

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update November and December 2025

In this update:

- 1 Non-specific symptoms (NSS) referrals update
- 2 Skin clinic in Barking and Dagenham using AI tool
- 3 Melanoma UK survey
- 4 Prostate cancer awareness van
- 5 The Women's Health Hubs: Supporting Patients with Cervical Screening
- 6 EUROPAC Recruitment Closure
- 7 CRUK resources to support GPs on prostate cancer screening
- 8 CRUK Managing Uncertainty in Primary Care webinar
- 9 New CRUK Community of Practice for GPs
- 10 NEL Cancer Academy Free Training Sessions
- 11 Trauma informed care programme
- 12 Training to help support people with learning disabilities
- 13 Training for primary care to support younger patients with their cancer diagnosis
- 14 NELCA WhatsApp channel
- 15 Podcasts
- 16 For more information

### 1 Non-specific symptoms (NSS) referrals update

Following their [update in August](#) about the closure of the NSS service at the Royal London Hospital, Barts Health has issued a further update about this service, which can be viewed here:

<https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/barts-health-nhs-trust-for-non-specific-symptom-nss-referrals-2/>

## 2 Skin clinic in Barking and Dagenham using AI tool

The AI-Assisted Skin Lesion Diagnostic Service, launched in Barking and Dagenham in April 2025, is now live and helping patients receive faster diagnoses for skin lesions. This innovative pathway significantly speeds up the diagnostic process, with an average turnaround time from referral to being seen of **3.2 days** which is significantly quicker than the traditional urgent suspected skin cancer pathway.

For more information watch our short video: [https://youtu.be/Qn\\_etE1P9Kk](https://youtu.be/Qn_etE1P9Kk)

### How to refer (Barking and Dagenham only)

The service has capacity for more referrals. Please submit appropriate referrals **via e-RS**. You can find a step-by-step and eligibility criteria guide [here](#) to guide you through the process.

Once referred, patients will be invited to an image capture appointment at Barking Community Hospital and the results will be communicated to them once checked by a dermatologist.

**The Together First team manages all follow-up actions and onward referrals. Every AI result is reviewed by a dermatology consultant before being shared with the patient to guarantee accuracy and safety.**

*For patients with a suspicion of cancer, please continue to use the usual urgent suspected skin cancer referral pathway.*

## 3 Melanoma UK survey

Melanoma UK is working a national listening project to hear about peoples' experiences of diagnosis, treatment and support. This project also wants to gather views on the priorities for Melanoma UK and its campaigning and support efforts.

- ✓ For those with a diagnosis and their family, friends, carers or anyone else interested in skin cancer prevention
- ✓ Help improve the support and resources available to people affected by melanoma and other skin cancers

Please help share the survey now to make a difference 🙌

<https://bit.ly/49JjbbN>

## 4 Prostate cancer awareness van

As part of our 'It's Not A Game' campaign, our prostate van continues to visit different locations in north east London to raise awareness of prostate cancer and to help men understand their risk of prostate cancer. A list of locations for the van is available here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/its-not-a-game>

## 5 The Women's Health Hubs: Supporting Patients with Cervical Screening

To improve uptake and ensure equitable access, Women's Health Hubs have been developed as a specialist service for women who need extra support at different stages of their lives, including when participating in cervical screening.

### Women's Health Hubs are suitable for women who:

- Are extremely anxious about cervical screening, possibly following a previous bad experience. or have previously declined due to pain or anxiety
- Have experienced trauma, which may include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or sexual violence (The My Body Back service is also specifically designed to see women who have experienced sexual trauma in a safe, female only environment at Mile End Hospital: [My Body Back Project - Rape and sexual assault support in London](#))
- Require longer appointments, a female clinician, or the use of smaller speculums
- Have a history of unsuccessful cervical screening attempts

### Referral process

- When inviting women for cervical screening, please let them know they can request referral to a Women's Health Hub if they have concerns about attending in general practice
- Reception and admin staff play a key role: if a patient expresses anxiety, discomfort, or hesitation, please offer the option of referral to the Women's Health Hubs which is completed via ERS
- Clinical teams should also consider referral if there have been difficulties at previous appointments

### Service offer

- Longer appointment times
- Female health professionals (on request)
- Smaller speculums and tailored support

### Locations

- Ilford Exchange Health Centre, High Road, Ilford, IG1 1RS
- The Ivy Centre in St Leonards Hospital, Nuttall Street, London, N1 5LZ
- General Practice based sites: John Scott Health Centre, Lower Clapton Health Centre, Sandringham -Practice, Elsdale Surgery
- Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London, E1 4DG
- Whipps Cross Hospital, Whipps Cross Road, London, E11 1NR

Please also visit <https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/health-advice/womens-health/about-our-womens-health-hubs/> for more information.

