



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 113: 15 May 2025

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

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## National news

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### New 5-minute cancer injection available on the NHS

The NHS is the first in Europe to roll out a new 5-minute injection for cancer treatment. The injectable form of nivolumab (immunotherapy) will benefit around 1,200 patients per month in England, covering 15 cancer types including skin, bladder, and oesophageal cancers.

The new jab significantly reduces treatment time—from up to an hour via IV to just five minutes—freeing up clinical capacity and reducing hospital visits for patients.

## [More info on cancer jab](#)

### **Men's Health Strategy for England: call for evidence**

The government is seeking input to shape a new Men's Health Strategy for England. This call for evidence invites views from the public, health and social care professionals, academics, employers, and organisations, with a focus on the lived experiences of those affected by men's health issues.

Key points:

- Men face higher risks from conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes
- Men's average life expectancy in England is 4 years less than women's
- This is an open request for ideas and evidence, not a consultation on proposals
- Open to individuals aged 16+ living in England and organisations operating in England
- Easy read and BSL versions will be available soon
- The call will be open for 12 weeks once published

## [Read more about the Men's Health Strategy](#)

### **Implementation of robotic-assisted surgery (RAS)**



The NHS England and GIRFT guide on implementation of robotic-assisted surgery has now been published [here](#) on the GIRFT website.

## Alliance updates

### Free gardening programme for health and wellbeing

*Life Changers* is a free, 4-month programme from Thrive for people living with or recovering from long-term conditions (e.g. stroke, cancer, MS, Long Covid). No gardening experience needed.

Benefits include improved wellbeing, confidence, and social connection through gentle, practical gardening activities.

**Tuesdays, 10:30–3:30, Beech Hill, Reading, RG7 2AT**

To book contact:

- Tel: 0118 988 4844
- Email: [Trunkwell@thrive.org.uk](mailto:Trunkwell@thrive.org.uk)

	<p>Tuesdays 10:30am - 3:30pm</p>
<p><b>Life Changers Therapeutic Gardening with Thrive Reading</b></p>	
<p><b>Register your interest</b></p>	
<p>Life Changers is a <b>free</b> four-month gardening programme designed for those living with life-changing illness or injury to enable them to improve their health and wellbeing.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience the joy of gardening and nature</li> <li>• Support your health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel active, build confidence and independence</li> <li>• Socialise with others</li> <li>• Learn new gardening skills</li> </ul>
<p>Thrive, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, RG7 2AT</p>	<p>0118 988 4844 <a href="mailto:trunkwell@thrive.org.uk">trunkwell@thrive.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.thrive.org.uk/lifechangers">www.thrive.org.uk/lifechangers</a></p>

### **Aria upgrade provisional date (Aria closure)**

Please pencil in Aria upgrade for weekend 27 to 30 June. The dates will be confirmed during the week beginning 19 May.

If it goes ahead, Aria will not be accessible from midday on Friday 27 June and will reopen at midday on Monday 30 June

Therefore:

- All prescriptions, for any patients requiring treatment between Friday 27 June and Tuesday 1 July, will need to have been prescribed far enough in advance on Aria to give sufficient time that all prescriptions have been screened by a pharmacist and printed off prior to midday on Friday 27 June
- All prescriptions for Friday 27 June until Tuesday 1 July inclusive will need to have been printed off (or saved as a pdf to allow them to be printed) in advance of Friday 27 June by the Trust.
- Any treatments administered during the period of closure will need to be recorded on the printed paper prescription and then marked as administered on Aria retrospectively.
- Please start to plan treatments and schedules etc within your Trusts to accommodate this closure.

**Buckingham Palace reception honours cancer support work**



Slough resident Sbbba Siddique was honoured with a very special invitation to an event at Buckingham Palace by their majesties The King and Queen in honour of community based cancer support.

This recognition highlights the powerful impact of compassionate, community-driven cancer support.

More here: [BBC News Article](#)

*Pic of Sbbba by @dmay\_photography*

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## Training and events

### Genomics module – applications open for September

The 15-credit Genomics education module for healthcare professionals will run again from September 2025.

