



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 123: 2 October 2025

- [National news](#)
- [Alliance updates](#)
- [Place updates](#)
- [Training and events](#)
- [Patient facing resources](#)

National news

Exploring NHS 111 Data to Support Earlier Cancer Diagnosis

A new study in *npj Digital Medicine*, co-authored by the National Cancer Team, looks at how NHS 111 call data and secondary care records could help identify people at higher risk of cancer.

Focusing on nine cancers without national screening programmes, the research highlights the potential of predictive modelling to support earlier detection. While not yet in practice, the findings provide a valuable starting point for future innovation.

The study also links to ongoing exploratory work on NHS 111 self-referral pilots, which aim to improve access to diagnostics and support more equitable cancer care.

Read the study: [Constructing multicancer risk cohorts using national data from medical helplines and secondary care | npj Digital Medicine](#)

NHS Launches Groundbreaking AI Platform to Speed Up Screening

The NHS is launching a **nationwide trial platform** to test artificial intelligence across screening services at an unprecedented scale. Backed by a new cloud system and £6 million in funding, this infrastructure will accelerate deployment of

AI tools in areas including cancer and breast screening, helping speed up diagnosis and improve care.

Read more here: [AI to be trialled at unprecedented scale across NHS screening - GOV.UK](#)

Winter Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Underway

The NHS has launched its national winter vaccination programme, offering flu and COVID-19 jabs to those most vulnerable to serious illness – including people whose immune systems are weakened by cancer treatment.

Eligibility also extends to carers and close contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, recognising the vital role of community protection in keeping the most vulnerable safe.

Vaccination remains the best defence against flu and COVID-19, helping to reduce the risk of hospitalisation and protect the NHS during its busiest time of year.

Appointments and walk-in sessions are available nationwide at GP practices, community clinics and pharmacies. Eligible individuals can book via the NHS App, their GP practice, www.nhs.uk/bookflu, www.nhs.uk/bookcovid, or by calling 119.

NCPES 2024 – Qualitative Report Published

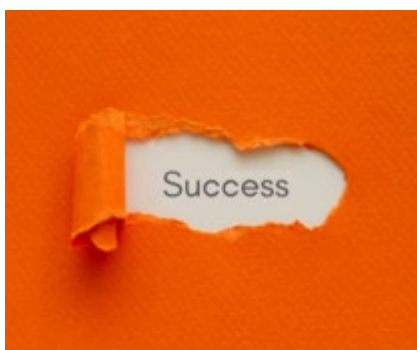
The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2024 qualitative report was published on 11 September. It highlights patient feedback across eight themes: gratitude, staff, diagnosis, wait times, communication, coordination, living with & beyond cancer, and hospital-wide care.

Report available on the NCPES website: [National Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#)

Queries: england.insight-queries@nhs.net

Alliance updates

Success on Faster Diagnosis Standard for Thames Valley Cancer Alliance



Latest data for July 2025, shows Thames Valley Cancer Alliance has achieved 80.7% on the 28-day faster diagnosis standard.

TVCA managing director, Nic Beech, says “We are incredibly grateful to all our colleagues across primary and secondary care. Your dedication and hard work have made this achievement possible.

Despite the many challenges, it's inspiring to see our shared commitment to improving cancer services and outcomes for our local community.”

Cancer Screening Videos – Now Available in Multiple Languages

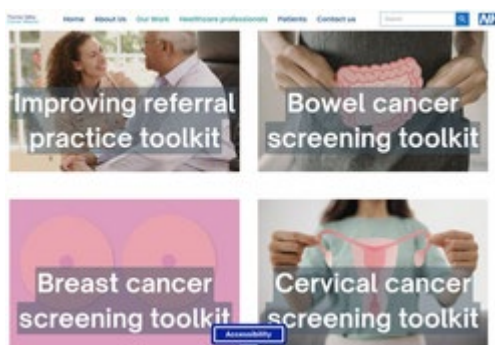
We're excited to share our new set of cancer screening videos. These have been created to support Primary Care conversations, and to help patients who don't have English as a first language or are hearing impaired to better understand the importance of cancer screening.

The videos cover bowel, breast and cervical cancer screening, as well as how to use the symptomatic FIT test. To reach as many people as possible across the Thames Valley, they are available in British Sign Language, Hindi, Polish, Gujarati, Nepali and Punjabi.

Please watch and share the videos here: [👉 Cancer Screening Videos](#)



New TVCA Primary and Community Care Toolkits



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance has developed a series of Primary and Community Care Toolkits to support the earlier detection of cancer, in line with the requirements outlined in the Primary Care Network Directed Enhanced Service (PCN DES).

Each toolkit has been designed to provide helpful and practical information, education and resources to help improve the uptake of the cancer screening programmes and the local review referral practice.

Explore the toolkits here: [👉 Primary and Community Care Toolkits](#)

Join Our Head & Neck Lunch & Learn – 12 November

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance is hosting a **Head & Neck Lunch & Learn** on **Wednesday 12 November, 12.30–1.30 pm**.

