

West Midlands Cancer Alliance Update

Issue:66

29th November 2024

Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome and thank you for reading. Every ICS and every team in the West Midlands are a constituent member of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) and valued stakeholder, and each newsletter is designed to include relevant content for you. The aim is to better coordinate the vast amount of information and events associated with cancer that will be useful in building knowledge and shaping the work we do, individually and collectively to improve outcomes and increase survivorship for the West Midlands population. You are welcome to disseminate this newsletter within your teams.

Sarah Hughes
Managing Director, Midlands Cancer Alliances

PRIMARY CARE FOCUS

Primary Care Cancer Focus – Dr Jim McMorran

What is the significance of a low PSA?

There is a strong association between baseline prostate specific antigen (PSA) and prostate cancer mortality (1):

- evidence suggests that 44% of prostate cancer deaths occur in men with PSA in the top 10% of the PSA distribution at ages 44–49 year
- only 0.2% of men with PSA below 1.0 ng/mL at age 60 years died from prostate cancer within 25 years

A study found that the 5-year incidence of aggressive prostate cancer was low for men with PSA levels of 1 ng/mL or less (2)

- 10-year incidence of aggressive disease was also low for men aged 65 or older with PSA levels of 0.5 ng/mL or less

A study investigated the subsequent prevalence of prostate cancer in a group with PSA $\leq$ 4.0 ng/ml (3):

- during a seven-year period, none of the men in this analysis had PSA levels above 4.0 ng per milliliter or any abnormality on digital rectal examination
- all participants underwent a prostate biopsy at the end of the study
- of almost 3000 men in the group, 15 percent had a prostate cancer on the end-of-study biopsy, and of these cancers, 15 percent were high grade (a Gleason score of 7 to 9)

- prevalence of cancer increased with the PSA level, from 7 percent among men with PSA values of 0.5 ng per milliliter or less to 27 percent among men with PSA values of 3.1 to 4.0 ng per milliliter
- prevalence of high-grade disease also increased with the PSA level, from 13 percent when the PSA level was 0.5 ng per milliliter or less to 25 percent when the PSA level was 3.1 to 4.0 ng per milliliter

In high-grade prostate cancer a low or a high PSA predicts poor outcome (4):

- in a large dataset describing the prognostic value of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in localised prostate cancer
 - in high-grade prostate cancer, a low or high PSA predicts poor outcomes
 - in low/intermediate-grade prostate cancer, the higher the PSA the worse the outcome
 - confirms a more aggressive biology in low PSA secreting high-grade prostate cancer

Reference

1. Heijnsdijk EAM et al. Lifetime Benefits and Harms of Prostate-Specific Antigen-Based Risk-Stratified Screening for Prostate Cancer. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2020 Oct 1;112(10):1013-1020.
2. Landy R et al. Risk of Prostate Cancer-related Death Following a Low PSA Level in the PLCO Trial. Cancer Prev Res (Phila). 2020 Apr;13(4):367-376.
3. Thompson IM, Pauler DK, Goodman PJ, et al. Prevalence of prostate cancer among men with a prostate-specific antigen level of ≤ 4.0 ng per milliliter. N Engl J Med. 2004;350:2239–46.
4. Fankhauser CD et al. A low prostate specific antigen predicts a worse outcome in high but not in low/intermediate-grade prostate cancer. Eur J Cancer. 2023 Mar;181:70-78.

FOR INFORMATION

West Midlands Cancer Alliance Workforce Event:

On Friday 8th November 2024, we hosted a Cancer Alliance event focused on strengthening the cancer workforce in the region. Together, we initiated the co-creation of a Cancer Academy—a resource designed to offer training and information for professionals supporting cancer patients. The national team shared insights on how the new NHS 10-Year Plan will incorporate a dedicated cancer strategy. This stakeholder event marked an important step forward, helping to equip the workforce with the skills and confidence needed for the future. The next event will be scheduled for early 2025.



Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2024:

We have launched our National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES), asking for feedback from cancer patients (16 years and over*), to inform and improve local cancer services across England.

We want our patients to have the best experience possible and hearing about your experience is crucial in helping us deliver what you need and want. The NHS and cancer charities use the results to understand what is working well and which areas need improvement. The results enable them to identify national and local priorities and work with patients and partners to deliver improvements.

