



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 120: 21 August 2025

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National news

NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme

The NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme has received almost 35,000 registrations to date and has delivered over 20,000 BRCA test results. This will enable people found with pathogenic variant genes to access life-saving NHS treatment and screening pathways.

The programme will close for new registrations on Friday 31st October 2025. Eligible people who want to access testing on the current pathway are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible via the [website](#)

Cancer Alliances are requested to share this information and [poster](#) with their relevant networks to help spread awareness about the registration deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact susana.lukic@nhs.net.

LGBT+ Health Evidence Review

NHS England is undertaking an evidence review into LGBT+ health. Part of this review includes an invitation to submit unpublished research, service evaluations, surveys, and best practice examples. Submissions should be focused on:

- Barriers to healthcare for LGBT+ people
- Inequalities in access, experience and outcomes for LGBT+ people
- Evaluated solutions and best practice examples

You can find out more information and submit evidence [here](#). The closing date for evidence submissions is Sunday 31st August.

NHS to fast-track patients with head and neck cancer into cancer vaccine trial

Patients with advanced head and neck cancers will be fast-tracked into a trial of a new cancer vaccine, as the NHS expands its world-leading trial ‘match-making’ service.

You can find out more information [website](#)

NHS cervical screening programme – Digital results launching September 2025

From September 2025, the NHS will start sending cervical screening results to patients via the NHS App.

Patients who have a negative test result will be notified via the App; However, if message isn’t read by a patient within 72 hours, a letter will be sent to them as a failsafe.

‘Abnormal result’ letters will continue to be delivered by post to patients for the time being.

Important actions and notes for providers:

- From immediate effect, please can sample takers inform patients attending cervical screening that from September 2025 their results may be sent via the [NHS App](#). Where an alternative address is supplied, the [NHS App](#) will first be attempted. A letter be sent to the address provided only if the App message is not read.
- Sample takers are asked to encourage patients to download the [NHS App](#) and turn on notifications.
- Laboratories will no longer be able to stop results being issued to a patient, once these files have been accepted by CSMS.

Community Pharmacy Bank Holiday 25 August opening times

Pharmacy opening times for the 25 August 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 is available [here](#).

Stomach cancer: PPIs masking red flag symptoms

While PPIs are effective for managing acid-related GI conditions and offering gastroprotection, they can also mask or alter the early symptoms of stomach cancer, potentially delaying diagnosis.

Stomach cancer had the highest percentage of avoidable delays (34%) from initial presentation to referral, according to the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit 2018.

Read the full Cancer Key for practical tips on how to aid earlier diagnosis.

[Read more here](#)

Bruising and Leukaemia

Bruising is a common and often non-specific complaint in primary care; however, it can occasionally indicate a more serious underlying condition such as leukaemia.

Leukaemia is a type of blood cancer characterised by the uncontrolled production of abnormal white blood cells. In primary care, it is essential to understand both the underlying mechanisms of bruising in leukaemia and the clinical features that warrant concern.

Read our latest Cancer Key in full [here](#) to understand the differences between acute and chronic leukaemia, when to be concerned by presentations of bruising and guidance on investigations.

Alliance updates

Stoptober 2025

The Stoptober 2025 resources are now available to view and download from the Campaign Resource Centre [website](#)

There is whole calendar of 'ready to use' campaign assets to help encourage smokers to make a quit attempt this October, whilst signposting to a range of quitting support.

Place updates

Headline

No update this week

Training and events

Reminder: National Cancer Manager Network Conference

The National Cancer Programme is hosting its annual National Cancer Manager Network Conference on Tuesday 14th October 2025. Cancer Managers from across England will have the opportunity to network with one another and share learnings. This year's conference will take place in Leicester at the Leicester Tigers Rugby Club (10:00-16:15, registration from 9:00).

The conference will include various networking opportunities and some of the presentations confirmed for the day include:

- The improvement approach at North West Anglia Foundation Trust
- The tiering journey – A perspective from The Royal Wolverhampton Trust
- Clinical audits: Using data to improve patient outcomes – NATCAN
- National performance / guidance update - National Cancer Programme

Tickets are available [here](#).

At present, tickets are available for up to two attendees per Trust and are limited to those currently in a cancer management role. If tickets sell out, please email england.cancerperformance@nhs.net to be added to the cancellation list.

Cancer Immunotherapy Event

A FREE educational event is being hosted by the British Society for Immunology and the Tumour Immunology Group, giving a brief introduction to the theme of cancer immunotherapy, followed by a Q&A panel session with medical professionals and scientists. The event is open to the public and clinicians alike. Places are purposefully quite limited (just above 50), to guarantee better engagement and dialogue.

[Read more](#)

Patient facing resources

Recruitment for Models

[Tonibobandlou CIC](#)) are currently looking to recruit additional models to support their [BRAVE](#) project. They are specifically seeking black and brown-skinned women, who have experienced or are facing mastectomy and/or reconstruction, via SGAP, IGAP and LD Flap procedures.

Through compelling imagery and lived experience, their brochure (prototype) offers multiple examples of surgical outcomes, in an accessible and aesthetically engaging format, to improve patient experience.

More information is available at www.tonibobandlou.com, as well as via [Post | Feed | LinkedIn](#). Expressions of interest should be sent to info@tonibobandlou.com

The Hummingbird Centre - Support for Men Service

The [Hummingbird Centre](#) has launched a new support service for men who have been impacted by cancer, either themselves or who are supporting loved ones.

Sessions will be held on the first Monday of the month from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. They are holding an open evening on **Monday 1st September**, to introduce the service further, meet some of the male guests who have been using the service to date, meet the team heading it up and to find out what guests want from the group going forward, as well as meet guest families to introduce the other services at the centre.

You can find out more information [event flyer](#)

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