

West Midlands Cancer Alliance Update

Issue:74

28th March 2025

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

BRCA1/2 and pancreatic cancer

- Familial pancreatic cancer (FPC) includes those kindreds that contain at least two first degree relatives with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
 - has been suggested that about 10% of pancreatic cancer has a familial basis (1)
- *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* gene are well-known high-penetrant predisposing genes for hereditary breast and/or ovarian cancer (HBOC) (2)
 - these genes are involved in the DNA damage response and DNA double-strand breaks repair
- pancreatic cancer is the third most common cancer associated with *BRCA1/2* mutations, though the penetrance at age 70 is much lower (3)
 - prevalence of *BRCA2* mutations in pancreatic cancer patients is 1.4-8.2% for patients unselected for family history, about 6-16% among familial pancreatic cancer patients, and up to 17.2% in families with 3 or more pancreatic cancers (3)
 - germline (inherited) mutations in the *BRCA2* gene increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, and increase the risk of pancreatic cancer 3.5 to 10-fold
 - while breast cancer develops in most families with a *BRCA2* gene mutation, the absence of a breast cancer in a family should not be used to exclude germline *BRCA2* mutations
 - pancreatic cancer can run in *BRCA2* gene mutation-carrying families without an apparent association with breast cancer
 - germline *BRCA2* mutations are particularly common in individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage

- has been calculated that 1% of the Ashkenazi Jewish population carries a germline *BRCA2* gene mutation, the 6174delT mutation, and these individuals, in addition to an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer, have a 10-fold increased risk of developing pancreatic cancer (1)
- comparing to the general population, the risk of pancreatic cancer is about 2-6 fold in *BRCA2* carriers and 2-5 fold in *BRCA1* carriers (3)

Reference:

1. Hruban RH, Canto MI, Goggins M, Schulick R, Klein AP. Update on familial pancreatic cancer. *Adv Surg.* 2010;44:293-311. doi:10.1016/j.yasu.2010.05.011
2. Petersen GM. Familial pancreatic cancer. *Semin Oncol.* 2016;43(5):548-553. doi:10.1053/j.seminoncol.2016.09.002
3. Chen F, Roberts NJ, Klein AP. Inherited pancreatic cancer. *Chin Clin Oncol.* 2017;6(6):58. doi:10.21037/cco.2017.12.04

FOR INFORMATION

West Midlands Cancer Alliance Lung EAG recognised at British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) Conference:

Members of our Lung Expert Advisory Group (EAG) had the pleasure of attending the British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) 2025 Conference in Belfast earlier this month. The team presented a poster on how the 'thymic pathologies conundrum requires the establishment of a central multi-disciplinary team (MDT)'.

This poster was highly recognised by the BTOG Thymic Interest group, and the team have been requested to share the model with the rest of UK. Working alongside the West Midlands Cancer Alliance, the EAG will be working towards a business model for an e-MDT to help continue to improve efficacy and productivity.

Read the full story [here](#).



Leukaemia UK Patient Care Pioneer Award:

Leukaemia UK is delighted to announce that we will be offering our Patient Care Pioneer Award funding again in 2025. The funding is intended specifically for innovative, patient-focussed applied research and is aimed at UK-based healthcare professionals at any stage of their career working within the UK haematology and associated communities.

The £50,000 Patient Care Pioneer Award funding is offered for cutting-edge, patient-centred projects that seek to explore new practical approaches to improve treatment, care, and quality of life for leukaemia patients. Projects should be of short duration and will provide rapid proof of principle/evidence to address an unmet patient need, develop a proposed practice-changing improvement for the benefit of patient treatment and care, or generate robust preliminary data for a subsequent larger funding application.

The funding is aimed particularly at nurses and other allied healthcare professionals, and Leukaemia UK is particularly interested in proposals that seek to address an unmet need or develop new, improved practices for patients in communities that are poorly served or underrepresented in research.

Applications will open on 10 February 2025 and close on 02 May 2025. To find out more about the Patient Care Pioneer Award visit: <https://www.leukaemiauk.org.uk/research-and-advocacy/research-funding-opportunities/patient-care-pioneer-award/>

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](#)
March 2025

[Go to this Sway](#)

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

Oncology Study Day with an interest in physical activity:

Please see details and link below about an Oncology study day with a particular interest in physical activity. This study day is ideal for anyone with a professional interest in physical activity and cancer. The day's objectives are to share insights from science and research alongside examples of good practice to make the case for physical activity to be a standard of care within cancer pathways.

[The Royal Marsden Exercise Oncology Study Day | The Royal Marsden](#)

Pain-Related Complex Cancer Late Effects Rehabilitation Service (CCLERS)

The Pain-Related Complex Cancer Late Effects Rehabilitation Service (CCLERS), in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, is a national, highly specialised service supporting adults experiencing persistent pain and functional loss after cancer treatments. Many patients struggle with long-term effects from surgery, chemotherapy, or radiotherapy, impacting their ability to work, exercise, or manage daily tasks. Despite the prevalence of these issues, accessing appropriate support can be challenging.