Now in its 6th cohort (213 participants to date), early survey results show significant impact:

- Improved confidence in applying genomics to practice
- Better communication with patients and colleagues
- Increased awareness of ethical and clinical pathways
- Development of nurse-led genomic services, reducing wait times and cost

[Apply here for genomic module](#)

### Innovation in prostate surgery

Join Health Innovation Oxford & the University of Oxford for a webinar on AI, new diagnostics, and surgical advances improving prostate cancer care.

**Date:** Wednesday 21 May

**Time:** 12.30 – 2pm

Ideal for clinicians, NHS leaders, and anyone involved in prostate cancer services.

[Register here](#)

### **Safe learning environment charter- sharing of good practice**

Join a free one-day event on the NHS England Safe Learning Environment Charter (SLEC), a framework supporting healthcare learners across professions.

Highlights:

- Insights from the NHSE South West team who developed SLEC
- Success stories from medical education and the University of Surrey
- Networking with learners, educators, and NHS partners
- Ideas for implementing SLEC in your services

**Date:** Wednesday, 2nd July 2025

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 4 PM

**Location:** University of Surrey, Stag Hill Campus, Guildford, GU2 7HX  
(10-minute walk from Guildford Station; free campus parking available)

Register by 29 May: [Registration link here](#)

### **Skin cancer awareness month – Key information for primary care**

90% of skin cancers are caused by sun exposure. This includes long-term exposure, short intense periods, and sunburn.

As part of skin cancer awareness month in May, we're sharing guidance to support primary care teams in:

- Identifying high-risk patients
- Providing effective sun safety and prevention advice
- Encouraging patients to monitor their skin regularly

[Skin cancer info here](#)

**Cancer waiting times - guidance v12.1 webinar**

The webinar will highlight key changes in guidance from v12.0 to v12.1 and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask any questions they may have about application prior to 1 July.

Open to anyone working in NHS providers, ICBs, Cancer Alliances, and NHSE Regional teams.

Join on MS Teams using a link below:

- **Monday 2 June**, 3-4pm: [Join the meeting now](#)
- **Wednesday 11 June**, 10-11am: [Join the meeting now](#)

### **Unscheduled vaginal bleeding: when to investigate in primary care**

Do you know when to investigate unscheduled vaginal bleeding?

While often benign, timely investigation is vital to avoid delayed cancer diagnosis.

Our latest Cancer Key covers bleeding patterns on HRT and contraception, risk factors, and referral guidance for suspected malignancy.

[Read more here](#)

### **Elective Care Cancer Pathway management course – Cohort 4**

NHS staff are invited to join the updated, self-paced online course on cancer pathway management, reflecting the latest Cancer Waiting Time guidance (v12.1).

- Four 1-hour modules over six weeks
- CPD-accredited (6 points)
- Open to new and past participants

Register or log in at the [QI Learning Platform](#) to enrol.

Questions? Email [england.eeci@nhs.net](mailto:england.eeci@nhs.net) (subject: “Cancer Pathway MOOC”)

### **2025 UK Oncology Forum**

The 2025 UK Oncology Forum will be held on **Thursday 12 and Friday 13 June** at the **Harrogate Convention Centre, King’s Road, HG1 5LA**.

All Cancer Alliances are invited to attend and can register for free via the provided link. Attendance and exhibiting a stand are optional and free, with costs limited to travel and accommodation.

Feedback from last year's Brighton event highlighted it as a valuable networking opportunity to explore new technologies and connect with professional and third-sector colleagues.

The event is especially relevant for Cancer Alliance core teams or site-specific group leads.

For more info, contact West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance at [wyicb-wak.wyandhcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:wyicb-wak.wyandhcanceralliance@nhs.net)

[Register here for the oncology forum](#)

### **New Community of Practice for GPs – launching July 2025**

Macmillan is launching a UK-wide Community of Practice (CoP) for GPs and GP trainees, offering a supportive space for learning, networking, and discussion on cancer and primary care topics.

- Bi-monthly webinars via MS Teams
- Expert-led sessions and peer learning
- Open to GPs and trainees across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Event info:

**Date:** Wednesday 16 July

**Time:** 1.30–2.30pm

[Email to find out more](#)

### **UKONS member update – May 2025**

#### **UKONS awards 2025 – nominations open**

**Deadline:** Friday 27 June

**Presentation:** November, UKONS 20th Conference, Birmingham

Nominate yourself or a colleague under one of the **four pillars**: Clinical, Education, Research, Leadership.

