

# West Midlands Cancer Alliance Update

Issue:41

10 November 2023

## Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome and thank you for reading. Every ICS and every team in the West Midlands are a constituent member of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) and valued stakeholder, and each newsletter is designed to include relevant content for you. The aim is to better coordinate the vast amount of information and events associated with cancer that will be useful in building knowledge and shaping the work we do, individually and collectively to improve outcomes and increase survivorship for the West Midlands population. You are welcome to disseminate this newsletter within your teams.

Sarah Hughes  
Managing Director, Midlands Cancer Alliances

## PRIMARY CARE FOCUS

### Primary Care Cancer Focus – Dr Jim McMorran

#### Anastrozole for breast cancer prevention:

- IBIS-II - an international, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Postmenopausal women at increased risk of developing breast cancer were recruited and were randomly assigned (1:1) to either anastrozole (1 mg per day, oral) or matching placebo daily for 5 year (1)
- Cuzick et al reported results of the randomised IBIS-II trial on the extended duration of benefit of anastrozole in preventing breast cancer up to 12 years after entry and indicate for the first time a long-term benefit, which is larger than that seen for tamoxifen in this period
  - anastrozole is an aromatase inhibitor - inhibition of aromatase prevents the synthesis of oestrogens
  - no excess of fractures, other cancers, cardiovascular disease, or death from any specific cause was seen in the extended follow-up
  - **number needed to treat to prevent one breast cancer is 29**
    - large 61% reduction in breast cancer incidence in the first 5 years has been maintained in subsequent follow-up to 12 years
    - the significant 36% reduction during post-treatment follow-up was not significantly smaller than during treatment, and still greater than that observed for tamoxifen, which has produced a roughly constant 29% reduction for 20 years
    - number needed to treat to prevent one breast cancer during the first 12 years of follow-up was 29, which compares favourably with the 58 needed for tamoxifen at that time
  - previously observed reduction of other cancers with anastrozole, notably non-melanoma skin cancer, has continued with longer follow up

- results provide additional support for the use of anastrozole as the treatment of choice for breast cancer risk reduction in most postmenopausal women at high risk of developing breast cancer

NICE guidance states (2):

### **Chemoprevention for women with no personal history of breast cancer:**

- should be discussed within a specialist genetic clinic
- healthcare professionals within a specialist genetic clinic should discuss and give written information on the absolute risks and benefits of all options for chemoprevention to women at high risk or moderate risk of breast cancer
- discussion and information should include the side effects of drugs, the extent of risk reduction, and the risks and benefits of alternative approaches, such risk-reducing surgery and surveillance

Reference:

- [Cuzick J, Sestak I, Forbes JF, Dowsett M, Cawthorn S, Mansel RE, Loibl S, Bonanni B, Evans DG, Howell A; IBIS-II investigators. Use of anastrozole for breast cancer prevention \(IBIS-II\): long-term results of a randomised controlled trial. Lancet. 2020 Jan 11;395\(10218\):117-122. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32955-1.](#)
- [NICE \(March 2017\). Familial breast cancer: classification, care and managing breast cancer and related risks in people with a family history of breast cancer](#)

## **FOR INFORMATION**

### **New mentoring service : 'Link & Learn'. Link & Learn - Shape the Future Autumn Campaign**

'Link & Learn' is a new and one-off temporary mentoring service (November to December 2023) and it is part of the [Shape the Future Autumn Campaign](#), an annual research development campaign run by the NIHR. It aims to connect those experienced in research with those new to research, or wanting to progress, via a mentoring scheme.

