



Issue 128: 11 December 2025

Welcome to our last TVCA bulletin of 2025.

From January 2026 we will be moving from fortnightly to monthly update and the website will continue to be regularly updated with key news and info.

You can view all previous bulletins from 2025 using the button below.

The TVCA team wishes everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year when it gets here!

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National news

Draft recommendation: Targeted Prostate Cancer Screening for BRCA1/2 Carriers

On 28 November 2025, the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) issued a [draft recommendation](#) to introduce a targeted national prostate cancer screening programme for men with a confirmed BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene

variation. The proposal suggests screening every two years for men aged 45 to 61.

A **12-week public consultation** on this draft recommendation is now open and will close on **20 February 2026**. Following the consultation and a Ministerial decision, NHS England will begin exploring how this screening could be delivered in line with the final UKNSC recommendation.

[Here is a Q&A](#) for GP practices and NHS Genomic Medicine Services.

We know that some asymptomatic men are receiving PSA tests, either because they've asked their GP for it, or because they've received it privately. The most important thing is that that men are given information on the harms and benefits of PSA testing, so that they can then make an informed choice on having the test. You can find more guidance on this on the [CRUK PSA webpage](#).

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2025

The 2025 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) will run from **10 November 2025** to **30 January 2026**. Adults with a confirmed primary cancer diagnosis who received inpatient or day case treatment between April and June 2025 will be invited to take part.

The survey gathers direct feedback from patients on their care, helping to highlight what is working well and where improvements are needed across NHS cancer services in England. Findings are used nationally, regionally and locally to enhance cancer patient experience. The survey is delivered by Picker on behalf of NHS England.

Stakeholders are encouraged to support promotion of the survey to ensure strong participation. For questions, contact cpes@pickereurope.ac.uk.

[National Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#)

Reminder of ordering prescriptions in time for Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays



Please remind patients, colleagues and friends to order their repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas and New Year bank holidays.

GP practices and some pharmacies will be closed over these holidays.

You can find out which pharmacies are open during the festive break here: [pharmacy-opening-hours/](#)

If medication does run out, NHS 111 online can provide guidance on accessing an emergency supply.

Planning ahead remains the best approach to avoid disruptions.

Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme Update

Take a look at the latest update from the Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme outlining key actions and progress.

[Read the full update here.](#)

From pre-cancer to cancer prevention

Bowel and cervical screening can prevent cancer by identifying early cellular changes that may develop into disease if left untreated. Detecting and managing these “pre-cancerous” changes means cancer may never form.

The same principle can be applied more widely. All cancers begin with healthy cells, so studying how they change over time offers opportunities to intervene much earlier.

Researchers at Cancer Research UK are using this knowledge to develop new screening approaches and preventive vaccines. However, pre-cancers can be difficult to define and detect, and more work is needed to understand these early changes so that effective prevention becomes possible. More info here: [From pre-cancer to cancer prevention - Cancer Research UK](#)

Genomic resources for 16–18 year olds: CCLG survey

The CCLG 16–18 SIG (genomics and clinical trials subgroup) is conducting research to understand the genomic testing resources currently available for

young people aged 16–18 with cancer across the UK. Findings will help identify gaps and barriers to access.

Two short surveys are open: [one for healthcare professionals](#) and [one for laboratory staff](#). Each takes under 10 minutes to complete. Responses may be submitted anonymously, or participants can provide an email to receive updates on the survey results and future work.

Learn more here: [The Children & Young People's Cancer Association](#)

Alliance updates

Celebrating FIT CAN04 Success – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our general practice teams for your outstanding efforts in achieving the **FIT CAN04 target for October**.

Your commitment to timely cancer detection and high-quality patient care continues to make a real difference. We're proud to share that the **Thames Valley Cancer Alliance was the highest-performing alliance in the South East for October** - a direct reflection of your hard work, focus, and dedication. Thank you for everything you do to improve outcomes for our communities.

Please continue with their great efforts in requesting and assessing FIT prior to a colorectal Urgent Suspected Cancer referral.

New Standardised Gynaecology Referral Form

The Pan Thames Valley Cancer Alliance Urgent Suspected Gynaecology Referral Form has been updated to standardise referral documentation across the Alliance and ensure equity of access for patients.

This update aims to ensure consistent, high-quality referrals for patients presenting with symptoms suggestive of gynaecological cancer. The revised form aligns with NG12 guidance and has been reviewed by all relevant clinical colleagues within primary and secondary care across the system.

You can download the form here: [Urgent Suspected Gynaecology Referral Form](#)

TVCA Lower GI Faster Diagnosis Workshop



On 27 November, TVCA hosted a workshop, attended by clinical and operational representatives from all our trusts, to explore future improvements on the Lower GI pathway.

Steph Wetherall's presentation on the Ashford St Peters journey to improve the FDS pathway was a highlight and her talk generated a lot of insightful discussion, energy, and enthusiasm for local transformation.

More information will follow.

Place updates

Thames Valley & Wessex TYA Cancer ODN Education Event 2026

"Navigating Cancer, Fertility & Sexual Wellness" event.

When: 4 March 2025, 9am - 4pm

Where: Apollo Hotel, Aldermaston Roundabout, Basingstoke, RG24 9NU

Topics on the day include:

- Fertility preservation and aftercare
- Impact of treatment on fertility
- Sexual health during treatment
- Case studies and patient voice

Tickets: £10 for clinicians; complimentary for speakers/faculty (discount code provided). Refreshments, hot lunch, and free parking included.

[See the poster](#) for full details and to share with colleagues.

Training and events

National MDT Coordinator Conference



NHSE has [opened registration](#) for the next National MDT Coordinator Conference, taking place in Nottingham on **Thursday 12 February 2026**.

