



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 119: 7 August 2025

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2 minute survey



Help us improve our website

We're redesigning our website and we'd love your input. Our short survey is open now and only takes a couple minutes to complete. It will help us create a site that's easier for you to navigate and share with patients and other stakeholders. [Complete the survey here](#)

Closes Friday 8 August

National news

World-first national inherited cancer predisposition registry goes live

On 30 June, the NHS launched the [National Inherited Cancer Predisposition Registry](#) (NICPR) — a major step in shifting focus from treatment to prevention, as outlined in the 10 Year Health Plan.

People identified with a harmful variant in a cancer predisposition gene will now be added to the NICPR by NHS clinical genetics services. The registry links to national screening programmes (e.g. breast and bowel), ensuring those at high genetic risk are offered additional screening to detect cancers earlier.

For further information, contact england.edcancer@nhs.net.

Faster diagnosis – Urology and hysteroscopy call for evidence

Please send submissions by **Friday 8 August**.

- Send submissions for urology to: bobicb.tvcaurologypathway@nhs.net
- Send submissions for hysteroscopy to: bobicb.tvcagynaepathway@nhs.net

This evidence will inform our urology pathway improvement programme, supporting Cancer Alliances and providers to improve Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) performance for urgent suspected urology cancer pathways.

CIC 7 – Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest remain open until Friday 8 August to join Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC) 7, supporting systems to improve the experience of cancer care with and for people affected by cancer and their families/unpaid carers.

Please contact: su.young@nhs.net

Faster, more accessible clinical trials piloted in pancreatic cancer

A pancreatic cancer trial at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge is piloting the NIHR's new 'Just in Time' scheme, which aims to cut clinical trial setup times from months to days.

The PemOla precision medicine trial is investigating a combination immunotherapy — pembrolizumab and olaparib — for pancreatic cancers with high genetic change, one of the hardest cancer types to treat.

If successful, the scheme could allow more patients to access clinical trials closer to home in line with the NHS 10-Year Plan.

Led by Dr Pippa Corrie, consultant medical oncologist at Addenbrooke's and researcher at the University of Cambridge.

Read more here: [Faster clinical trial setup piloted in pancreatic cancer study | CUH](#)

RSV protection for premature babies and expectant mothers

From late September, the NHS in England will introduce nirsevimab — a single, long-lasting injection — for around 7,000 high-risk infants and babies born before 32 weeks, offering NHS protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for the first time. More here: [NHS to roll out long-lasting 'suit of armour' jab to protect thousands of premature babies from RSV](#)

The NHS's chief midwife is calling on newly eligible pregnant women to get the RSV vaccine now to protect their babies ahead of winter. More here: [NHS urges pregnant women to protect their 'winter babies' against RSV](#)

Shingles vaccination eligibility expands from 1 September 2025

From 1 September 2025, the shingles vaccination programme will be expanded following the [latest advice](#) from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

All severely immunosuppressed people aged 18 and over will now be eligible for the shingles vaccine. This marks a change from the current policy, where eligibility began at age 50 for this group.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England have issued a joint letter with full details of the change. It is intended for teams responsible for commissioning and delivering the national NHS shingles vaccination programme.

Winter vaccine news

Flu

The [annual flu letter has been updated](#) to confirm that community pharmacies will be able to vaccinate 2–3-year-olds during the 2025/26 flu season.

GP practices: vaccinations from 1 September 2025 (or as soon as vaccine is available). Community pharmacies: service begins 1 October 2025, supplementing GP provision.

From early September, the flu vaccine will be offered to 2 and 3 year-olds, school-age children, pregnant women.

Followed in early October by: people aged 65+, those with long-term conditions, frontline health and social care staff, unpaid carers.



COVID-19

The Covid-19 seasonal booster will be offered in early October to anyone: aged 75+, aged 6 months to 74 years with a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment, living in a care home for older adults.

[More info here](#) (this website will be updated with info on local vaccine clinics from September)

Further information [is available here](#)

Emergency Alert Sunday 7 September



The UK Government are testing Emergency Alerts on mobile phones across the UK on [Sunday 7 September at 3pm.](#)

[Watch to learn more](#)

Place updates

Let's Talk About Vaccines – Free training for BOB staff

Let's Talk About Vaccines is a free, 2.5-hour online training session designed to build confidence, skills, and knowledge for discussing vaccine hesitancy and supporting informed decision-making.

