



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 115: 12 June 2025

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National news

Exercise improves survival in colon cancer patients, study finds

A new trial shows that regular, structured exercise can improve disease-free survival in people treated for colon cancer. The CO21 CHALLENGE trial followed patients who had completed surgery and chemotherapy, assessing whether increased physical activity could reduce the risk of recurrence.

The results suggest that supported exercise programmes may play a key role in long-term recovery.

Read the [abstract here](#)

See Cancer Research UK's [summary here](#)

New guidance on SACT protocol content from the UK SACT Board



The UK SACT Board has published guidance to support healthcare professionals in writing or reviewing systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) protocols for use within organisations.

The guidance aims to standardise practice and ensure quality, but does **not replace** local governance processes for protocol approval.

The Board includes representatives from RCR, RCP, ACP, BOPA and UKONS.

Read the guidance [here](#)

Macmillan survey – help shape future support for health and care professionals

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Macmillan is running a short 15-minute anonymous survey to better understand how to support professionals working with people living with cancer—including those in non-cancer-specific roles such as Community Nurses, AHPs, Social Prescribers, and others across primary, community, and social care.

Your insights will help shape a more inclusive support model as part of Macmillan's future Membership Offer.

Closes: Friday 20 June 2025

Contact for queries: lyndel.moore@nhs.net

[Take the survey here](#)

Spring COVID-19 booster vaccinations ending soon

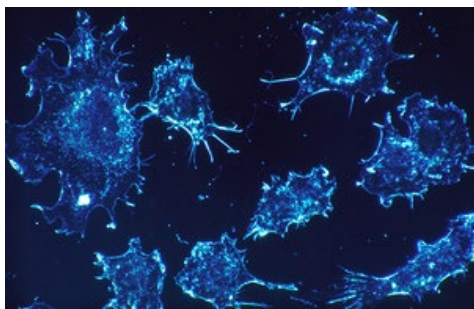
The spring COVID-19 vaccination programme ends on 17 June 2025. If you're eligible - age 75+, live in a care home for older adults, or have a weakened immune system e.g. undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy - book your booster now to reduce the risk of severe illness.

- **Last day to book online:** 16 June
- **Final day to get vaccinated:** 17 June

Book via the [NHS website](#) or check out your local [walk-in clinics](#).

Alliance updates

New radiotherapy machines to speed up cancer treatment



Thousands of cancer patients will benefit from faster treatment as 28 hospitals nationwide receive new, advanced linear accelerator (LINAC) machines. These upgrades reduce treatment delays and can cut hospital visits by up to half, helping to shorten waiting lists.

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is among the local Trusts set to receive this new equipment.

Read more: [New radiotherapy machines speed up cancer care](#)

Place updates

Community Wellbeing Service – Reading

The Reading Community Wellbeing Outreach project runs until June 2025, funded by the Integrated Care Board. It supports vulnerable communities, especially those at risk of cardiovascular disease. [More info here](#) or call 0118 304 8841.

Upcoming events & activities

- **Southcote Community Choir – Fridays, 7.30pm**
Grange United Reformed Church, RG30 3HD
Free taster sessions, no auditions. All welcome! Contact Nikki: 07708 421571 / musicalnicola@gmail.com
- **Life Changers Gardening – Tuesdays, 10.30am–3.30pm**
Thrive, Beech Hill Road, RG7 2AT
A free 4-month therapeutic gardening programme for those affected by serious illness or injury. Email: trunkwell@thrive.org.uk

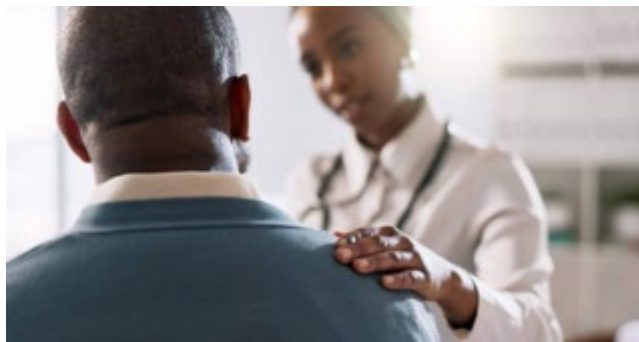
Support

Help is available for those struggling with food and energy costs through the [Household Support Fund](#).

Training and events

Why Cancer Care Reviews still matter

Cancer Care Reviews (CCRs) offer vital support for people living with cancer. These consultations—between a primary care clinician and patient—help create a personalised care plan and connect individuals with local services.



Mental health is a key focus. CCRs give patients space to talk about how they're coping emotionally and identify support for issues like anxiety, low mood, or isolation.

Though CCRs are no longer part of the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF), they remain essential for holistic, person-centred cancer care.

[More on Cancer Care Reviews here](#)

Gilead Oncology Fellowship and Medical Grants Programme – Applications now open

Gilead UK & Ireland is accepting applications for the 2025 Oncology Fellowship and Medical Grants Programme (GFP), supporting projects that aim to improve oncology care.

Funding may support:

- New diagnostic or treatment monitoring infrastructure
- Patient support tools or education
- Innovations in care pathways and PRO/quality-of-life monitoring

- Projects addressing cancer care inequalities, especially in solid tumours (priority: breast cancer)

Projects outside this scope that offer clinical value are also welcome.

Deadline: 15 August 2025

Q&A Clinic: 18 June 2025, 12.30–1.30pm

To join, email: gileadfellowship@axon-com.com with your name, role, organisation, and project summary.

[Visit the Gilead site for more info](#)

Macmillan e-learning: Improving care for LGBTQ+ people living with cancer

In recognition of Pride Month, Macmillan offers an e-learning course to help healthcare professionals provide more inclusive, supportive cancer care for LGBTQ+ patients. Research shows many LGBTQ+ people living with cancer feel unsupported and face poorer outcomes. View more for [LGBTQ+ people here](#):

This course highlights their unique needs and offers practical steps to improve your practice.

Macmillan also provides tailored information and support resources for LGBTQ+ people affected by cancer.

[E-learning](#)

The role of nursing teams in the delivery of bispecifics for myeloma

For UK healthcare professionals only and free for UKONS members.

Join Dr Barry Quinn, Charlotte Bloodworth, and Grant Mehrjou for expert insights into supporting myeloma patients receiving bispecifics, including guidance on delivery and managing complications such as infections.

Agenda Highlights:

- Understanding bispecifics in myeloma
- Managing infection-related complications

- Live Q&A session
- Tuesday 17 June 2025
- 8–9am
- Online via Zoom

For UK healthcare professionals only and free for UKONS members.

Organised and funded by Johnson & Johnson. J&J products will be discussed.

[Register here](#)

New BSNA resources for patients on parenteral support

The British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) has released two new educational video animations to support patients transitioning from hospital to home parenteral support (HPS).

- Long-term HPS video – for patients expected to remain on HPS long term
- Short-term HPS video – for those who may stop treatment over time, with guidance from their care team

These videos help patients and caregivers understand what to expect and how to manage treatment confidently at home.

[Watch the BSNA videos here](#)

Patient facing resources

Macmillan: Finding reliable health information online

With health misinformation widespread, many people struggle to find trustworthy information to manage their health. Research by the Patient Information Forum and IPSOS highlights the impact this has on long-term condition self-management.

Macmillan has created guidance offering practical tips to help patients identify and access reliable health information online, reducing the risk of misinformation.

[Link to finding reliable info here](#)

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