

An update from the West Midlands Cancer Alliance



August 2025

Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest cancer events, updates and projects happening throughout the West Midlands. Please feel free to share this newsletter within your teams. If you would like to submit an article for a future newsletter, please contact angela.gould1@nhs.net.

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In the spotlight

All aboard! Cancer Awareness Bus tour restarts

Residents across the West Midlands are being urged to hop on board and learn more about the importance of cancer screening, as the Cancer Awareness Bus tour resumes this September.

Calling at stops across Coventry and Warwickshire, Birmingham and Solihull and Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and the Black Country, the mobile bus aims to bring accessible health services and information into neighbourhoods across the Midlands.

A full timetable of the bus tours can be found [here](#).



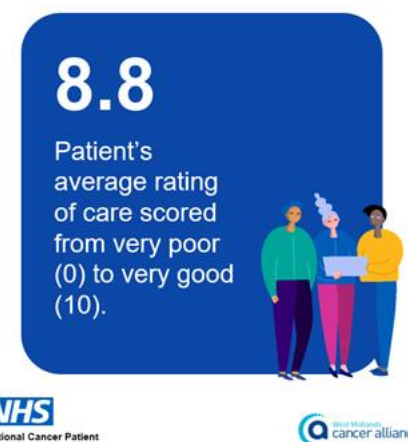
Latest news

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) results published

The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) results for 2024 were published on Thursday 17 July 2025.

The survey asks for feedback from cancer patients (16 years and over) to help inform and improve local cancer services across England.

Across the West Midlands, patients gave an average overall care rating of **8.8 out of 10**, which is considered very positive and reflects strong performance across many Trusts. Find out more [here](#).



Operational Performance update

National performance data for June 2025 was published on Thursday 14 August.

June saw good progress towards the March 2026 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) target of 80% compliance. Performance during June was reported as 76.2%, up 1.8% on the previous month and marginally behind national performance of 76.8%.

Similar improvements were witnessed in 62-day Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) with WMCA performance reported as 64.3%, up 1.3% on the previous month. In comparison, national performance in June was down 0.7% compared to May, to 67.1%. As a result, WMCA has narrowed the gap to national performance to 2.8%.

For context, WMCA performance was 10.1% behind national performance 18 months ago. This improvement equates to 251 more patients receiving cancer treatment within 62 days in June 2025 than they would have done in December 2023

We continue to work closely with our systems and providers to support the required performance improvement. Our team have been visiting trusts across the West Midlands to map pathways, share best practice and develop improvement plans. In addition, NHSE have developed a new checklist of 10 key actions (attached) to help drive improvement within organisations/systems.

Supporting the psychosocial needs of older people with cancer

The 'Positive Practice Guide to Meeting the Psychosocial Needs of Older People with Cancer' was officially approved by our Clinical Cabinet on 4 July 2025.

This evidence-based guide is a significant step forward in addressing the unique emotional, psychological, and social needs of older adults affected by cancer.

Access the document by clicking [here](#).

Extra dates added for 'An Introduction to LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Cancer Care' webinars

Following the success of our June webinar series, we're now offering additional 'Introduction to LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Cancer Care' sessions to our primary and secondary care workforce.

Each hour long session will be led by [OUTpatients](#), the UK's LGBTIQ+ cancer charity, and session content will be useful to both clinical and non-clinical colleagues.

Click [here](#) for the webinar timetable and to book your space.

Clinical Cabinet documents

The following documents were recently ratified at our July Clinical Cabinet:

Lung Cancer Screening (LCS) Incidental Findings:

- [LCS Incidental Findings Pathways \(PowerPoint\)](#)
- [Letter to patients with mild coronary artery calcification \(CAC\)](#)
- [Letter to patients with moderate coronary artery calcification \(CAC\)](#)
- [Letter to patients with severe coronary artery calcification \(CAC\)](#)
- [Letter to GP's regarding coronary artery calcification \(CAC\)](#)
- [Letter to Primary Care regarding patients with Emphysema](#)
- [WMCA agreed Incidental Findings pathways \(Excel\)](#)

Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT)

- [Guideline for the use of Antiemetics in Adults receiving Anticancer Drug Therapy](#)
- [Guideline for the use of Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor \(GCSF\) in adult patients](#)
- [Guidance for the use and management of Systemic Anticancer Therapy in adult patients](#)
- [Scalp cooling guidelines for adult oncology patients](#)

Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression, Acute Oncology and Cancer of Unknown Primary (MSCC, AO and CUP)



- [Malignancy of Unknown Origin and Cancer of Unknown Primary MDT Referral Proforma](#)

Find us on Facebook!

We now have a dedicated Facebook page to help us support cancer campaigns at a local, regional and national level. On this platform, we'll be sharing summaries of the good work happening across the Midlands, local cancer events and drop-ins, and signs and symptoms campaigns to help support the earlier diagnosis of cancer.