Open to health, social care, and voluntary sector staff and students in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West, the interactive training is provided by BOB ICB. Five sessions are available to book until March 2026.

Find out more and register via the BOB ICB website: [Let's Talk About Vaccines training](#).

Oxford spinal sarcoma service among world's best

The Oxford Spinal Sarcoma Service at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has some of the lowest cancer recurrence rates worldwide, according to the [European Spine Journal](#).

One of only four primary spinal tumour centres in England, the service's outcomes reflect rigorous surgery, specialist planning, and strong multi-disciplinary teamwork.

Trust scores highly in National Cancer Survey

For the fourth year running, cancer patients rated care at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 9 out of 10 in the national Cancer Patient Experience Survey.

More info here: [OUH performs well in national cancer patient experience survey - Oxford University Hospitals](#)

New social care and community equipment provider for BOB,

From 1 August 2025, [Millbrook Healthcare](#) has taken over as the supplier of social care and community equipment across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB), replacing NRS Healthcare.

The service provides essential equipment and daily living aids – including mobility aids, hoists, hospital beds, and continence supplies – to help people live independently and support hospital discharge.

During the transition period, queries about assessments, equipment returns, or repairs can be directed to the relevant sections on the [BOB ICB website](#) for further information and links.

Training and events

The Infopool – Supporting people with prostate cancer

The Infopool is a unique, interactive, community-driven online education resource for people with prostate cancer, their partners, and carers. [Read more here](#)

Part of the Empowering People with Prostate Cancer Project (EPPC), and partly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, it provides clear, accessible information at diagnosis, during treatment decision-making, and when managing side effects.

The aim is to empower people, reduce treatment regret, and improve quality of life. The Infopool is designed especially for:

- Black African, Black Caribbean, and Black British people with prostate cancer
- People with low health literacy (reading age 8–12 years)

Key features:

- High-quality, accessible information at diagnosis
- Support for informed treatment choices
- Guidance on managing side effects

Genomics for Primary Care Practitioners

Central and South Genomics will host a one-day *Genomics for Primary Care Practitioners* course on 20 November 2025, 9am-5pm at the University of Birmingham Medical School.

The event will focus on predisposition cancer with workshops on family history assessment, carrier testing, and jargon-free genomic communication. Other topics include pharmacogenomics, diagnosis and management of Lynch Syndrome, hereditary haemochromatosis, and familial hypercholesterolaemia.

Open to GPs, senior primary care nurses, and AHPs – 35 places available.

[Apply online here](#). Places allocated by end of September.

Contact: vicki.geddes@uhb.nhs.uk

Upcoming genomics training



20 August 1-2.30pm – [Right Test, Right Time: Essential Updates in Genomic Testing](#)

15 August 12-2pm – [Our Voices, Our Stories: Lived Experiences of Genomic Testing](#)

10 September 11am-12pm – [Spotlight on Common Aneuploidy Testing: Update on R445 and QF-PCR Explained](#)

23 September 12.15-1pm – [Genomic Red Flags in Pregnancy](#)

15 October 1-2pm – [Right Test, Right Time: Genomics for Neurologists](#)

Patient facing resources

Breast cancer in ethnic communities – Information and resources

Cultural taboos and misconceptions can create stigma around breast health, contributing to poorer breast cancer outcomes for women from ethnic communities.

[Breast Cancer Now](#) has developed resources to help women from all backgrounds feel seen, heard, and supported — and to encourage open conversations about breast cancer and the importance of knowing your breasts.

Materials include **videos, guides, and research publications** aimed at improving outcomes and raising awareness of the unique challenges faced by women from ethnic communities.

MMR Reminder – Protect against measles

MMR vaccine uptake has declined, increasing outbreak risk in nurseries and schools. Reminding parents that children need two doses at the right ages is a key priority.

You can find info on the [NHS website here](#) and posters you can either order or download here: [Measles: posters for the general public](#)

Share your views on pharmacy services

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is inviting people to share their views on pharmacy services across Great Britain, with Love2Shop vouchers offered as a thank-you. Please share with colleagues, and the public.

People can get involved in two ways:

- [Join the GPhC Public Panel](#) - take part in online surveys, give feedback on documents, or join focus groups.
- [Join the GPhC Patient and Public Voice Forum](#) – a small group (around 20 people) meeting online twice a year to share experiences and help shape GPhC work.

For more information, contact: communication@pharmacyregulation.org

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Thames Valley
Cancer Alliance





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