Help others in their research career. NIHR's Shape the Future Autumn campaign aims to encourage healthcare professionals and undergraduate medical students (including nurses, midwives, AHPs) to add research to their careers. Become part of the campaign by volunteering to be part of our Link and Learn match-making service and meet a new researcher for a 1-2-1 guidance session. For more information, email [giuseppe.rella@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:giuseppe.rella@nihr.ac.uk)"

Please see the attached document which has useful links:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:3ee2b347-ada3-325f-a352-5e4f430c35bf>

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### **Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Network (ODN) Newsletter:**

We are really keen that we can use this digital newsletter as a way of reaching out to everyone with an interest in radiotherapy across the region, so that they are aware of what our ODN is doing, our impact, and how to get involved. We don't want to be an invisible entity, but instead have ambitions to be engaging everyone across the system, adding value and being recognised for what we are doing to help commissioners and providers improve services and outcomes for patients. We know this will take time, and we will need your help to get there, so please do:

- forward this newsletter onto any colleague how you think might be interested in finding out more about our work and how we support Radiotherapy teams across the region – and encourage them to sign up to future issues

- give us feedback on the newsletter – what did you like? What didn't you like? What would be even better?
- respond to the colleagues who've asked for help, so that they can improve what they are doing, and we experience even more collaborative working between trusts
- let us know what else we should focus on in our next issue (we're aiming for February 2024)
- volunteer to get involved in any of our workforce project, clinical trials project or SABR study day working group



## West Midlands Radiotherapy Operational Delivery (ODN) Newsletter - November 2023

Welcome to our very first newsletter aimed at radiotherapy professionals and wider NHS colleagues! We are excited to share with you some exciting updates and news from the West Midlands Rad...

[Go to this Sway](#)

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### UK Adult Endoscopy Workforce Survey:

We would be very grateful if you could spare **3 minutes to complete this anonymous survey** which is essential to understanding the future endoscopy workforce. The results of this survey will inform planning and improvement of endoscopy services, ensuring a sustainable workforce for high quality care for our patients.

OUR FUTURE IS YOU! If we are to achieve our ambition for endoscopy – first class - therapy focused - services across the UK, we need you, and we need to know what you want to contribute to our vision for the future. So please can we ask for 3 minutes of your time to complete this anonymous survey to help us understand how we can support you and your endoscopy unit for the future. Please only complete the survey once, and forward to any colleagues, who might not have received it via other routes. Click the link to complete - <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/GWCCB7T>

Or scan the QR code -



## **Guideline for the use of Antiemetics in Adults Receiving Anticancer Drug Therapy (v3.0, September 2023)**

This guideline has been updated by the SACT Expert Advisory Group and is available on the [WMCA website](#). It provides guidance to support the management of patients who experience, or are likely to experience, anticancer treatment related nausea and vomiting.

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### **GIRFT and the NHS Cancer Programme:**

GIRFT and the NHS Cancer Programme have collaborated on summary guidance to support clinicians to better meet the Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) for cancer. Best practice timed diagnostic cancer pathways include advice for all stages of a cancer diagnosis, as well as insights from the relevant GIRFT national clinical leads and links to best practice case studies. The guidance has a particular focus on colorectal cancer, prostate cancer and skin cancer, but other cancer specialties will follow. The guidance is now available to download: [Cancer pathways \(gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk\)](#). The guidance has been shared with Trust GIRFT leads to enable sharing with all relevant contacts in their organisations. However please share with any other relevant colleagues that you can think of or via any relevant forums.

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### **Introducing the NHS Breast Cancer Screening Programme - Promoting Uptake in Primary Care, A resource pack for general practice and ICSs in the West Midlands**

We are excited to introduce the comprehensive information resource designed to support the screening process. Whether you are a clinician or an administrative staff member, this pack is tailored to assist you. Key Features of the GP Pack:

1. **Contact Information:** Easily access details of screening providers to ensure seamless communication and coordination.
2. **Pre-and Post-Screening Guidance:** Find valuable information on best practices for both pre-screening preparations and post-screening follow-up care.
3. **Addressing Low Uptake:** Discover strategies and insights for addressing low participation rates, helping us ensure that more individuals benefit from vital screenings.
4. **User-Friendly Navigation:** We have incorporated hyperlinks throughout the pack, enabling quick and convenient access to specific sections that interest you the most.
5. **Continuous Improvement:** Your feedback is essential to us. In the coming year, we plan to conduct surveys among colleagues whose practices have been live in Breast Cancer Screening to gauge the impact and value of the GP Pack. Your insights will guide us in refining and enhancing this resource as we move forward.