CCLERS offers a two-week residential rehabilitation program, providing intensive, personalised support to help patients regain function, manage pain, and improve their quality of life. The programme includes:

- Specialist assessment to understand the patient's needs and goals.
- Targeted physical rehabilitation to improve mobility, strength, and endurance.
- Psychological support to address the emotional and mental impact of persistent pain.
- Guidance on returning to meaningful activities such as work, hobbies, and social engagement.

Following the residential programme, patients receive one year of structured follow-up support, ensuring they continue making progress and integrating the skills they have learned into daily life.

CCLERS is delivered by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, a psychologist, a pain consultant and a clinical nurse specialist, all working together to provide individualised, evidence-based care. The team's expertise ensures that rehabilitation is tailored to each patient's needs, addressing the physical, psychological and emotional aspects of persistent pain and functional loss.

The service is free and available to anyone registered with a GP in England. Referrals can be made by healthcare professionals, and patients are assessed to determine suitability for the programme.

CCLERS accepts referrals for adults who meet the following criteria:

- Have completed active cancer treatment at least 12 months ago
- Experience persistent pain and/or functional loss as a result of cancer treatments
- Have been seen by local rehabilitation, pain, or late effects services with no significant improvement in symptoms
- Are considered complex by local services

For more information, contact ruh-tr.RNHRDCCLERSinfo@nhs.net or visit www.crpsandcancerlateeffects-bath.org.

Increasing Uptake of Cervical Screening – LGBTIQ+ Community:

As part of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance 8-point plan for health inequalities, we are beginning a new project to increase the uptake of cervical screening in patients from the LGBTIQ+ community. One of the first steps we need to make, is creating open, inclusive and understanding spaces that feel safer for both our LGBTIQ+ patient population and our GP Practice staff.

To start this process, we would like to understand the reasons or concerns GP Practice staff may have that make them feel less confident to interact with, manage and care for patients from the LGBTIQ+ community. To capture this, we have created a MS Forms for you to feedback anonymously. Please note, it may ask you to sign in, however it does not capture or record your email address or name. The questionnaire should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete <https://forms.office.com/e/L5yHEi57J7>. We are capturing this information to ascertain any training gaps and whether additional training and / or opportunities can be tailored and offered to our GP Practice workforce.

Please could you complete this form by **Thursday 10th April 2025**. In the meantime, if you have any queries about this project, please contact Kerry Sirrell, Senior Project Manager, rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net

Welcome to the East Midlands Cancer Alliance March edition of our newsletter. Please find the link below:



Cancer Bus Tour:

A double-decker bus has started touring Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent during March and April. This is to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and at the same time, encourage people to visit their GP for potentially life-saving checks if they notice something unusual. West Midlands Cancer Alliance has been supporting the tour of the Cancer Bus with members of the team visiting the bus assisting the team already working on the bus. The bus has already visited other areas in the West Midlands like the Black Country and Shropshire. Further tours will take place soon.



GatewayC:

GatewayC's March communications are now available to download via the [Campaign Resource Hub](#). You will find a range of comms assets to help in promoting GatewayC's educational offerings during ovarian, prostate, colorectal and brain awareness months in March. You can also use these assets to help for any wider campaigns in promoting cancer education to your primary care networks. Please ensure to select the correct country, as this will show the appropriate assets for your region

Leukaemia Care Policy Update:

We are sharing updates on various projects that we are currently working on that you or your colleague may be interested in. Key topics that we are currently focussed on:

- **Standards of Care** - improving patients' experience of non-clinical care.
- **Community Pharmacy** – supporting efforts to understand the role community pharmacists in the earlier diagnosis of leukaemia.
- **Emergency Presentation Data** – exploring potential proxy measurements for monitoring improvements in non-stageable cancers such as leukaemia.

If you or any of your colleagues have an interest in these subjects, then **please do not hesitate to reach out to us** at policy@leukaemiacare.org.uk

We would like to highlight our Standards of Care project, which aims to improve patients' experience of care in your area, as well as helping hospital teams advocate for increased support and resources.

Standards of Care: Improving Leukaemia Patients Experience of Care

As part of our [#MyCNSMatters](#) campaign, we have been looking at improving patients experience of care. **We'd like your input on how to make this a reality.**

Last year, we published a report which outlined existing barriers to good patient care following focus groups with CNSs and patients. From this research, we concluded that defining the needs of patients and how the CNS and wider care team fits into this is needed before progress can be made on addressing the inequitable access to support. For some background, you can read more from our 2024 report [here](#).

We are now currently engaging with bodies such as the British Society of Haematology (BSH), the UK Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS), other healthcare professionals, and leukaemia patients to co-develop a set of standards which outline the level of care all patients with leukaemia should receive, as well as outlining the role of care team members in delivering this care.

We believe that these standards could be used as a foundation for helping policy makers, Leukaemia Care and hospital teams advocate for increased support and resources in areas where care standards may be difficult to achieve. Whilst the health system is under a lot of strain and undergoing significant change in many places, this remains a vital issue to be resolved to provide true person-centred care. We hope you will support our efforts.