## 6 EUROPAC Recruitment Closure

Due to capacity constraints, the EUROPAC team will be undertaking a restructuring process from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026. During this period, EUROPAC will be closed to all new recruitment.

From 1 January 2026, all EUROPAC enquiries should be directed to the centralised inboxes and not to individual email addresses. Any referrals received during the closure period will be returned to the referrer with a request to resubmit following the end of the restructuring period.

Individuals who are currently in the process of registration should be advised to return their registration documentation as normal; these will continue to be processed. For participants currently under surveillance, any queries during this period should be directed to the relevant surveillance centre.

In line with NICE guideline NG85, individuals with a family history of pancreatic cancer may be eligible for surveillance and should be advised to discuss this with their GP if concerned.

Thank you for your cooperation during this period.

[europac@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:europac@liverpool.ac.uk)

[europac.study@liverpoolft.nhs.uk](mailto:europac.study@liverpoolft.nhs.uk) (secure)

## 7 CRUK resources to support GPs on prostate cancer screening

On November 28th the UK NSC's published their draft [recommendation for a prostate cancer screening programme of men aged 45-61 with pathogenic variants in BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 every two years.](#)

CRUK as the following resources available on our [PSA test webpage](#) to support conversations about PSA testing and genetic testing. These include:

- [GatewayC 'The role of genomics in primary care' course](#)
- [NHS England National Genomics Education Programme BRCA1 and BRCA2 guidance](#)
- [NHS England National Genomics Education Programme - Presentation: Patient with a family history of prostate cancer](#)

## 8 CRUK Managing Uncertainty in Primary Care webinar

Join NB Medical and CRUK for an update on the latest research and tools to support management of uncertainty and improve the timely diagnosis of cancer in primary care. The webinar takes place at 8pm n- 9pm on Tuesday 10 March 2026. Register here: <https://www.nbmedical.com/clinics/hot-topics-managing-uncertainty-in-primary-care-clinic-tuesday-10th-march-2026-2026-03-10>

## 9 New CRUK Community of Practice for GPs

CRUK is working with Macmillan to establish a Community of Practice for GPs. This will be a supportive space for all GPs across the UK, whether in cancer related roles or not. Those who are involved in the Community of Practice will benefit from:

- The latest evidence and updates from CRUK
- Peer-to-peer support
- Sharing of best practice
- Access to excellent training and resources
- Expert insights and practice takeaways

From 2026 onwards, there will be monthly webinars delivered alternately by CRUK and Macmillan.

**GPs can join the conversation by signing up via the [Macmillan webpages](#)**

## 10 NEL Cancer Academy Free Training Sessions

For free cancer training sessions and resources for primary care, please visit

<https://nelcanceracademy.co.uk/>

Sessions include:

NEL: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement – Cultural Awareness Webinar:  
<https://medtribe.com/courses/nel-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-engagement-cultural-awareness-webinar>

Fear of cancer recurrence: [https://medtribe.com/courses/nel-fear-of-cancer-recurrence-support-strategies-for-nurses-ahps?utm\\_medium=copy-link&utm\\_source=share-modal](https://medtribe.com/courses/nel-fear-of-cancer-recurrence-support-strategies-for-nurses-ahps?utm_medium=copy-link&utm_source=share-modal)

There is also a substantial discount on Red Whale cancer update courses (only £15 registration fee): <https://neltraininghub.org/event/cancer-update-courses/2026-02-07/>

## 11 Trauma informed care programme

Recognising that NHS and social care staff are routinely exposed to trauma at work and experience moral injury, NHSE has worked in collaboration to design bespoke 'trauma-informed care training', ensuring these workforces become truly trauma-informed.

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/trauma-informed-care/>

## 12 Training to help support people with learning disabilities

South East London Cancer Alliance has developed a training module for primary care to support people with learning disabilities in accessing cancer care and screening services.

[Cancer care and screening for people with a learning disability in primary care](#)

## 13 Training for primary care to support younger patients with their cancer diagnosis

South East London Cancer Alliance has created a bitesize module to support primary care professionals to support younger patients with their cancer diagnosis, for patients within the community.

It can be viewed here <https://bit.ly/selca-youngeradultsandcancer>

The module can be completed within 10-15 minutes and accessed via a PC or mobile device.

## 14 NELCA WhatsApp channel

North East London Cancer Alliance has a new communications channel - A **WhatsApp for Business** public channel. Anyone can join to receive updates from the cancer alliance, without sharing any of their personal information. No one - including admins - is able to see any personal numbers and members can't post comments or replies.

We will use it for sharing news, updates, links to webpages and assets such as podcasts, videos and leaflets.

People can access it using this link <https://bit.ly/4oSF8Ku> or the QR code below.



## 15 Podcasts

Our podcasts have now been downloaded in 50 countries! The latest episodes on cancer diagnosis and treatment and are available here:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/taking-control-cancer>

## 16 For more information

Web: [www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk](http://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>