Those who were treated for cancer as an inpatient or day-case, and left hospital in April, May or June 2024, will be invited to take part in the survey. If you receive an invitation, please fill out the questionnaire and have your say so we can deliver the best possible service to patients. If you need support completing the survey or need it made available in another language, you can call the free helpline number 0800 103 2804. For more information about the survey and other ways to provide feedback on cancer care please visit www.ncpes.co.uk.



Elective Care Fundamentals: Cancer Pathway Management course:

Developed by the Elective Care Improvement Support team at NHS England, this course focuses on essential skills for cancer pathway management through practical, self-paced modules. NHS staff can access four one-hour modules and interact with peers and experienced tutors over a seven-week period.

We appreciate your support in spreading the word about this opportunity to colleagues who could benefit from the course. You are also welcome to participate, by registering with your official NHS email on our QI Learning Platform and enrol in the course. Follow these steps:

1. If you are already registered on the QI Learning Platform, simply [enrol](#) in the course.
2. If you have not registered yet, please visit the [QI Learning Platform](#) page and complete your registration before [enrolling](#).
3. Or click here for [additional information](#) (or on the QR code below).

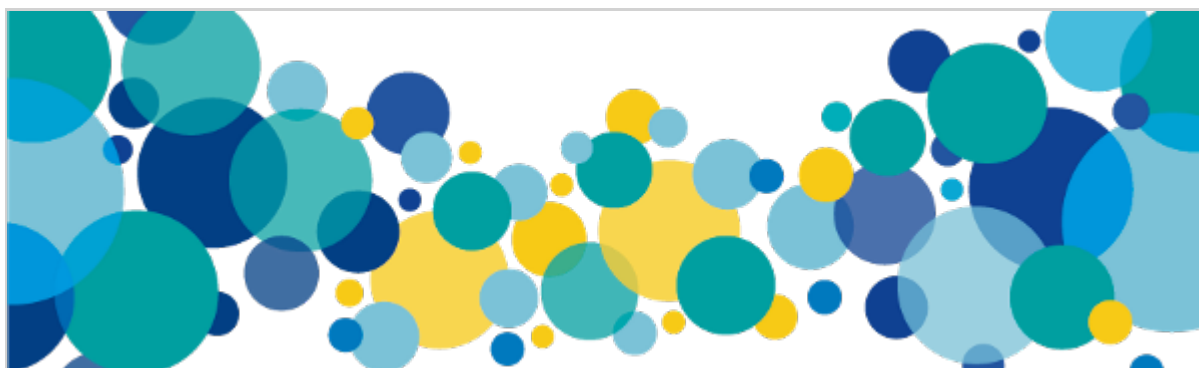


Course materials will be available for seven weeks after the start date, and you can earn 6 CPD points upon completion, as the course is CPD accredited. For questions, email us at england.eeci@nhs.net with "Cancer Pathway MOOC" in the subject line. Please share this opportunity with colleagues who may benefit! We look forward to welcoming you or your colleagues on the course!

Ovarian Cancer – Symptoms and Examination:

In 2021, 63% (345) ovarian cancers were diagnosed at stages 3 and 4 – data taken from the National Disease Registration Service dashboard. The Gynae Operational Delivery Network (ODN) have developed the following educational video resulting from an audit performed looking at the number of CA125 blood requests over a 12-month period for patients aged 25 and over. This video has been designed and created to support healthcare professionals within a Primary Care setting who undertake consultations with patients that may be showing symptoms associated with Ovarian Cancer.

[WMCA v3 \(youtube.com\)](#)



[Cancer Academy November eBulletin](#)

Welcome to the November issue of our monthly Cancer Academy eBulletin. In this edition we have included:

[Go to this Sway](#)

National Cancer Manager and MDT Coordinator Networks:

The membership of the National Cancer Manager and MDT Coordinator Networks continues to grow, and we're keen to support anyone in these roles in a secondary care provider who wishes to join or is interested in further information on what the networks offer. We would be very grateful if Cancer Alliances could circulate the attached poster to their secondary care providers to advertise the networks.

If anyone would like to discuss the network further, please contact england.cancerperformance@nhs.net.



Are you a cancer MDT coordinator, facilitator, navigator, or pathway tracker?
Or a cancer performance, services, or information manager?

