

NHS NORTH WEST LONDON ICS - MESSAGE TO ALL NWL GP PRACTICES

12th January 2026

This cancer GP bulletin contains updates for GPs and their practice staff on the following:

1. Important updates on EUROPAC -the hereditary pancreatic cancer research registry
- **For information: All clinical staff**
2. Cancer Education sessions - BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW! **For information: All clinical staff**
 - FIT - The journey so far and the new GI stratified pathway for Upper and Lower GI Urgent Suspected Cancers - 15th January 2026 - 1pm - 2pm
 - Community Pharmacy Webinar for Oesophageal Cancer - open to practice based clinical pharmacists - Monday 26th January 2026 - 8pm -9pm
 - Non Site Specific (NSS) Pathway and Rapid Diagnostic Cancer Centres (RDCC) - 28th January 2026 - 1pm - 2pm
 - Addressing Systemic Discrimination training - 4th February and 5th February 2026 9:00am - 1:30pm (Ealing and Wandsworth Locations)
 - Bowel and Breast Cancer Awareness Training - 10th February 2026 - 1pm - 2pm
3. You Know Them Best Campaign for early diagnosis of childhood cancer - **For information: All clinical staff**
4. Prostate cancer screening draft recommendation - UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) announcement - **For information: All clinical staff**
5. Harm inflicted upon individuals who were exposed to Diethylstilbesterol (DES) - **For information and action: All clinical staff**
6. New Cervical Screening Digital-first communications resources - **For information and action: All practice staff**

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON EUROPAC -THE HEREDITARY PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH REGISTRY

FOR INFORMATION - ALL CLINICAL STAFF

Over the last 2 years, over 400 participants across north west and south west London have been referred into the surveillance registry, either through genetics, secondary care, primary care, or via the PCUK's Family History Checker.

As a result, there has been a significant increase in demand for surveillance, with no additional surveillance capacity created in our network. Until earlier this year, UCLH provided the surveillance visit and investigation as part of EUROPAC for those recruited from the four London cancer alliances. However, they have now had to restrict this to their own cancer alliance due to the growing demand. **Currently, people within RMP who are referred into EUROPAC and meet the threshold for surveillance are not being offered surveillance in London.** As a stop gap, the EUROPAC team have been offering people to travel up to Liverpool for their annual surveillance, however uptake is low and this is far from ideal.

There is a request for sites to be set up as a surveillance centre for the people recruited across RMP. Currently there are about 50 people on active surveillance, who have been identified as high risk and suit the NG12 guidelines for surveillance. If you would like more information, please do get in touch with me.

Furthermore, due to capacity constraints, the **EUROPAC team will be undertaking a restructuring process from January 1 2026 to 31 March 2026. During this period, EUROPAC will be closed to all new recruitment.** Any referrals received during the closure period will be returned to the referrer with a request to resubmit following the end of the closure period. Anyone who is currently under the process of registration will continue to be processed.

In the meantime, in line with NICE Guidelines NG85, individuals with a family history of pancreatic cancer may be eligible for surveillance and should be advised to discuss this with their GP if they are concerned. We also recommend looking to [EUROPAC's protocol](#) for advice on how patients should be managed.

CANCER EDUCATION SESSIONS - BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

FOR INFORMATION - ALL CLINICAL STAFF

Focus on.... FIT - The journey so far and the new GI stratified pathway for Upper and Lower GI Urgent Suspected Cancers - 15th January 2026 - 1pm - 2pm - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Join Dr Bushra Khawaja, GP Cancer Lead for Hillingdon and Harrow and Imperial's Consultant Gastroenterologist, Anet Soubieres to hear more about:

- The new GI stratified triage pathway for urgent suspected cancers for upper and lower GI pathways implemented in NWL as well as the wider RMP cancer alliance area
- Symptomatic FIT testing: why, when and safety netting
- Case studies to help understand optimally referring patients on the Urgent Suspected Cancer pathway

Community Pharmacy Webinar for Oesophageal Cancer - open to practice based clinical pharmacists Monday 26th January 8pm -9pm - [JOIN THE MEETING HERE](#)

- In February 2026, all London Cancer Alliances, in partnership with Heartburn Cancer UK, will launch a campaign to raise awareness of oesophageal cancer. The campaign, running from 1-28th February as part of Oesophageal Cancer Awareness

Month, aims to help people recognise key symptoms and encourage early contact with their GP.