**Eligibility:** UKONS members (excluding current/former Board members)

**Notification:** Finalists informed by Friday 22 August

**Submit to:** [UKONS@media1productions.co.uk](mailto:UKONS@media1productions.co.uk)

[Download nomination form and FAQs here](#)

### **AskRCNi – Free AI Tool for Nurses**

A new tool giving evidence-based answers sourced from RCNi journals.

**Free Access:** 5 questions/month

**Subscribers:** Unlimited access

**Try it:** [ask.rcni.com](http://ask.rcni.com)

### **Prostate cancer care course for advanced practitioners**

**Start Date:** 2 June 2025

**Format:** Online learning

**Apply:** [guyscanceracademy.co.uk/prostate-cancer-care](http://guyscanceracademy.co.uk/prostate-cancer-care)

### **GatewayC blood cancers webinar**

**Date:** Wednesday 21 May

**Time:** 7–8pm

**Topic:** Early signs, diagnosis, safety-netting

**Register:** [Blood cancers webinar](#)

### **Metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC) therapy selection webinar**

**Date:** Tuesday 17 June

**Time:** 12.30–1.30pm

**Speaker:** Prof. Giuseppe Luigi Banna.

Includes evidence summary and treatment pathways.

Healthcare professionals can [book a free place here](#)

### **Royal Marsden courses & study days**

#### **Upcoming Modules:**

- 3 June: Haemato-Oncology
- 25 June: Lung Cancer
- 10 June: Lymphoedema (bursaries available)

#### **Study Days:**

- 5 June: Systemic Therapies
- 9 July: Nutrition & Cancer Myths
- 17 Sept: Exercise Oncology
- 3 Oct: Breast Cancer – What's New?

**More info/apply:** [www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk](http://www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk)

### **Appendiceal tumours – free elearning module**

For healthcare professionals in colorectal, gynae, and emergency care.  
CPD Accredited

**More info:** [Appendiceal Tumours](#)

**Contact:** [Rebecca.halstead@nhs.net](mailto:Rebecca.halstead@nhs.net)

### **Robotic-Assisted Radical Prostatectomy Webinar**

**Date:** Tuesday 20 May

**Time:** 6–7.15pm

Covers patient experience, physiotherapy, and surgical outcomes.

More info here: [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)

**Macmillan Education & Training**

### **Programmes:**

- HOPE Programme (self-guided and online)
- eLearning in Project Management
- Podcast: “With Equity, Everyone Wins”

Explore resources: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

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### **Genomics & Counselling (UWE Short Course)**

**Deadline:** Friday 30 May (noon)

**Start Date:** 12 September

**Format:** Online, with live seminar support

**Funded for eligible NHS staff**

**Apply via:** [UWE Bristol website](#)

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### **Children & Young People’s Cancer Workforce Directory**

New training and education resource (2025–2027) by CCLG.

**Download a [free copy here](#)**

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### **Patient facing resources**

**Good Practice Guide: Supporting EGFR-Positive Lung Cancer Patients**

# LUNG CANCER

## It can happen to anyone



20% of lung cancer cases are in never-smokers and this figure is rising. It's also increasingly being diagnosed in younger people. If you've been experiencing recurrent or persistent symptoms, which are unusual for you, speak to your GP and request a chest X-ray, regardless of your age or smoking history.

### What are the symptoms?

- A persistent cough
- Fatigue – feeling tired all the time
- Shortness of breath
- Hoarseness – a croaky voice
- Ongoing pain in the chest, neck, upper back or shoulder
- Unintentional weight loss
- A chest infection that won't go away/keeps coming back
- Coughing up blood
- Persistent enlarged lymph nodes around the collarbone in the neck



The [Good Practice Guide](#) helps patients with EGFR-positive Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) better understand and take part in decisions about their treatment. Most people using this guide will have been diagnosed at Stage 4.

It is based on the European Cancer Organisation's Code of Cancer Practice and highlights examples of excellent care shared by our community, guided by leading lung cancer specialists.

We have designed a [digi screen slide set](#) which you can also use in waiting rooms or other public facing areas. [If you have any issues downloading this or the poster contact [becks.smith@nhs.net](mailto:becks.smith@nhs.net)]

[Download lung cancer poster](#)



**Training  
and events**



**Campaign  
materials**



**TVCA  
website**

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)

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WITH TVCA:



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