This in-person event will feature presentations from Macmillan Cancer Support, the National Disease Registration Service, and Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance, alongside interactive group sessions.

Please share the attached poster with providers. It includes the registration link for cancer MDT coordinators, navigators, facilitators and trackers.

Please email robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net to reserve a place.

Breast Cancer Now Healthcare Professionals Conference 2026

This one-day event offers healthcare professionals the chance to hear from leading experts, gain practical insights, and connect with colleagues from across the UK.

The morning will feature key clinical updates and plenary sessions on emerging priorities in breast cancer care. In the afternoon, attendees can choose from interactive breakout sessions focused on best practice, patient support and education relevant to their roles.

The conference also celebrates and supports members of the Healthcare Professionals Hub, fostering a collaborative space for innovation and improvement in breast cancer care

[Join us for our healthcare professional conference in May 2026](#)

The Cancer Professionals Podcast – Rethinking Neurodiversity and Physical Disability in Cancer Care

In this episode, **Ruth Bailey** (Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Chair of the RCN Women's Health Forum) and **Jessie Hewitson** (Director of NeuroUniverse) explore the challenges autistic and physically disabled people face when accessing cervical screening and cancer care.

They discuss barriers such as sensory sensitivities and communication hurdles, and share how inclusive healthcare guidance—and small, thoughtful

adjustments—can make a big difference for patients navigating the cancer pathway.

 **Listen now:** Available on **Apple Podcasts**, **Spotify**, or online at [The Cancer Professionals Podcast | Macmillan Cancer Support](#)
Visit Macmillan's [Education and Training Community](#) for more resources.

The Science Behind Modern Cancer Treatments

Science Communicated delivers clear, clinically relevant education on cancer biology, targeted therapies, and immunotherapies - helping clinicians understand how today's treatments work. This knowledge builds confidence in clinical decision-making and improves communication with patients.

Courses are available online or in person, with content tailored to the learning needs of multidisciplinary cancer teams.

Find out more: [Science Communicated Ltd | Elaine Vickers](#)

CAN-LEAD Conference 2026 – Free to Attend!

22 January 2026 | Birmingham City University, City South Campus

Join us for a **free conference** packed with inspiring speakers, interactive activities, and practical insights. Discover innovative cancer projects and explore how to bring these ideas into your own work. Learn leadership approaches to change management from colleagues who have successfully driven transformation—because leadership isn't about a title, it's about **action and impact**.

Enjoy **fun activities, great food, exciting freebies**, and take the first step toward making a difference.

Reserve your free place today: [CAN-LEAD Conference](#)

'Supporting Cancer Care' Programme

Boost your confidence and skills to better support people living with cancer. This **13-week programme** combines independent e-learning with interactive virtual classroom sessions, where you can share experiences and learn from colleagues.

You'll cover:

- Cancer and its treatments
- Personalised care and support planning

- Communication skills
- Palliative and end-of-life care

Next cohort starts: 12 January 2026

Find out more and [apply via the Learning Hub here](#)

The Christie Institute For Cancer Education: Courses in Jan and Feb 2026

- 13 January - [Metastatic Breast Cancer Study Day](#)
- 22 January - [Modern Cancer Pain Management](#)
- 26 & 27 January - [An Introduction to cancer : Anatomy, Biology and treatments](#)
- 23 February - [SACT in Motion: Your Care, Your Community, Your Home](#)
- 25 February - [Christie Haematology - General Haematology Study Day](#)

Please [Click here](#) for a full list of all upcoming events.

Prostate Cancer Care Course

19 January, 2026 - Online

Expand your knowledge of care and treatments with the prostate cancer care course from Guy's Cancer Academy – a blended online course starting on 19 January.

To apply or for more information visit:

<https://www.guyscanceracademy.co.uk/prostate-cancer-care>

Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT): Administration and Patient Care

12 January 2026 – Online

The highly regarded SACT course from Guy's Cancer Academy returns on 12 January. This fully online module is designed for health professionals who administer systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) and/or manage the care of patients receiving SACT treatment.

Apply or find out more: www.guyscanceracademy.co.uk/systemic-anti-cancer-therapy

The Clatterbridge Contact Centre NHS: Clinical Education Courses

Upcoming courses:

- 5 January: SACT module commencing
- 27 January: Palliative care module commencing
- 18 and 19 February: Advanced Comms
- 16 and 17 March: Advanced Comms
- 23 and 24 March 2026: Nature of Cancer

Find out more at: [Workshops & Short Courses : Clatterbridge Clinical Education](#)

Email: ccf-tr.clinicaleducation@nhs.net

UK Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Symposium (UKIBCS)

The UKIBCS brings together professionals with an active interest in breast cancer research and treatment to explore how the latest advances impact clinical practice and related fields. This collaborative meeting is held **every two years** and provides a unique opportunity for discussion and knowledge sharing.

Find out more or apply: www.ukibcs.org.uk

Email: ukibcs@kc-jones.co.uk

Patient facing resources

Stand Up To Cancer returns this December

A joint campaign by Cancer Research UK and Channel 4, raising funds to accelerate life-saving cancer research. Since launch, it has raised over £113 million, supported 73 clinical trials, and involved more than 13,000 patients.

- **Focus:** Innovative research (robotic surgery, AI radiotherapy, early detection tests, cancer vaccines).
- **Goal:** Improve UK cancer survival to 3 in 4 by 2034.
- **Latest:** 2025 campaign launched with celebrity events, fundraising challenges, and a live TV broadcast on 12 Dec. A new Screening Checker tool helps people check NHS screening eligibility.

Find out more: standuptocancer.org.uk

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Thames Valley
Cancer Alliance



Training &
events



Campaign
Materials



TVCA
website

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