If you or any of your colleagues would like more information or to be involved in our Standards of Care project, then please reach out to us at policy@leukaemiare.org.uk

Ovarian cancer awareness resources:

The Gynaecology ODN has been working with target ovarian cancer to increase awareness amongst patients and primary care clinicians of ovarian cancer symptoms and signs for the month of March and have produced the following resources:

- A communications pack to support contacts in using the resources provided
- A GP support pack to update your primary care colleagues on the project and enable them to update their knowledge of ovarian cancer
- Symptoms graphic for Facebook, X and your primary care websites.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:77b02485-c365-4d2a-bee2-c9f7c8de9fc1>
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:8d62e04e-9c00-45e5-8cde-26c6ed614f18>

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Please could you complete this form by **Thursday 10th April 2025**. In the meantime, if you have any queries about this project, please contact Kerry Sirrell, Senior Project Manager, rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net Thank you very much for your time and help.

NEW Acute Oncology University Module: Booking Now Open!

We are pleased to announce a brand new **online Acute Oncology module** with Birmingham City University. This module is designed for multidisciplinary healthcare workers involved in caring for adult patients who access acute oncology services. The module provides the opportunity to learn about the skills required to recognise acute oncological emergencies and know how to access support and advice. The module is aligned with the Acute Oncology Passport and ACCEND Framework. The module is:

- Worth 20 credits
- Available at level 6 (degree) and level 7 (masters)
- Starts 28th April 2025
- Taught and assessed completely online
- Flexible study at a place, pace and time to suit the learner

For further information please contact appliedcancerpractice@bcu.ac.uk or to register for a place go to: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/applied-cancer-practice-2024-25> and select the Acute Oncology Module.

CancerData Hub Now Live:

We are pleased to announce that the [CancerData Hub](#) is now live! The old CancerData website has been decommissioned, and all content has been successfully migrated to the new NDRS website.

The CancerData website was decommissioned in December. For those looking for specific information that was previously available on the old CancerData website, it has been archived as of November 2024 and can be accessed via the [National Archive website](#).

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

4 th April 2025:	MSCC, AO & CUP EAG
7 th April 2025:	WMLCN – West Midlands Lead Cancer Nurse Forum
8 th April 2025:	SACT EAG
10 th April 2025:	Teenage, Young People & Adults EAG
16 th April 2025:	Primary Care EAG
1 st May 2025:	Psychosocial EAG
9 th May 2025:	Head and Neck EAG
15 th May 2025:	Cancer Trust Managers & Lead Nurses Meeting

16 th May 2025:	Brain and CNS EAG
22 nd May 2025:	SACT EAG
29 th May 2025:	Psychosocial 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>

Personalised Care Partnership Conference:

Date: 11th April 2025

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Location: University Hospitals Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Lecture Theatre 2

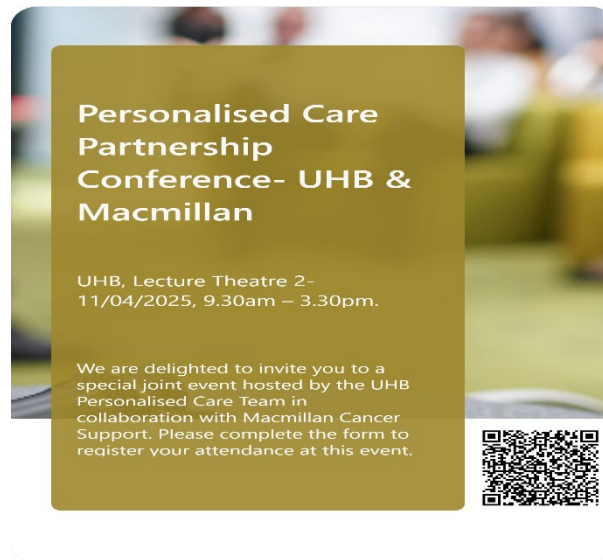
RSVP by: 28th February 2025

We are delighted to invite you to a special joint event hosted by the Personalised Care Team at University Hospitals Birmingham (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support. This gathering will showcase the significant strides we have made in implementing personalised cancer care within our trust and the wider community.

Everyone's experience of cancer is unique, and we know that a diagnosis impacts all aspects of life beyond just the physical issues related to treatment. Whatever a person's cancer journey looks like, we are there to help them access high-quality care and support so that they can live as well and independently as possible. We value your input and support in our journey to provide the best possible care for patients and we would like to work with you to help strengthen our shared commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of the communities we serve.

Why Attend?

- Learn about the work we have achieved with our clinical teams to enhance personalised care.
- Understand the positive impact on patient experience and outcome.
- Learn about how we are addressing health inequalities and how we can work together to create an integrated care approach.
- Network with key stakeholders, healthcare professionals and community partners committed to advancing personalised care.
- Engage in discussions on the future of personalised care and explore collaborative efforts.



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**
- MSCC AO & CUP EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Head and Neck EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Gynae EAG **Deputy Chair**
- SACT 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 11th April 2025.**

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

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