This interactive session is aimed at primary care colleagues and offers practical insights to support earlier diagnosis and better patient care. Topics include:

- Referral data and what it tells us
- Spotting signs and symptoms (aligned with NICE guidance)
- Diagnostic pathways and best practice
- How to make high-quality referrals
- The role of speech and language therapy
- Understanding late effects of treatment

It's a great opportunity to hear from experts, refresh your knowledge and strengthen your approach to referrals and patient support.

Didn't get an invite? Contact Gloria Tawiah, Early Diagnosis and Innovation Project Manager at: gloria.tawiah2@nhs.net

Place updates

Great Western Hospital Lung Cancer Screening team attend Swindon Cancer Awareness Day

Colleagues from Great Western Hospital were delighted to attend the recent **Swindon Cancer Awareness Day** – and even braved their first encounter with the famous *Magic Roundabout*!

A bus arranged by local GPs brought patients from the PCN, helping more people take part.

The team had meaningful conversations with attendees — from a passionate advocate who lost her husband to lung cancer, to a patient who had just received her CT results and praised the smooth screening process.

With informative talks from GPs and specialists and excellent feedback from patients and the public, the event was a real success in raising awareness and building community engagement.



Training and events

Lynch Syndrome Education Day – 7 November 2025

Wessex Cancer Alliance and the Central & South Genomic Medicine Service Alliance invite stakeholders to an education event on Lynch Syndrome at the AXIS Conference Centre, Southampton Science Park, on **Friday 7 November 2025**.

The day will provide updates on best practice care for people with Lynch Syndrome, as well as the latest research and developments in the field.

👉 Agenda, speakers & booking (limited places): [Eventbrite link](#)

Contact: wessexcanceralliance@wca.uhs.nhs.uk

BOB ICB Black History Month 2025 Conference



Every October, **Black History Month (BHM)** is a time to recognise and celebrate the achievements, contributions and histories of Black people in the UK. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing work needed to tackle inequalities and create fairer opportunities across society — including within healthcare.

In the NHS, BHM is a chance to listen, learn and act together to improve equity for staff and patients. By standing firm in power and pride, we aim to strengthen our commitment to inclusion, representation and better health outcomes for all communities.

As part of this year’s programme, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) is hosting the Black History Month 2025 Conference in partnership with local NHS Trusts.

Conference details:

Wednesday 15 October 2025, 12 noon–5 pm

Lecture Theatre 1, Academic Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

Also available via Teams webinar

👉 [Register to attend in person](#) (QR code available on poster)

👉 [Register for Teams webinar](#) (QR code available on poster)

For queries, please contact: bame.network@ouh.nhs.uk

Improving GP Trainee Education on Ovarian Cancer

Target Ovarian Cancer is developing a new programme to strengthen GP trainees’ knowledge of ovarian cancer and is inviting expressions of interest to join their steering group. If you have experience in designing, developing or leading GP trainee education, please get in

touch: earlydiagnosis@targetovariancancer.org.uk

As part of **Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month**, Target Ovarian Cancer has also launched a range of e-learning modules, resources and promotional materials for primary care professionals: 👉 [Target Ovarian Symptoms presentation](#)

Upcoming webinar: *Timely recognition of patients with advanced ovarian cancer*
Tuesday 7 October, 7pm

Speakers: Dr Sonia Ashraf (GP) and Mr Janos Balega (Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist)

Free live session with case discussions, referral guidance, and Q&A.

Upcoming State of The Nation Webinars – 13 October 2025

The National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre will host two free virtual webinars exploring findings from the latest *State of the Nation* (SotN) reports:

- **10–11.45 am:** Kidney, ovarian, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, prostate and bowel audits
- **3–4.30 pm :** Breast (primary & metastatic), pancreatic and oesophago-gastric audits

👉 Book your place: [Exploring Key Findings from the latest SotN Reports](#)

Patient facing resources

HPV Vaccination Campaign – Resources

The NHSE South East Surrey & Sussex Screening and Immunisation Team, with support and funding from Surrey and Sussex Cancer, has launched a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of the HPV vaccine, which helps protect against various cancers and other HPV-related diseases.

Materials include a poster/flyer encouraging students to get protected and a TikTok video aimed at younger audiences. Stakeholders are encouraged to use and share these resources locally to boost uptake.

Download campaign materials: [A5](#), [A2](#)

 [TikTok video](#)

Cancer awareness campaigns in October:

Use these social images and text on your websites, or simply share messaging from TVCA's social media channels with colleagues and patients.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Regular screening saves lives — early detection makes treatment more effective. Learn more and encourage those eligible to attend their NHS screening. More at: [Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025 UK | Breast Cancer Now](#)

Wear it Pink Day:



On 24 October we Wear It Pink to raise awareness of breast cancer and support life-saving research and care. A simple way to show solidarity and spread the message: early detection saves lives. More at: [Sign Up To Wear It Pink | Breast Cancer Now](#)

Liver Cancer Awareness Month



This October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month. Knowing the risks, from alcohol to hepatitis, and acting early can make a huge difference. Together, we can raise awareness and support earlier diagnosis. More at: [Cancer awareness calendar | Cancer Research UK](#)

Liver cancer awareness month

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[Nextdoor](#)

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