Follow us by clicking [here!](#)



Coming soon

Enhancing cancer care through industry collaboration

West and East Midlands Cancer Alliances are working together to create a coordinated forum for multiple industry partners to work together to improve cancer pathways, avoiding fragmentation and duplication.

More detail will follow shortly so watch this space!



What's happening?

West Midlands Health Innovation Fund

The West Midlands Health Innovation Fund provides grant-based funding to support the adoption and spread of innovation across the West Midlands health and care system.

The fund is being delivered in collaboration with South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust, Aston University and Keele University. Applications to the fund are open until 19 September 2025.

Find out more [here](#).

If you have any questions, you can email the Innovation Fund team directly at: innovationfund@healthinnovationwm.org.



Living with and Beyond Cancer (LWBC) Share and Learn Webinar - Prehabilitation and Pre-treatment Interventions

The next LWBC Share and Learn Webinar will be held on 11 September (11:30am – 1:00pm) and will focus on Prehabilitation and Pre-treatment Interventions.

The webinar will have a range of speakers and there will also be an opportunity to learn more about the new Macmillan clinical and implementation guidelines.

Registration is now open via this [link](#). Please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested in attending.



Aspirant Cancer Career and Education Development (ACCEND) survey results published

The findings of the Aspirant Cancer Career and Education Development (ACCEND) NHS cancer workforce in England survey have recently been published.

The survey was launched to collect information to help inform and support the continued development and implementation of the ACCEND programme, which was established to provide a clear, structured framework for the education, training, and career development of supportive and assistive staff, registered nurses, allied health professionals (AHP), psychologists and pharmacists working in cancer care. [Find out more](#).



Somerset Cancer Register – RMS Active Surveillance

The Somerset Cancer Register (SCR) team have recently introduced a new Active Surveillance referral form within their Remote Monitoring System (RMS). This [3-minute video](#) provides an overview of its key features.

For further information, please email cancerreg@somersetft.nhs.uk.



Community of Practice Sharing Event: Community Diagnostic Centre and Cancer Alliance Network Gynaecology Pathways

NHS Elect are excited to welcome you to their upcoming Community of Practice Share and Learn event focused on Gynaecology Pathways. This virtual event has been scheduled for Tuesday 2 September (11:30am - 12:45pm).

This session is designed to bring together colleagues involved in developing and implementing these pathways within the community, fostering collaboration and shared learning.

Dr Sue Mann, National Clinical Director for Women's Health, will be joining to provide a national update on women's health priorities and the integration of gynaecology pathways within the CDC framework. You will also hear insights from Finchley Memorial CDC colleagues on their new direct access pathways for unscheduled bleeding on HRT and from Cancer Alliance colleagues on coordinating the implementation of these pathways locally. You can register for the session [here](#).

NHS England Head and Neck Cancer Service Specification

NHS England would like to seek your views on proposed changes to the specialised Head and Neck Cancer Service Specification. These have been recommended by the Specialised Commissioning Cancer Programme of Care.

This service specification replaces the [Cancer Head and Neck \(Adults\) Service Specification](#) published in 2013. View the revised draft service specification which outlines the changes that are being proposed by clicking [here](#). You may also wish to read the [equality and health inequalities assessment \(EHIA\)](#).

Please submit your feedback by using this [form](#) by 17 September 2025.

For your information

New cervical screening pilot launches in Wolverhampton

A new pilot programme has been launched in Wolverhampton to boost cervical screening rates among young women and people with a cervix, to improve early detection and save lives.

Embrace, the city's sexual health service, is offering new sessions to encourage individuals — particularly those aged 25 to 34 who are overdue for their cervical screening — to attend their test.

The appointments will take place across the three Embrace clinics which are Fowler Centre, West Park Hospital, and Bilston Health Centre and provide an alternative to booking an appointment through a GP. [Find out more](#).

NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme

The NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme has received almost 35,000 registrations to date and has delivered over 20,000 BRCA test results. This will enable people found with pathogenic variant genes to access life-saving NHS treatment and screening pathways.

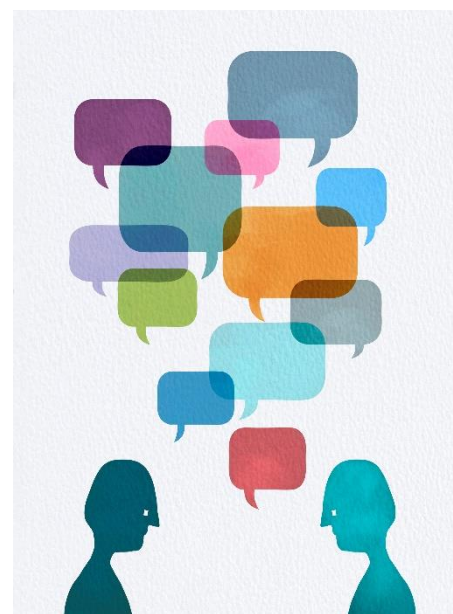
The programme will close for new registrations on Friday 31st October 2025. Eligible people who want to access testing on the current pathway are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible via the [website](#). For more information, please contact susana.lukic@nhs.net.

