



Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance

January 2021 Stakeholder Update

A message from Yvonne Elliott, Managing Director

As COVID-19 continues to present new challenges, we are continuing to work closely with our stakeholders in order to maintain essential cancer services across Humber, Coast and Vale.

Delivery of high quality cancer services remains a high priority for us all, and across the NHS, staff are working hard to ensure that cancer diagnosis and treatment continue in a safe environment.

By accelerating innovations that support recovery, we are working to ensure that sufficient diagnostic capacity is in place through the further development of diagnostic hubs; use of faecal immunochemical tests (FIT) in two week wait colorectal referrals; and the wider roll out of Rapid Diagnostic Centres. You can read more about these pieces of work in the programme updates below.

A recent 'Deep Dive into Cancer Services' has highlighted where any gaps in access and outcome across our region has been further impacted by COVID-19, and we will be setting out specific actions to help close these gaps and reduce health inequalities for our population. I look forward to revisiting the progress of these in future updates.

Awareness and Early Diagnosis

Target Ovarian Cancer – Free online training modules for GPs

Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance would like to make primary care professionals aware of two, accredited, online CPD modules from Target Ovarian Cancer that focus on the recognition and referrals of ovarian cancer.

The modules cover the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, including what distinguishes ovarian cancer from other common conditions, and provide the latest ovarian cancer information and guidance.

To access the free training or for more information, please visit:

<https://targetovariancancer.org.uk/health-professionals/GPs/training-modules>



GatewayC

GatewayC, the online cancer education platform developed for GPs, practice nurses, GPs in training, health care assistants, physician associates and other primary care professionals across England, has launched a number of new webinars.

One of its latest sessions, [COVID-19 Vaccine for Cancer Patients](#) aims to debunk the myths about how the COVID-19 vaccine may affect cancer patients and explores key learnings for primary care professionals. The webinar answers a number of questions, including if cancer patients can safely receive the vaccine, whether it matters when in their treatment cycle they receive a vaccine and advice for patients after they've been vaccinated.

Other new courses are also available, including Ovarian Cancer – Early Diagnosis and Managing Physical Effects.

Find out more and register at <https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/courses/>

Lung Health Checks

While the service continues to be paused, the Alliance is working with all partners to prepare for a restart by agreeing specific caveats and trigger points that do not compromise the Trusts' business continuity plans during the pandemic and allow the service to be resumed safely.

The National Targeted Lung Health Check Team have agreed that the sites will operate a telephone triage assessment as opposed to face to face until the end of June 2021, at which point the protocol will be reviewed.

Lung Cancer

Recent nationally published data has highlighted the exacerbation of health inequalities in particular relation to lung cancer. The Alliance is working with its partners to further understand the impact of COVID-19 on health inequalities and lung cancer at a local level by; undertaking local analysis of two week wait referrals for lung cancer, understanding the significant reduction in referrals for chest x-ray, and identifying which specific communities are disproportionately affected and why.

Primary Care

Primary Care Strategy and Development Groups and GP leads have been continuing to meet; these groups will be merged in March 2021. Work continues to understand



inequalities and the impact of COVID-19 and the vaccination programme on Primary Care services.

From March, the York Cancer Screening meeting, which is currently chaired by Dr Dan Cottingham, will change to Humber, Coast and Vale-wide. In order to gain a collective picture of cancer screening services across our region, the Alliance will take ownership of administrating the meetings and is currently reviewing the group's terms of reference.

Diagnostics

Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDC)

Rapid Diagnostic Centres continue to be rolled out nationally by NHS England and NHS Improvement as part of both the Long Term Plan and COVID-19 recovery.

RDCs are recognised as central to the recovery of diagnostics and cancer services particularly as vague symptoms can often be challenging to diagnose. This will provide GPs with a streamlined pathway for these patients that don't have 'red flag' symptoms that are synonymous with 2 week wait referrals.

The successful RDC model created in York is held as a national example of good practice and for gathering patient feedback. This methodology was endorsed further on 14 December 2020; HCV System Board members heard a positive story from a patient who experienced this pathway first-hand.

