



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## **Issue 106: 6 February 2025**

Past editions are available on the [TVCA website here](#)

### **Contents:**

[National news](#)

[Place updates](#)

[Training and events](#)

[Patient facing resources](#)

[Useful links](#)

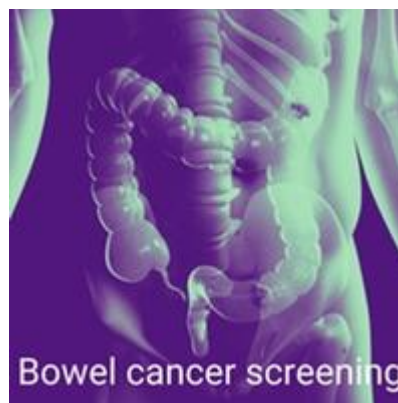
## **National news**

**Update on FIT@80 in Bowel Cancer Screening**

The UK National Screening Committee has recommended lowering the threshold for bowel cancer screening to improve early diagnosis and patient outcomes. The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme in England is planning to reduce the threshold from **120ug/gm to 80ug/gm**.

### Early Adopters

To assess practicalities, seven early adopter sites will trial the new threshold. Two sites will begin in **January 2025**, with five more by **April 2025**.



### Full Implementation

Lowering the threshold is expected to increase screening activity by **35%**, helping to diagnose **1,000 additional colorectal cancers** and prevent **7,000 high-risk adenomas** each year. Feedback from early adopters and further modelling will guide the gradual national rollout. **Next Steps**

- **Regional meetings** from January 2025 will support planning, including endoscopy transformation and training.
- **Communications** will start with a soft launch at early adopter sites, followed by wider updates as more sites go live.

A media FAQ document will also be made available. Please contact the [TVCA bulletin mailbox](#) for more.

### 'Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) Programme' renamed 'Lung Cancer Screening'

Following research recommending the change, the Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) Programme will become known as Lung Cancer Screening from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

We are circulating this update with charities, Royal Colleges and regular communications to healthcare professionals across the NHS and encourage local teams to do the same. The new logo can be [found here](#) (you will need to log -in to Futures NHS)

A huge thank you to Cancer Alliances and sites across the programme for their efforts in rolling out the programme and for accommodating this name change

### Leukaemia UK Patient Care Pioneer Award – Applications Open Soon



Leukaemia UK have announced the return of the **Patient Care Pioneer Award** in 2025. This £50,000 funding opportunity supports **innovative, patient-focused applied research** aimed at improving treatment, care, and quality of life for leukaemia patients.

Open to UK-based healthcare professionals at any career stage—especially nurses and allied healthcare professionals—the award prioritizes projects that address unmet patient needs or enhance care in underrepresented communities.

**Applications open: 10 February 2025**

**Deadline: 2 May 2025**

Find out more: [Leukaemia UK Patient Care Pioneer Award](#)

### **Short survey on how Faecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT)**

Macmillan Cancer Support invites **GP and PCN staff** to [complete a short survey](#) on how **Faecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT)** are used and recorded in primary care.

#### **Why take part?**

- Help improve **FIT access and recording**
- Support **earlier cancer detection**
- Inform future **best practices**

#### **Who can complete it?**

Any **healthcare professional** involved in FIT use.

Your input will help **Macmillan's Centre of Clinical Expertise** shape improvements in FIT processes.

For more information, contact [pzarringhalam@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:pzarringhalam@macmillan.org.uk).

### **Malignancy of unknown origin: Questionnaire for hospitals handling emergency admissions**

The UK Acute Oncology Society (UKAOS) is reviewing how patients with Malignancy of Unknown Origin (MUO) start their care journey, from emergency admission to treatment. [The questionnaire](#) is for hospitals handling emergency admissions to assess MUO services across the UK.

Key points:

- Emergency diagnosis often leads to poor outcomes.
- Many patients have advanced disease and need urgent symptom care.
- Patient experience is often poor.
- Clear care pathways and patient ownership are lacking.
- Acute Oncology Teams help improve care by offering support and guidance.

We use "Non-Specific Rapid Diagnostic Services" (NSRDS) to refer to services for abnormal imaging that may suggest cancer. Your hospital might use a different name, such as vague symptoms service or rapid diagnostic service.

If you have any questions please email [ukaos@media1productions.co.uk](mailto:ukaos@media1productions.co.uk)

### **24 Hour Triage Toolkit: Version 3 now live**

[24 Hour Triage toolkit here](#)

The triage toolkit is designed for all staff managing calls to the 24/7 triage lines.

This essential resource supports the care of patients—including teenagers and young adults—who have received or are receiving systemic anti-cancer therapy, radiotherapy, or bone marrow grafts.

The toolkit provides guidance to ensure consistent, high-quality support for patients when they need it most.

### **Lynch Syndrome Testing Survey**

The National Lynch Transformation Project team has [launched a survey](#) to assess the current state of the Lynch Syndrome testing pathway as the national program concludes.

Building on the 2021 survey, this will help track changes over time for a formal report.

Please share the survey with Lynch champions for completion. The deadline is **17 February 2025**.