The **National Cancer Manager and MDT Coordinator Networks** can support you in your role*

What can I gain from joining?

- Peer support and an opportunity to meet colleagues from across the country
- A space to ask questions and find solutions for shared problems
- The opportunity to participate in share and learn sessions, showcase what works well, and help to facilitate change
- A mentoring programme
- Access to resources which may help you and your team
- Annual events to support networking and collaboration

*Please note, the networks are currently only available to staff working in NHS secondary care providers in England

Who are we?

Peer support networks (one for cancer MDT Coordinators and one for cancer managers, working in secondary care) with a combined total of over 600 members, who communicate and meet regularly to share learning and best practice and address challenges as a group, facilitated by the NHS Cancer Programme.

To learn more, join a drop-in information session on MS Teams with members of the NHS Cancer Programme team:

Thursday 17th October, 2:00pm: [MS Teams link to join the session](#)

Tuesday 26th November, 11:00am: [MS Teams link to join the session](#)

Or email: england.cancerperformance@nhs.net

Welcome to November's issue of the East Midlands Cancer Alliance Newsletter. Please see link below.



East Midlands Cancer Alliance: **Achieving World Class Outcomes**

[November 2024](#)

Welcome and thank you for reading. Every ICS and every team in the East Midlands is a constituent member of the East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) and valued stakeholder, and each monthly...

[Go to this Sway](#)

GatewayC new campaign resource hub and December communications assets.

We have been developing a new way for partners to access our campaign and communications resources. We are pleased to share with you our new **campaign resource hub** – the place to access

and download all your early cancer diagnosis communication needs when promoting our wide range of development and educational offerings, and to support you in any campaigns you may be running throughout the year.

We would appreciate any feedback to help us to improve the experience going forward. We've set up the hub with resources for December which includes general GatewayC promotion and will continue to populate the hub with all cancer types so they're all available to you. As we do this, we will incorporate your feedback into the hub layout and content. Going forward we will email you with links to cancer types in advance of the awareness month then you can factor them into your campaign comms planning.

To note: when accessing a particular resource, please ensure you select the correct country, as this will show the appropriate assets for your region.

[Access campaign resource hub](#)

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback

GatewayC:

We are pleased to share promotional assets for series 2 episode 11 of GatewayC's GPs Talk Cancer podcast. Linked is a [communications pack](#) for **Episode 11 – Brain tumours**. This pack includes:

- Suggested social copy/visual assets
- Newsletter and bulletin copy

We are pleased to share with you GatewayC's **Communications Assets** and **Campaign Calendar** for **November**. You will find a range of GatewayC resources to share with your networks to support key awareness campaigns running throughout November including:

- Lung cancer resources
- Pancreatic cancer resources
- Gastric cancer resources

[Download resources.](#)

We would really appreciate your support in sharing amongst your networks and colleagues.

Green Lane Mosque, Birmingham

At Green Lane Mosque, we provide comprehensive cancer support services specially designed for our Muslim community, made possible through Macmillan funding. Our holistic approach combines spiritual guidance, mental health support, financial assistance, and community care – all delivered with deep cultural understanding and respect for Islamic values. We stand with both patients and their carers throughout their cancer journey, ensuring every member of our community receives the culturally sensitive and spiritually aligned care they deserve.

WMCA Update

Are you a Muslim worried about cancer?

We can help you through

- Financial support
- Spiritual support
- Mental Health support
- Community support

Get in touch with us
Cancersupport@greenanemasjid.org
0121 713 0091
Supported by
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Here's how we can help

- Financial Support**
 - Referral to Macmillan benefits adviser
 - Support with application
 - Remote cancer support sessions
 - Resources from Macmillan website
 - Food parcels & food vouchers
 - Takal
 - Macmillan grants
- Mental Health Support**
 - Therapeutic activities
 - 1:1 support
 - Macmillan (SPPA) counselling
 - Confidential & empathetic service
- Community Support**
 - Monthly support groups
 - Regular service openhouse sessions (for patients and carers)
 - Coffee mornings
 - Support available in English, Urdu, Arabic & Somali
 - Bikers lunch
 - Community kitchen
- Spiritual Support**
 - Imam Q&A
 - Will writing
 - Burial & funeral advice
 - Advice videos from Imam
 - Islamic counselling
 - Islamic education

Get in touch with us
Cancersupport@greenanemasjid.org
0121 713 0091
Supported by
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

SafeSpace Sessions

Supported by
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Last Saturday of every month
11am - 12:30pm | Refreshments Provided

Emotional, practical, and informational support for cancer patients and carers over a warm cup of chai and tasteful conversations.