- Community pharmacies play a vital role in early diagnosis. Many patients manage symptoms such as heartburn, reflux, and indigestion with over-the-counter medicines or prolonged use of PPIs without consulting a GP.
- This campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness among customers and signpost them to GP services when needed.
- All community pharmacy - as well as existing Clinical Pharmacists working in general practice - are invited to join this webinar to learn more about how we can proactively support early cancer diagnosis efforts and get involved in this Pan London campaign.

Non Site Specific (NSS) Pathway and Rapid Diagnostic Cancer Centres (RDCC) - 28th January 2026 - 1pm - 2pm - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Join Dr Bina Modi, GP Cancer Lead for Brent and Harrow and GP at the RDCC at Northwick Park Hospital and Dr Charlotte Powell Tuck, NSS RDCC Pathway Group Chair for RM Partners NWL and SWL, GP @ Rapid Diagnostic Cancer Clinic, Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to:

- **Learn** more about the NSS pathway and the role of the RDCCs
- **Clarification** on referral criteria and service tests
- **Hear** case studies to support best practice
- **Opportunity to ask questions** on using the pathways in place

Addressing Systemic Discrimination training - 4th February and 5th February 9:00 - 1:30pm (Ealing and Wandsworth Locations - [BOOK HERE](#))

(CPD Accredited) Addressing Systemic Discrimination and Reducing Inequalities Across the Cancer Pathway development sessions is available for **ALL PRACTICE STAFF**.

These sessions support our quality improvement (QI) work with general practice to improve the early diagnosis of cancer for all our communities, and the learning can be used to support the management of other long-term conditions and tackling neighbourhood health inequalities.

The sessions will:

- Support Participants to be more aware of systemic discrimination
- Helping participants to explore how they might improve the healthcare experience outcomes for their patients
- Explore the role that participants can play in taking action to reduce inequalities

**Bowel and Breast Cancer Awareness Training - 10th February 2026 - 1pm - 2pm -
REGISTER HERE**

The session, led by Nipunika Silva and Ahmed Abdo from Imperial College Healthcare, will look to provide some introductory information in learning how to promote bowel and breast screening and support early detection of both cancers.

Training areas that will look to be covered:

- Understanding bowel and breast cancer and screening - what it is, how it saves lives
- Effective conversations - how to encourage participation
- Barriers and motivators - what stops or inspires people to take part
- Risk factors and symptoms - what to look out for and when to seek advice
- Support and resources - how the Health Promotion Team can help improve uptake and access materials

**YOU KNOW THEM BEST CAMPAIGN FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CHILDHOOD
CANCER**

FOR INFORMATION - ALL CLINICAL STAFF

In December, the [Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust](#) launched a new public awareness campaign to highlight the early signs and symptoms of childhood cancer. The campaign is aimed at parents and carers nationally.

The resources have been developed by medics and reviewed by GPs, general paediatricians, paediatric oncologists, and public health practitioners. They have also been user tested to ensure the tone is clear, educational, and reassuring and are available here - [Childhood Cancer Support | Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust | Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust](#)

Why this matters

In the UK, over 4,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year, around 1 in 450 before age 15. Delays in diagnosis are thought to contribute to poorer outcomes of children in the UK compared with many other European countries. Early recognition is key to improving survival and reducing treatment intensity. We appreciate that no clinician wants to miss a diagnosis of cancer, but it is also a challenging diagnosis to make in many cases. Taking just a few minutes to familiarise yourself with the information enclosed will give you some useful advice.

Understanding pressures in the NHS

Dr Jen Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of the trust and a qualified GP, appreciates many the challenges currently faced in general practice and the NHS as a whole and the campaign has been designed with that firmly in mind. **The aim is not to increase unnecessary consultations, but to support families to present appropriately and to provide clinicians with straightforward resources (that summarise and simplify current NICE guidance) that are easy to use whilst having minimal impact on workloads.**

What makes this campaign different

- Simplified, actionable information - concise and accessible for diverse audiences.
- Unified messaging - covering all childhood cancers, avoiding “campaign fatigue”.
- Culturally sensitive materials - tailored to different communities.
- Medical credibility - content developed by GPs and reviewed by paediatric oncologists, with PIF Tick accreditation to guarantee quality of medical information resources.