To date, two pilots have been held in the Hull locality and the findings justify the RDC approach in vague symptom patients. Mapping sessions continue to be held to further explore full implementation and roll-out.

A steering group has been established for Northern Lincolnshire to push the agenda forward within that locality with the inaugural meeting on 3 February 2020.

The continued aim is for a primary care referral pathway that streamlines diagnostics, patient journey and clinical outcomes. It is anticipated that this part of the service will be implemented across the Humber, Coast and Vale region by the end of 2021/22.

Community Diagnostic Hubs

The creation of community diagnostic hubs will ease the burden at hospital sites whilst providing patients with easier access to a 'one stop' diagnostic service. These hubs will also support the earlier detection of cancer.



In the Cancer Alliance, work is underway to identify gaps in workforce required for these hubs, with the ultimate goal to ensure a bank of workforce is available across the region.

Innovation

Transformational change plays a key part in reducing the backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic, so alternative pathways and innovations do remain a key focus of the work programme.

The extreme workforce pressures that all services continue to face has resulted in a number of innovation workshops being postponed, however these are due to be picked up again as soon as pressures ease.

Technological triaging options and operating models within mammography are currently being explored to triage breast cancer screening.

Pathology

Work continues on the pathology networks to drive up clinical quality to result in improved patient outcomes.

An engagement process will soon commence with primary care and the change in the services to ensure a smooth transition.

There is work underway to review leadership programmes and the potential to develop and adapt these into the Pathology network.

Treatment and Pathways

Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is making changes to how it manages two week wait colorectal referrals to incorporate FIT results at the initial clinic appointment. This change has been brought about due to an update in guidance from the NHS Cancer Programme, which now allows the hospital to discharge patients more appropriately, based on a negative or low FIT result and a comprehensive clinical assessment at that first appointment.

The main anticipated benefit of this approach is that the majority of patients will receive a diagnosis within 14 days and, as a secondary benefit, it means we will be able to close a significant amount of pathways earlier on, in turn improving the 28 day standard.



Skin Pathway

In order to reduce variation in referrals, the Alliance has commenced work to scope and support the skin pathway across Humber, Coast and Vale.

The Alliance is working in partnership with primary and secondary care stakeholders to analyse existing data and understand pathway progress to date. The Alliance will then review the Tele-Dermatology roadmap to ensure best practice across our entire footprint.

If you have any questions, please email hayley.williams32@nhs.net.

Living With and Beyond Cancer

Ovarian Cancer Audit

As a result of concern about the marked geographic variation in cancer survival at a Cancer Alliance level, Public Health England and the charities Target Ovarian Cancer and Ovarian Cancer England have embarked on a two year programme to provide high quality analysis of routinely collected data, in order to improve treatment and outcomes for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in England.

The first report was published in early 2020 and found that Humber, Coast and Vale had the highest incidence rate and second highest aged standardised rate – but this varied across CCGs; the region performed well in the recording of stage cancer, survival rates and mortality rates; offered patients any treatment in line with the cohort average and offered surgery more often than was average in England for similar cohorts.

The Alliance has reviewed the information presented in the report and is working to fulfil recommendations, which have been made in response to the data.

If you have any questions, please email alison.cockerill@nhs.net.

World Cancer Day

Thursday 4th February is World Cancer Day, an international awareness event led by the Union for International Cancer Control. By raising worldwide awareness of cancer, improving education, and catalysing action, World Cancer Day highlights the efforts being made to create a world where millions of cancer-related deaths are prevented.

This year's theme, 'I Am and I Will' is about a commitment to act and address some of the urgent issues in cancer. There are a number of ways to take action, from starting



conversations about cancer and pledging commitment on social media to writing blogs and attending national virtual events.

Find out more about World Cancer Day and how you can contribute to the work being done at www.worldcancerday.org

Keep up-to-date with news from across the Alliance

You can read the latest news on our website [here](#), or find us on social media:



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