---

### **Place updates**

**Resident feedback on accessing local pharmacy service (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West)**



Please promote a short survey to patients to gather feedback on how and why they access their local pharmacy service. **The survey** is quick, confidential, and open until 16 February 2025.

The feedback will:

- identify how pharmacy services meet local needs
- highlight challenges in accessing these services
- shape future improvements to ensure they meet the needs of all residents.

A digital screen slide is available to promote the survey.

If you have any questions or need more information, email [PNA@healthydialogues.co.uk](mailto:PNA@healthydialogues.co.uk).

### **Very Brief Advice Training in West Berkshire (Berkshire West)**

Smokefreelife Berkshire is offering CPD-accredited Very Brief Advice (VBA) Stop Smoking training. This course is suitable for those who come into contact with smokers to confidently ask smoking status, advise on local support and refer to Smokefreelife Berkshire. The sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams and run for one hour:

- Friday 7 February – 9am
- Friday 21 February – 9am
- Friday 7 March – 9am
- Friday 21 March – 9am

[Poster available here.](#)

### **Training and events**

## The Higher Development Award

Recruitment for cohort 3 - Higher Development Award offer from Activate Learning for the NCFE Certificate in the Principles of Team Leading Level 2.

**Additional dates** for information and Guidance (IAG) sessions for potential applicants or managers have now been added. Links attached below



- [4 February 2025 4-5pm](#)
- [7 February 2025 10-11am](#)
- [10 February 2025 2-3pm](#)

The slides attached will be discussed with detailed information about each module studied.

The deadline for Expression of interest which is within the website link - Webpage: [HDA Team Leading Level 2 Course](#) Friday 5pm on **14 February 2025**

- Enrolment form to be completed by **Friday 5pm on 26 February 2025**
- Email: [onlineadmissions@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:onlineadmissions@activatelearning.ac.uk)
- Call: 0800 612 6008

## BOB ReSPECT Q&A session recording

The ReSPECT process creates a summary of personalised recommendations for a person's clinical care in a future emergency in which they do not have capacity to make or express choices.

The recording of the BOB ReSPECT Q&A session on 12 December 2024 is available via our [BOB ICB ReSPECT Sharepoint](#) page, where you can find further information and resources regarding the ReSPECT roll out in BOB.

For any further questions not addressed in these resources, please contact the PEoLC team on [bobicb-bw.palliativeandendoflifecare@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-bw.palliativeandendoflifecare@nhs.net).

## National Cancer Services Networks

The National Cancer Manager and MDT Coordinator Networks are keen to welcome anyone in these roles within secondary care providers to join or learn more.

Please share [this poster](#) with relevant teams.

For more details, contact [england.cancerperformance@nhs.net](mailto:england.cancerperformance@nhs.net).

## Physical Activity Resources

The **South East London Cancer Alliance (SELCA)** has developed **free physical activity resources** to support cancer patients, carers, and healthcare professionals. These include:

- **Patient Module** – A self-guided resource for staying active during and after treatment. [Access here.](#)
- **Professional Top Tips** – Practical advice for healthcare teams. [View here.](#)

These resources can be adopted by any Alliance or Trust. If using them, please inform the team at [active.you@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:active.you@gstt.nhs.uk) to support evaluation and updates. More resources, including translations and chair-based exercises, will be shared soon.

## Patient facing resources

### World Cancer Day was 4 February



The theme of the campaign over the next 3 years is **"United by Unique"** and emphasizes the importance of personalized care and treatments, ensuring that each person receives support tailored to their individual needs.

You can view our press release in the News section on the TVCA website here: [World Cancer Day](#)

Find videos and stories on social media - take a look and give us a follow! [@ThamesV\\_Cancer](#)

### Kidney Cancer Awareness Week

Kidney Cancer Awareness Week is **3 to 7 February**. Kidney Cancer UK, has developed a range of resources to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of the disease, including a poster for patient waiting areas and community settings.

Find them here: [Kidney Cancer Awareness Week 2025](#)

### Raising Awareness of Brain Tumour Symptoms in Children & Young People

Please share and promote **Better Safe than Tumour**, a vital campaign raising awareness of brain tumour symptoms in children, young people, and adults.

The **Brain Tumour Charity** provides:

- Information on key symptoms like persistent headaches, nausea, balance issues, and vision changes

Tools and guides to help assess symptoms and determine when to seek medical attention

- Symptom pages tailored by age group:

[Babies \(under 5 years\)](#)

[Children \(5-11 years\)](#)

[Teenagers \(12-18 years\)](#)

Find materials and more info at: [Better Safe than Tumour](#)

### Useful links

You will need to log-in to Futures NHS or set up your account.

- **Cancer Waiting Times Performance:** [Monthly performance reports](#) to October 2024
- **Personalised Care Data Report:** [2024/25 Personalised Care data reports - Cancer Alliances Workspace - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- **Catalogue of Support:** [Catalogue of Support - Cancer Alliances Workspace - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)



If you have a TVCA Bulletin article you would like to share, just get in touch with us at:

[bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net)

[Manage my Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe all updates](#)

