



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 116: 26 May 2025

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National news

NHS targets early detection of deadliest cancer

Hundreds of GP practices will review patient records to identify those most at risk of pancreatic cancer, especially people over 60 with recent diabetes diagnoses or sudden weight loss.

Read the full article here: [NHS England » NHS launches drive to catch one of the most lethal cancers](#)

Extension of cervical screening interval

Starting next month, the cervical screening interval for individuals aged 25–49 will be extended from 3 to 5 years. This change reflects a more personalised screening approach made possible by the adoption of HPV testing as the primary method.

A communications toolkit to support this update has been distributed to Alliance Communications Leads. Additionally, Alison Cowie, Head of Cervical Screening (Operations) within the Primary Care, Community, Vaccination & Screening

Directorate, will join an upcoming national Cancer Alliance call to provide further updates on developments in the cervical screening programme.

[Read the full article here.](#)

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2024 – Results due out July



The 2024 NCPES results will be published on **Thursday 17 July at 9.30am** on the [NCPES website.](#)

Available resources will include:

- National report, easy-read summary, and full Excel data tables
 - Headline infographic and customisable template
- Individual reports for Cancer Alliances, ICBs, and NHS trusts
 - An online dashboard to explore results by region or organisation
 - Free text analysis tools, including a national thematic review and Trust-level Excel workbook

Join the national results webinar on **Tuesday 12 August, 10am–12.30pm** (Teams). [Click here to register](#) (no NHS email required – account setup needed).

NHS Jewish BRCA testing programme – Register by 31 October

Over 30,000 people have registered for the NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme, with 20,000 test results expected by the end of June. Those identified with pathogenic variants can access life-saving NHS treatment and screening.

The programme closes to new registrations on 31 October 2025. Eligible individuals are encouraged to sign up soon via the [website](#)

For queries, contact: susana.lukic@nhs.net.

Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC) – Cohort 7: Improving experience of care together

The NHS Cancer Programme will be launching CIC (7) tomorrow **Friday 27 June 2025**.

Full detail on the focus and the process of how to participate will be sent via an invitation letter, to Lead Cancer Nurses and Cancer Alliance Managing Directors, from Mark Cubbon, National Director, Elective Care, Cancer and Diagnostic Programmes and Duncan Burton, Chief Nursing Officer for England.

Building on the success of previous cohorts—with 100% project team retention and 87 teams already improving cancer care experiences—CIC offers expert coaching and a quality improvement framework to help teams enhance care with and for people affected by cancer and their families.

The closing date for submitting an Expression of Interest is noon on 8 August 2025 with a project timeframe running between September 2025 to May 2026.

Alliance updates

Cervical screening – Reminder to check failsafe procedures

Following a recent regional incident where some screening results were mistakenly sent to the wrong organisation, all cervical screening providers are reminded to routinely check their failsafe systems to ensure a result is received for every sample taken.

If you receive an unexpected result not associated with your service, please remove it from local records and follow your organisation's Information Governance (IG) protocols. Maintaining robust failsafe checks is essential to uphold patient safety and data integrity.

Please contact bobicb.primarycare@nhs.net with any queries.

New video: Managing postmenopausal bleeding in patients on HRT

We are pleased to share updated guidance to support GPs and primary care teams in the assessment and referral of postmenopausal bleeding (PMB), with a particular focus on patients using hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

This initiative is led by Mr. Manhal Najdy, Consultant Gynaecologist at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, and aims to:

- Support early identification of patients requiring specialist review

- Clarify when bleeding in HRT users is expected versus when it may indicate underlying pathology
- Promote timely and appropriate referrals from primary care

[View the video here](#)

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance – Children’s Network Update Day



Wednesday 24 September 2025, Voco Spires,
Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS
Dr Amy Mitchell, TVCAG Children’s Chair

A free study day for all MDT members, focusing on
supportive care innovations in paediatric oncology.

This is a popular event, so early booking is
recommended.

[Complete booking form here](#)

Refreshing Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust's strategy: 2026–2031

Why It Matters

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is developing its next five-year strategy, which will guide how they deliver care across Berkshire West from 2026 to 2031.

They’re seeking input from those who know local communities best – individuals, professionals, and partner organisations. They want to hear: What’s working well, what could be improved, how they can work better with others to support future health and care.