Head and neck cancer patients in Birmingham to be given access to new cancer vaccine trial

Patients in Birmingham who have advanced head and neck cancers may be eligible to take part in a new clinical trial of a potential cancer vaccine.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, part of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), is one of 15 sites across the country where the trial is running. [Find out more](#).

Reminder: National Cancer Manager Network Conference



The National Cancer Programme is hosting its annual National Cancer Manager Network Conference on Tuesday 14 October 2025.

Cancer Managers from across England will have the opportunity to network with one another and share learnings. This year's conference is taking place in the Midlands at the Leicester Tigers Rugby Club (10:00am -16:15pm, with registration from 9am). One of the highlights will be hearing from colleagues at the Royal Wolverhampton Trust

Tickets are available [here](#). At present, tickets are available for up to two attendees per Trust and are limited to those currently in a cancer management role. If tickets sell out, please email england.cancerperformance@nhs.net to be added to the cancellation list.



Upcoming events

Upcoming Expert Advisory Group (EAG) meetings

Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) provide specialist advice and guidance to the WMCA board on the standards of cancer care for patient, reflecting 'Improving Outcomes Guidance' recommendations, current best practice and opportunities for development.

Please see the below details of upcoming EAG meetings:

4 September	Children's EAG
9 September	Neuroendocrine Tumours (NET) EAG
9 September	Urology EAG
10 September	Primary Care EAG
11 September	Teenage and Young Adults (TYA) EAG
11 September	Psychosocial EAG
12 September	Head and Neck EAG
12 September	Brain & Central Nervous System (CNS) EAG
17 September	Lower Gastrointestinal (GI) Colorectal EAG
18 September	Upper GI EAG
19 September	Radiotherapy EAG
24 September	Haematology EAG
25 September	Skin EAG

Please note that these meetings are for EAG Members only. For more information about joining these meetings, please email: rw-h-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net.

*Please note that dates are correct at time of publication



Development opportunities and additional learning

Check out our new Cancer Academy

Our [Cancer Academy](#) is a centralised platform designed to support lifelong learning for our current, and future, cancer workforce. Designed for our entire cancer workforce, our courses and extensive resources are aimed at enhancing your knowledge and helping you stay skilled and up to date in all things cancer care.

Upcoming training can be found [here](#).

September's offer includes:

- Improving early cancer diagnosis through clinical vigilance, practical education, and digital decision support
- An Introduction to LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Cancer Care
- Awareness Training to improve access to NHS screening programmes for people with a learning disability, autistic people, and those living with severe mental illness.



Campaigns

Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month 2025

Ovarian cancer is the second most common gynaecological cancer in the UK, yet awareness remains critically low.

Research shows that 40% of women wrongly believe that cervical screening detects ovarian cancer. This misconception, along with a lack of symptoms awareness, means many women are at risk of late diagnosis - often when the disease is harder to treat.

Here's how you can help to bust myths this month:

- Update local cervical screening messaging to align with [national guidance](#), making clear what the test does and doesn't detect
- Order [ovarian cancer awareness materials](#) from Target Ovarian Cancer
- Update your knowledge of ovarian cancer, with Target Ovarian Cancer's [healthcare professional learning](#)
- If you work in Primary Care, ensure everyone in your practice is aware of the [limitations of cervical screening](#), and how to take action on disclosure of symptoms of possible ovarian cancer.



September spotlight

September also marks Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Hereditary Cancer Awareness Week, Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month and Urological Cancer Awareness Month.



Be sure to check out [GatewayC's campaign hub](#) for shareable resources to support key messaging around early cancer diagnosis and national campaigns.

Vacancies

WMCA Expert Advisory Group (EAG) recruitment:

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance are currently recruiting to vacancies for a number of Expert Advisory Groups (EAG's).

See the full list of vacancies [here](#).

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](#) 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.

LGBTIQ+ Patient Advocate recruitment

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) are looking for LGBTIQ+ 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.



External newsletters

Please find a list of external newsletters you may be interested in accessing:

- Read the latest East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) newsletter [here](#)
- Read the West Midlands Imaging Network's weekly round up [here](#)
- Read the Central and South Genomics newsletter [here](#)
- Request to join the Midlands Outpatient Transformation Programme workspace [here](#)
- Sign up to the West Midlands Radiotherapy Network's quarterly newsletter [here](#)
- Sign up to Cancer Research UK's Health Systems email updates [here](#).