



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 111: 17 April 2025

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

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## National news

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### New NHS skin cancer vaccine trial opens

The NHS is expanding its Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP) with a new phase II trial for advanced melanoma patients. The *SCOPE* trial will test iSCIB1+—a novel, DNA-based skin cancer vaccine developed by Scancell, delivered needle-free to boost immune response alongside immunotherapy.

Unlike personalised vaccines, iSCIB1+ targets melanoma-specific markers, aiming to train T cells to recognise and attack cancer cells, reducing recurrence risk.

The trial is now recruiting at seven NHS sites, with more to follow. Patients require HLA tissue typing to assess eligibility.

Clinicians are encouraged to refer suitable patients. Participating hospitals will benefit from strengthened research infrastructure and improved access to cutting-edge treatments.

Full article here: [NHS England » Early cancer diagnosis in England reaches highest ever level](#)

### **Cervical cancer elimination plan**



NHS England has published the [Cervical cancer elimination by 2040 – plan for England](#), setting out how the NHS will improve equitable uptake and coverage across HPV vaccination and cervical screening to move towards eliminating cervical cancer by 2040.

The report outlines how the NHS will build on what is already working well to drive vaccination and screening uptake and coverage, focusing on five cross-cutting themes: increasing access, raising awareness, reducing inequalities, improving digital capabilities and strengthening workforce capacity.

### **Evaluation report published for the Lung Cancer Screening Programme**

Ipsos UK, in partnership with the NHS Strategy Unit, evaluated the NHS England Lung Cancer Screening Programme (2019–2024). The study assessed whether positive results from earlier pilots held true at scale in real-world NHS settings. The full report can be found [here](#).

### **Community Pharmacy Bank Holiday opening times**

Pharmacy opening times for the Easter Bank Holiday across the Southeast of England have now been published and are available [here](#).

Pharmacies are only listed if they have notified NHS England that they will be open.

A map of the pharmacies that will be open on the Bank Holiday can be found [here](#).

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### **Alliance updates**

## Signposting and improving access to regular dental care

From 1 April, some local NHS dental practices are offering urgent appointments for:

- Patients needing clinical care within 24 hours (or as soon as possible). **This includes cancer patients with a surgery coming up or with another clinical need.**
- Those needing treatment within 7 days, unless symptoms worsen

More info here: [Dental services information](#)

Please help spread the word to eligible people and communities who may benefit from improved access to dental services.

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## Training and events

### Free CPD webinar from CoppaFeel!

Looking to organise a CPD session for your team, group or study day?

CoppaFeel!, the youth-focused breast cancer awareness charity, offers free breast awareness webinars tailored for healthcare professionals.

Sessions are designed to support your role and can be scheduled at a date and time to suit you.

Learn more and enquire here: [CoppaFeel! CPD Webinars](#)

### UKONS annual conference 2025 – Call for abstracts



UKONS members are invited to submit abstracts for poster and oral presentations at the 2025 Annual Conference, themed '*Celebrating the Inspirational in Cancer Nursing*'.

There are 4 themes for submissions:

- Clinical Practice
- Education & Training
- Leadership & Management
- Audit & Innovation

Submit your abstract [here](#).

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## **Patient facing resources**

### **Breast cancer resources available now**

Breast Cancer Leaflets in 7 Languages

Free, easy-to-share leaflets from CoppaFeel! in Arabic, Bengali, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Urdu & Welsh. Covers signs, symptoms & chest checking. [Download or order here](#)



LD-Friendly Cancer Resources

Easy-read tools for people with learning disabilities, covering breast/testicular cancer, symptoms, and self-checking. [Read more and download here](#)

Pregnancy & Breast Cancer

New booklet for pregnant/breastfeeding women on spotting signs and checking confidently. [Read more and download here](#)

### **Patient Experience Week - 28 April to 2 May**

This annual celebration shines a light on the individuals and teams who make a real difference to patient care every day. It's a chance to reflect, recognise and re-energise.

This year's theme, Building the Foundations of Experience, focuses on the vital role every interaction plays in shaping the patient journey — from clinical care to everyday kindness.

Look out for and share our social media posts next week!

### **New UKHSA campaign: Keep Antibiotics Working**



UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has launched a fresh digital campaign to tackle antibiotic resistance, aimed at 18–34-year-olds. Fronted by a new character, *Andi Biotic*, the campaign debunks common myths and builds on the success of the 2018 initiative.

A communications toolkit is available to help you promote the campaign. It includes key messages, suggested copy, social media assets, posters, and

more.

- Access the toolkit via the UKHSA [GoogleDrive](#).
- Share the latest [UKHSA blog on AMR](#) with your networks.
- Questions or feedback? Contact: [externalaffairs@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:externalaffairs@ukhsa.gov.uk)



**Training  
and events**



**Campaign  
materials**



**TVCA  
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