Guidance for Healthcare Professionals

The resources, provides clinicians with the salient points on the quick reference guide - [Signs and symptoms of childhood cancer for health professionals | Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust](#).

In the supporting information document - [Decision making support tool | Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust](#), there are also links to prewritten teaching presentations on identifying the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer that can be used in primary care and hospital-based teaching sessions. [GP Education & Learning Resources | Childhood Cancer](#)

For further queries, please contact Dr Jen Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, Childhood Cancer Trust on 01905 885777; jenkelly@gkcct.org

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING DRAFT RECOMMENDATION - UK NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE (UK NSC) ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR INFORMATION - ALL CLINICAL STAFF

On 28 November 2025 the UKNSC made a draft recommendation to offer a targeted national prostate cancer screening programme to men with a confirmed BRCA1/2 gene variation every 2 years, from age 45 to age 61.

It has launched a 12-week consultation on the draft proposal, closing on **20 February 2026**.

Next steps

NHS England will now begin work to explore how prostate cancer screening for men could be delivered, in line with the final UKNSC recommendation, following the consultation, and subject to a Ministerial decision. We expect the announcement to generate public interest in a potential new screening programme for prostate cancer, and the following lines are to help GP practices and NHS Genomic Medicine Services answer questions from patients and the public.

Prostate cancer screening draft recommendation - UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) announcement



28.11.2025 Potential
prostate screening pri

Q&A for GP practices and NHS Genomic Medicine Services	
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HARM INFLICTED UPON INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO DIETHYLSTILBESTEROL (DES)


FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION - ALL CLINICAL STAFF

DES was formerly used worldwide in the treatment of threatened miscarriage between the 1940s and 1970s.

On 5th November 2025, the Secretary of State recognised the harm inflicted upon individuals who were exposed to **Diethylstilbesterol (DES)**, including links to a rare and distinct type of cancer; reproductive tract abnormalities, and reduced fertility for daughters of women who took DES during pregnancy.

Action for primary care:

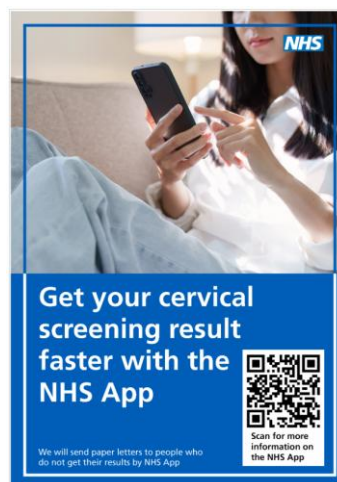
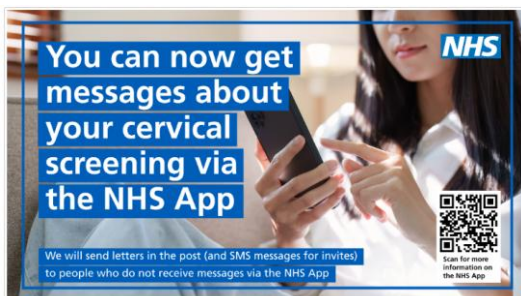
- GPs and other health professionals may come into contact with DES-exposed patients.
- Women who believe or know that they were exposed to DES in utero may need colposcopy which **falls outside of the routine screening programme** - see guidance from NHS England setting out local arrangements - [6. Screening and management of immunosuppressed individuals - GOV.UK](#)
- Encourage participation in the NHS Breast Screening Programme for those who are aware that they were exposed to DES.
- Pregnant women who know that they were exposed to DES in utero should also inform their obstetrician or midwife, given that there is an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy and preterm labour.

Harm inflicted upon individuals who were exposed to Diethylstilbesterol (DES) - Letter from Dr Peter Johnson, National Clinical Director for Cancer	 Letter from Peter Johnson - DES.pdf
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NEW CERVICAL SCREENING DIGITAL-FIRST COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION - ALL PRACTICE STAFF

- ***New*** Cervical Screening digital-first communications posters are now available for use on **digital screens or for printing**.
- They are designed to support cervical screening providers in sharing information about digital-first communications - examples below:



Actions for primary care:

- Register and download resources available on <https://future.nhs.uk/system/login?nextURL=%2Fconnect%2Eti%2Fvaccsandscreening%2Fview%3FobjectId%3D69360688>
- Display posters available in the surgery.
- Update practice display screens to publicise that patients can use NHS App to manage cervical screening.