To access the GP Pack and empower yourself with this valuable tool, please follow this link: [www.wmcanceralliance.nhs.uk](http://www.wmcanceralliance.nhs.uk) / or use this link below:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:8dc1514b-f8b4-39ad-907b-21c3707f1b67>

Thank you for your dedication to improving patient care through NHS Breast Cancer Screening. We believe that the GP Pack will be an invaluable asset in our collective efforts. Should you have any questions, suggestions, or require assistance with the NHS West Midlands Breast Cancer Resource Pack, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Email PHADMIN, England (NHS ENGLAND - X24) [england.phadmin@nhs.net](mailto:england.phadmin@nhs.net)

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## GatewayC:

We are pleased to share that **Episode 8** of GatewayC's new podcast series 'GPs Talk Cancer', is out now. This week is on the topic of **pancreatic cancer**. Please find linked/attached [shareable communication assets](#) for **Episode 8 - Pancreatic Cancer** including:

- Shareable PDF
- Social media image
- Suggested social copy
- Suggested newsletter/bulletin copy

We encourage you to reshare our social media content throughout the week – thank you for your support. We are pleased to share with you GatewayC's Communication Assets and Campaigns Calendar for **November**. Please find attached a range of early diagnosis resources to share with your networks, including:

- **November Spotlight: GatewayC resources for Lung, Gastric, Pancreatic, and Mouth Cancer Awareness Month.**
- Newsletter/Bulletin
- Social media assets

If you have any questions or feedback on this calendar, please don't hesitate to get in touch.  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:445eae5f-615f-3f23-a243-b48c89f4aaf8>

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## U16 Adult Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES) Toolkit:

The results of the **U16 Adult Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES)** were published yesterday. Please find attached the **Under 16 CPES Comms Toolkit** which includes a breakdown of the data, key messages, email templates, reactive media lines, and logos. If you have any queries about the content, please drop me a line or contact:  
[cpes@pickereurope.ac.uk](mailto:cpes@pickereurope.ac.uk)

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:03ce0380-b718-3075-bac3-f8772e30fe4a>

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## MDT Streamlining:

- All MDT streamlining documents which are being implemented in the West Midlands can be found on the [WMCA website](#).
  - The second annual implementation audit takes place October-November 2023 via the ICB systems. All services will be asked to confirm if / how their MDTs are implementing the new processes and documentation. For further information please contact [england.wmcapmo@nhs.net](mailto:england.wmcapmo@nhs.net).
  - MDT Leadership Training webinars will be rolled out again from March 2024 for all members of cancer MDTs (including MDT leads who missed it previously). Training dates will be publicised very soon.
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## Clinical prioritisation of the dermatology waiting list draft guidance:

Draft guidance to support systems and trusts with the clinical prioritisation of their routine dermatology outpatient waiting lists, to aid elective recovery, is now available on [FutureNHS](#). The guidance outlines an approach to identify those patients whose skin condition has deteriorated while waiting and most urgently need to be seen, and those whose skin condition has resolved and no longer require a consultation.

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## Applications Open for Eric Watts Award for Excellence in Patient Care and Patient Engagement:

The Royal College of Physicians has announced a [new award](#) which recognises healthcare workers and teams who have made an extraordinary contribution to improving the patient experience.

Applications are open now, and the deadline is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Contact [fundingandawards@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:fundingandawards@rcp.ac.uk) for further information.

## EVENTS UPDATE

### WMCA Expert Advisory Group (EAG) Meetings:

Please see below details of upcoming WMCA EAG Meetings. Please note that these meetings are for EAG Members only. For more information about joining these meetings, please email: [england.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:england.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net)

16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023:	Cancer Trust Managers & Lead Nurses
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023:	MSCC AO & CUP EAG
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023:	Gynae EAG
24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023:	SACT EAG
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Urology EAG
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Haematology EAG
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Radiotherapy EAG
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Brain & CNS EAG
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Primary Care Transformation Group EAG
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	Skin EAG
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023:	SACT EAG
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024:	Sarcoma EAG
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024:	MSCC AO & CUP EAG
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024:	Cancer Trust Managers & Lead Nurses
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024:	SACT EAG
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024:	Head and Neck EAG
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024:	Radiotherapy EAG
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024:	Teenage & Young Adults EAG
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024:	Primary Care Transformation Group EAG

**\*Please note that dates are correct at time of publication**

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## **Elective Care Improvement Support Team: IST Cancer Pathway Training: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024:**

Invitation to join the online course on Elective Care Fundamentals – Cancer Pathway Management - Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). We are writing to invite you or members of your team to participate in our free online course helping to support staff improve the way they manage cancer pathways.