For more info please contact 0121 713 0091

Midlands Outpatient Transformation:

Please find below link to the latest Midlands Outpatient Transformation Programme Newsletter. Should colleagues wish to know more about any of our workstreams, we encourage you to contact us via our team inbox england.midsopandec@nhs.net and we'd be happy to discuss with you.

[Outpatient Transformation Programme Newsletter](#)

November 2024

[Go to this Sway](#)

If colleagues experience difficulties opening the above Sway link, our programme newsletters are saved on our FutureNHS workspace, [here](#).

EVENTS UPDATE

WMCA Expert Advisory Group (EAG) Meetings:

Please see below details of upcoming WMCA EAG Meetings. Please note that these meetings are for EAG Members only. For more information about joining these meetings, please email:

rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net

3 rd December 2024:	Urology EAG
4 th December 2024:	Colorectal EAG
6 th December 2024:	MSCC AO & CUP EAG
10 th December 2024:	Lung EAG
10 th December 2024:	NET EAG
11 th December 2024:	WMCA EAG Chairs, Deputies and Clinical Pathway Leads Meeting
13 th December 2024:	Radiotherapy EAG
13 th December 2024:	Head and Neck EAG
17 th December 2024:	Gynae EAG
19 th December 2024:	SACT EAG

***Please note that dates are correct at time of publication**

Cancer Awareness Events

Cancer awareness days, weeks and months are important in helping us to spread awareness and show support for people living with cancer. Increasing cancer awareness in more deprived areas could help to reduce health inequalities and improve cancer outcomes. Having cancer awareness will give you the confidence to speak to a doctor if something doesn't feel normal to you, as spotting cancer early increases the chance of survival. Please see attached link for details:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:7312095d-40a9-468a-b5ee-a80e4fab5378>

Surgical Day: Invasive multidisciplinary management of Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs): scopes, knives, needles and robots

Tuesday 3rd December at Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel From 08:30am – 17:00pm

This meeting is for people making decisions on treatments for patients with NETs. This meeting is important for regional Cancer Alliances, Specialist Commissioners, and the HPB and Colorectal Expert Advisory Groups whose members are often responsible for the initial care of patients with NETs. Delegates will achieve a good understanding of the present role of surgery and the availability of surgical and associated expertise around the UK. The symposium will help develop a national strategy for surgery in patients with NETs.

We hope you can join us for the symposium, which takes place the day after the UKI NETS 22nd National Conference, Cardiff UK.

For Registration: [UKI NETS 2024 Annual Conference – Registration – UKI NETS](#)



FREE Webinar for Newly Qualified Nurses, being hosted by Frontline:

**Communication Skills for Newly Qualified Nurses.
MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2024
10:30-12:00 VIA ZOOM.**

In this 90min upskills webinar we will introduce you to the communication skills model, skills, and strategies that will support you in your career. Enabling you to feel confident, build resilience, and get full job satisfaction. Meaningful conversations give your job a sense of purpose. All webinars are interactive with a relevant live or video role-play demonstration to show theory in practice.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/frontlinecommunication/1291628>



**NQN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
TRAINING
FREE LIVE WEBINAR
9TH DEC 10.30AM**

90MIN INTERACTIVE TRAINING FOR NEWLY QUALIFIED NURSES

STARTING YOUR CARRER WITH COMMUNICATION SKILLS TOOLS

ENABLING YOU TO FEEL CONFIDENT, BUILD RESILIENCE, AND GET FULL JOB SATISFACTION.

MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS GIVE YOUR JOB A SENSE OF PURPOSE.

