms can be found here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/09/WORD-Forms_Pan-London.zip

The following changes have been made to the forms:

- **All forms** – embedded links within the forms have been updated to the new website. This includes links for clinical referral guides, *Top Tips*, hospital directory, RDC/NSS services and patient information.
- **All forms** – new wording has been added to confirm patient should be available over the next 28 days, reflecting the Faster Diagnosis Standard (which replaced the Two Week Wait standard in 2023).
- **Breast Cancer** – The link for management of gynaecomastia has been updated.

SMS/Messaging templates - Practices should check/amend any SMS/messaging templates for patients that include links for the patient information leaflets.

There are no changes to how clinicians should save or submit the forms. **It is important that only the new, updated USC referral forms are used going forward.** Please could you ensure that any old forms or templates are removed from your IT system and are no longer used for patient referrals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email england.tcstlondon@nhs.net

3 Gynae Cancer Awareness month

This month, we want to bust the myth that cervical screening detects ovarian cancer.

New research has found that 1 in 5 people think there is a national screening programme for ovarian cancer. We also know that only 21 per cent of women in the UK can name bloating as a key symptom of ovarian cancer.

This information, in combination with Target Ovarian Cancer's finding that 40% of women wrongly believe that cervical screening detects ovarian cancer, tells us we need to act urgently to provide better clarity on screening.

Read more: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/september-marks-gynaecological-cancer-awareness-month-2025>

4 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement project

CULTURAL AWARENESS WEBINARS - Thank you to those that have attended so far - the feedback has been very positive!

We still have some remaining spaces for our Cultural Awareness webinar sessions which are now live on NEL Training Hub and are **available to all GP staff and social prescribers in north east London**.

The sessions, delivered by FFT and RSG showcase the lived experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and offer opportunity to understand how to support them in breaking barriers to healthcare.

The sessions are being recorded and will be shared at a later date, alongside a certificate for all attendees. The next available dates begin from September and will conclude in December - **please encourage GP practice and social prescriber colleagues to attend!**

REGISTER HERE - [Events from August 6 – December 1 – NEL Training Hub](#)

The 13 health champions for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in north east London are continuing to support the delivery of our cultural awareness webinars and feeding into health inequalities data.

We will soon be looking to embed them into the local community voluntary service but in the meantime, they are available to support any cancer-related initiatives or engagement work across north east London boroughs. Please contact Nikki.poland@nhs.net for any queries.

5 ONEL SMI Breast Screening project (BHR only)

The project is nearly over and will draw to a close on 30 September. Once the project has ended, the template will remain active for ongoing use (without LIS), with clinical support remaining available from Dr Rai and wSMI patients can still be referred to InHealth via the nominated email address. However, any inactive practices by project end will need to have LIS funding drawn back from their PCNs.

Since the project started, 58 referrals have been received by InHealth, with a final report being made available in October. Currently, around 52.3% of wSMI remain unscreened in BHR, reflecting approximately a 15% improvement since last year and 5% since the project launched.

Furthermore, the project has supported the ongoing case for digitally coded breast screening results which are now being made available to opted-in GP practices! This will have been emailed to all practices, and **we encourage all GPs to please opt in, via the details below.**

**** ACTION REQUIRED FOR GPs TO OPT IN ****

In order to **OPT IN** for this change, we request that GP practices complete and return the following information to rf-tr.hubgppacks@nhs.net

- GP Practice Code and GP Practice Name
- Confirmation of preferred [NHS.net](https://www.nhs.net) email for reports to be sent

GP practices that have **not** opted in for electronic GP result reports will continue to be sent breast screening reports via printed and posted format

For any queries, please contact Nikki at Nikki.poland@nhs.net

6 Red Whale cancer updates courses

NEL Cancer Academy is pleased to announce a new series of Cancer Update courses. NEL Cancer Alliance supported by NEL Training Hub is hosting these in person Cancer Update Courses, delivered by Red Whale on Saturday 18 October and Saturday 7th February. The courses are for North East London General Practice Workforce. **To sign up and register**, please visit : <https://nelcanceracademy.co.uk/>

7 Free services from Saint Francis Hospice (BHR only)

Saint Francis Hospice, rated outstanding by the CQC, is an expert in providing care for people in our community from any faith or cultural background diagnosed with a serious life limited illness and living in Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge, Brentwood or parts of West Essex. Saint Francis Hospice has been offering free, expert, compassionate advice and support for over 40 years.

How to make a referral:

- Please use the online form on our website www.sfh.org.uk/patient-referrals (this includes referrals to all our services including therapies)
- Urgent referrals - If your referral is urgent, please telephone our Referrals Coordinator to discuss the referral on 01708 758 606 (Monday to Friday). At weekends, please call the Specialist Advice Line 01708 758 643.

8 Patient Partners Community of Practice annual event

North East London Cancer Alliance invites you to **Patient Partners Community of Practice annual event**.



Tuesday 30th September 2025



10:00am – 2:00pm



Riverside East (Stratford), 5 Thornton Street, London, E20 2AD

Connect with fellow professionals and patient partners to share experiences and gain valuable insights. This event promises to be a fantastic opportunity to strengthen our community and make lasting connections. Don't miss out on this exciting event!

Register for free: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1578090433969?aff=oddtcreator>

9 Life After Cancer Services

Life After Cancer, a specialist charity, provides free support, advice and networks for patients who have finished cancer treatment. It aims to increase their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing. The support they receive reduces the risk of serious mental distress and helps them to build a positive life after their cancer experience. Please direct patients to find out more: <https://www.life-aftercancer.co.uk/>

10 Cancer Care Map

Cancer Care Map provides a free, comprehensive, trusted directory of cancer care services in the UK.

This includes not just NHS services and well-known information centres like Maggie's and Macmillan, but all the community and smaller charity-led organisations operating in north east London, which provide care and support for cancer patients, as well as their families and carers.

Please direct patients to www.cancercaremap.org

Read more here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/cancer-care-map>

11 Podcasts

Our latest podcasts on cancer diagnosis and treatment and are available here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/taking-control-cancer>

The latest episodes provide important information about breast screening.

12 For more information

Web: www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk
X: @CancerNel
Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance
Instagram: @CancerNEL
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-london-cancer-alliance/>
TikTok: @nelcanceralliance
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@nelcanceralliance>