The Elective Care Improvement Support Team (IST), in close collaboration with the Improvement Capability Building & Delivery Team, have created a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) dedicated to cancer pathway management. This free, self-paced, and facilitated MOOC is designed to support system-wide teams, organisations, and individuals in developing the essential skills required for managing cancer pathways. Created by experienced operational managers and practitioners with expertise in managing cancer care, this course equips participants with core skills to navigate cancer pathways effectively, facilitating the recovery of cancer services post-pandemic.

### **About the course:**

The course comprises of four, one-hour content modules available 24/7 over an eight-week period to support staff to improve their knowledge of managing cancer patient waiting lists. The course delivers essential resources and tools through a practical, structured learning approach. Delegates can progress through the modules at their own pace within the learning platform while engaging with peers and experienced tutors from the Elective Care IST. This interaction maximises learning and empowers learners to promptly apply your newfound knowledge.

**The course will be running from 13 November 2023 to 8 January 2024** with further cohorts planned in 2024.

### **Who will benefit from this course?**

The Cancer Pathway Management MOOC is open to all NHS staff, including:

1. Operational managers in acute providers interested in cancer services.
2. ICS or regional managers seeking a deeper understanding of cancer operational management.
3. Cancer senior booking team members and supervisors.
4. Booking team and medical secretaries.
5. MDT coordinators and cancer pathway trackers.

While some modules may not apply to all job roles, this comprehensive course offers valuable development opportunities for those aiming to gain well-rounded knowledge of cancer pathway management.

### **By the course's end, participants will:**

1. Have increased knowledge of cancer pathways.
2. Possess improved knowledge and confidence in Cancer Waiting Time (CWT) rules and their practical application.
3. Be able to identify best practices in cancer pathway management and areas for improvement.
4. Have improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all staff involved in the cancer pathway.
5. Be capable of describing the importance of reports and KPIs for monitoring and enhancing pathways.

Delegates will be able to access the full range of online materials once they have registered on the platform, enrolled on the course and the course has opened. The course materials and resources will remain available for eight weeks until the course closes.

## Enrolling on the course

To participate in the course, delegates will need to be registered with their official NHS email on our [QI Learning Platform](#) and enrol on the course. In readiness, they will need to follow these registration instructions as soon as possible:

1. If they have already registered on the [QI Learning Platform](#), then they simply need to [enrol](#).
2. If they have not already registered on the platform, they need to do so by visiting the [QI Learning Platform page](#) and then simply [enrol](#).

We attach a flyer with a brief overview of the programme, which you can share with other colleagues who may also want to enrol. You will be able to access the full range of online materials once you have registered on the platform, enrolled on the course and the course has opened. The course materials and resources will remain available for eight weeks until the course closes. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email us at [england.eeci@nhs.net](mailto:england.eeci@nhs.net) - stating Cancer Pathway MOOC in the subject for a prompt reply. We look forward to you joining us on the course!

Please share with your networks and click on this link for further details:  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b3297399-e8ec-3d54-a1b4-1d9de3ccfcda>

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## National Cancer Patient Experience Survey

### Invitation to register for the demonstration of reporting outputs webinar

As we look to close out activities for the 2022 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES), we would like to invite you to register for a webinar that will provide a demonstration of some of the NCPES reporting outputs. We hope the session will support you to make best use of insight from the survey. The webinar will take place on **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 14:00 pm – 15:40pm**. It will cover the following outputs –

- Trust level free text workbooks. We will navigate through an example free text workbook, providing recommendations on how to explore and make best use of your free text comments.
- Trust level response rate data. We will take you through key sections of the report explaining what the different charts and tables can tell you about the response rates of different population groups.
- Online dashboard. Updated for the 2022 survey, the online dashboard provides an interactive way of exploring results from the survey. We will take you through some of the main functions and features of the dashboard. The dashboard can be found at <https://www.ncpes.co.uk/interactive-results/>.