TOP TIPS FROM HCPS WORKING IN CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE

DEMONSTRATION VIDEO WITH HCPS MANAGING CHALLANGING COMMUNICATION CONVERSATIONS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduction to communications models
- Evaluate and analyse those models using video demonstrations
- Apply new thinking and ideas in interactive demonstration videos
- Create a purpose for practice

ONLY 90-MINS ONLINE



THE EVENT IS HOSTED LIVE BY ONE OF OUR FACILITATORS. THE ROLE PLAYS MAY BE LIVE OR PRE-RECORDED VIDEOS, AND SCENARIOS ARE DESIGNED FROM PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRES UPON REGISTRATION FOR EACH WEBINAR, MAKING EVERY EVENT A UNIQUE AND BESPOKE THEORY-IN-PRACTICE LEARNING

West Midlands FIT Pathway Update Primary Care Educational Session for Suspected Colorectal Cancer Referrals webinar:

We would like to invite you to a 'West Midlands FIT Pathway Update Primary Care Educational Session for Suspected Colorectal Cancer Referrals webinar'. This will be held on **Wednesday 18th December 2024 12.00pm - 13.00pm.**

The webinar will include a clinical panel, representing GPs and consultant colorectal surgeons to go through the common questions relating to FIT, use of FIT in geriatric patients and the Impact of FIT referrals. There will also be dedicated time for Q & A for all your FIT queries.

Please see the attached poster and agenda for more information. if you have any questions in relation to this, or would like to register, please email rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net with your name, role and GP practice including 'WM FIT Primary Care Educational Webinar' in the subject line.,

Please share the webinar information to all Primary Care stakeholders within your ICB, to ensure we get broad coverage from all our systems.

Early bird registration for the 7th Bladder Cancer Translational Research Meeting is now open!

Join the University of Birmingham Bladder Cancer Research Centre and the Kings College London & Guys Hospital Transforming cancer Outcomes through Research (TOUR) team at the Edgbaston Park

Hotel & Conference Centre on Friday 28th February 2025 for a fully interactive bladder cancer clinical research meeting led by an international expert panel of clinicians and scientists in the U.K.

The forum is designed to bridge the gap between science and clinical practice and will cover the spectrum of bladder cancer research in oncology, urology, nursing, epidemiology, immuno- and molecular biology.

Further information including the registration link is available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/7th-bladder-cancer-translational-research-meeting>

Please note: Early bird registration closes on 16th January 2025, so please register early for this event.

VACANCIES

WMCA Expert Advisory Group Recruitment:

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance are currently in the process of recruiting to vacancies for the following Expert Advisory Groups (EAG's):

- Haematology EAG **Deputy Chair**
- MCCC AO & CUP EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Head and Neck EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Upper GI EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Gynae EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Radiotherapy EAG **Chair and Deputy Chair**
- Urology EAG **Deputy Chair**

We are looking for candidates based on the following criteria:

- Ability to deliver national and regional work programme obligations.
- Demonstrable collaborative working with West Midlands Cancer Alliance.
- Experience with service change at scale.
- Credibility as a Cancer specialist in the West Midlands region.
- Regular attendance at EAGs or member of a Task and Finish group.
- Must be a current member of the West Midlands EAG group.

Candidates are asked to send their expressions of interest forms (see attached below) via email with accompanying CVs, stating why you would like to apply for this post, what you can bring to the post and your relevant experience for the role of Chair / Deputy Chair for the EAG to the following email: angela.gould1@nhs.net **by 5pm on Friday 13th December 2024.**

EOI Form: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:562a4e31-ea85-4b28-a057-93a742da4bc9>

West Midlands Cancer Alliance – Looking for LGBTQIA+ Patient Advocates:

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) are looking for LGBTQIA+ identifying patients who have lived experience of a cancer journey to join our expanding group of patient advocates. This could be their own experience of cancer or being there for a friend or a loved one on their cancer journey. A patient advocate participates in one of our cancer site Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) and will be

asked to express their views and opinions to help change, improve and shape the future of cancer care for the patient population of the West Midlands.

If you have any patients who may be interested in becoming a patient advocate or would like to find out further information, please contact the WMCA on rwh-tr.wmcapmo@nhs.net.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to congratulate Dudley for launching the TLHC programme. Our colleagues have been featured in the Dudley News on 20th October 2024. You can read the article [here](#).



Contact us:

If you would like to contribute to future newsletters or believe we have missed something, please share what you are seeing with us, and we can distribute across the Region:

Please also share with us achievements and things to celebrate across the region, including awards won, recognition of good practice and mentions for colleagues who warrant special recognition who may be leaving us. Please submit on a fortnightly basis on Wednesday's.

- Angela Gould, West Midlands Cancer Alliance: angela.gould1@nhs.net