Ways to Get Involved

1. **Share your views:** Complete a quick 3-question survey – open to anyone in the community. [Community Survey Link](#)

2. **For partner organisations:** VCSE and system partners are invited to complete a short, dedicated survey. [Partner Survey Link](#)
3. **Host a visit:** The RBFT team is attending local events – from libraries to baby groups and community cafés. If you're holding an event before August and would like a visit, let them know. Contact: strategy@royalberkshire.nhs.uk
4. **Share existing insights:** If you've already gathered local feedback or research, please let RBFT know. Contact: strategy@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This is an opportunity to share your perspective and help shape the future of healthcare in the region.

Training and events

Cancer Keys: Myeloma and recognising the signs

Myeloma is the 19th most common cancer in the UK. While most cases are diagnosed via primary care referral, around one-third are detected in emergency settings, which is linked to poorer outcomes.

Although most common in those aged 85–89, myeloma can affect younger adults, with cases seen in people in their 40s and, rarely, even younger. Early recognition is key to improving outcomes.

[More info on Myeloma here](#)

New podcast - Working in cancer care: then and now



The latest episode of *The Cancer Professionals Podcast* features two Nurse Specialists reflecting on how cancer care has evolved over the past 20+ years.

Listen now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or online at

[Macmillan Cancer Support.](#)

CRUK Webinar: Avoiding unnecessary GP appointments on the breast cancer pathway

Wednesday 17 July, 1.30–2.15pm.

Join the Cancer Research UK webinar highlighting NHS Forth Valley's direct referral pathway for patients with breast lumps—bypassing GP appointments and referring straight to one-stop breast assessment clinics.

Key benefits from the evaluation (in partnership with the University of Stirling):

- Safe and effective implementation
- Reduced GP workload
- Positive feedback from patients and staff

Speakers include Juliette Murray (Consultant Breast Surgeon, NHS Forth Valley) and Dr. Erica Gadsby (University of Stirling).

Register by Thursday 11 July to receive the link. [Register here](#)

A recording and summary will be available after the session.

For queries, contact: luke.weaver@cancer.org.uk

Extravasation: Learning from experience

Monday 7 July, 1.30 - 3.30pm. Free for UKONS members

This webinar offers expert insights into managing extravasation in clinical practice, current rescue techniques, and key lessons learned.

Chairs:

- *Laura McNab*, Specialist Practice Educator for SACT, The Christie Hospital
- *Louise Ollett*, Paediatric Oncology Nurse Educator, North East & North Cumbria ODN

Session aims:

- Increase awareness of extravasation and SACT safety
- Support risk prevention in SACT administration
- Share updated guidance
- Provide teaching on remedial techniques

Ideal for professionals involved in systemic anti-cancer therapy.

[Extravasation event: sign up here](#)

Macmillan Supporting Cancer Care Programme – Next cohort starts 17 September

The Supporting Cancer Care Programme (SCCP) is a 3-month course for professionals wanting to deepen their understanding of supporting people with cancer. It includes 4 modules, e-learning, and 5 virtual classrooms, with a focus on reflection and real-world application.

Suitable for the wider cancer care workforce, those new to cancer settings, or professionals with lived experience of cancer.

[More info and register here](#)

Cancer demystified - Live webinars and recordings

View recordings or live webinars on various cancer subjects.

Free for all our Trusts - just use the code: **TVCA311222**

- [Live webinars](#)
- [Recordings](#)

Patient facing resources

Love Your Cervix campaign launches

Developed by colleagues in the South-East as part of a campaign to raise awareness of cervical screening and encourage attendance, especially among younger women, materials are being shared for all GP practices to use.

The 'Love Your Cervix' campaign will address barriers to screening through education, resources and community outreach.

If you have any questions, please email england.secomms@nhs.net.



LOVE YOUR

NHS

CERVIX

**IT'S YOUR
CERVIX.
SHOW IT
YOU CARE.**

When you're invited for cervical screening, book an appointment at your GP surgery.

Get it checked out to help stop cancer developing.

Find out more www.nhs.uk/cervical-screening



Follow us on:

- FaceBook
- BlueSky
- Instagram
- LinkedIn:
- Nextdoor
- YouTube



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