If you haven't received the free text workbook or the response rate output for your trust, please get in touch using the email address below. **Follow this link to register:** [Take the Survey](#) Or copy and paste the URL below into your Internet browser: [https://picker.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6mU0Q5umzLu3Ybk](https://picker.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mU0Q5umzLu3Ybk)

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## Midlands Health Inequalities Conference

The Studio, Cannon Street, Birmingham

Wednesday 29th November 2023 09:30-16:30

Please join us as we bring together a range of stakeholders from across the Midlands region to discuss and showcase the work underway to tackle Health Inequalities. The day will involve keynote speakers from Professor Bola Owolabi, Director, National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme and the Institute of Health Equity. We will also hold workshops on inclusive restoration,



mitigating against digital exclusion, inclusion health groups, the Core20Plus5 clinical areas as well as other topic areas. Additionally, there will be a marketplace event showcasing work on inequalities from different organisations across the region. Throughout the day we aim to provide numerous opportunities for networking and learning. This is a face-to-face event taking place in central Birmingham, for further information and to book a place please follow either of the below links. We look forward to seeing you there. <https://forms.office.com/e/pZUJEDjV5>



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## **Clinical Oncology Academic Day Tuesday 5 December 2023 Royal College of Radiologists**

The Clinical Oncology Academic Day is an essential event for those interested in research. This is a fantastic opportunity for trainees to learn about the opportunities in clinical trials. Experienced clinical trialists including clinicians, statisticians and methodologists and patient representatives will share their expertise. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with the faculty and discuss their ideas and learn from those who have pursued academic careers as clinical oncologists.

The sessions will cover the UK Clinical trials landscape, getting started and integrating clinical trials into your current training. This event will consist of lectures interspersed with networking opportunities alongside other attendees and experts in the field.

Follow the link below for further details:

<https://www.rcr.ac.uk/clinical-oncology/event/clinical-oncology-academic-day>

## **VACANCIES**

### **WMCA Expert Advisory Group Recruitment:**

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance are currently in the process of recruiting to vacancies for the following Expert Advisory Groups (EAG's):

- Breast EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Children's EAG **Deputy Chair**
- Haematology EAG **Chair** and **Deputy Chair**
- MCCC AO & CUP EAG **Chair** & **Deputy Chair**
- Upper GI **Chair**

We are looking for candidates based on the following criteria:

- Ability to deliver national and regional work programme obligations.
- Demonstrable collaborative working with West Midlands Cancer Alliance.

# WMCA Update

- Experience with service change at scale.
- Credibility as a Cancer specialist in the West Midlands region.
- Regular attendance at EAGs or member of a Task and Finish group.
- Must be a current member of the West Midlands EAG group.

Candidates are asked to send their expressions of interest emails with accompanying CVs, stating why you would like to apply for this post, what you can bring to the post and your relevant experience for the role of Chair / Deputy Chair for the EAG to the following email:

[angela.gould1@nhs.net](mailto:angela.gould1@nhs.net) **by 5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

EOI Form: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c297cdf9-3a1c-359e-aab7-a537a7546b36>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Sandwell and West Birmingham annual awards ceremony took place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and the Cancer Hotline Team were shortlisted for the Clinical Team of the Year Award.... and they won!!!! WMCA congratulate the team for their hard work and dedication which has been recognised and rewarded.



### Contact us:

If you would like to contribute to future newsletters or believe we have missed something, please share what you are seeing with us and we can distribute across the Region:

Please also share with us achievements and things to celebrate across the region, including awards won, recognition of good practice and mentions for colleagues who warrant special recognition who may be leaving us. Please submit on a fortnightly basis on Wednesday's.

- Angela Gould, West Midlands Cancer Alliance: [angela.gould1@nhs.net](mailto:angela.gould1@nhs.net)