



Peninsula Cancer
Alliance

Newsletter

W E L C O M E

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of the Peninsula Cancer Alliance Newsletter. Here at the Peninsula Cancer Alliance we are very proud of the work that everyone takes part in. Look out for our newsletter which will be sent out quarterly and highlights the projects and updates that have been taking place throughout the peninsula. These news items will also be appearing on our [website](#).

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FASTER DIAGNOSIS FRAMEWORK

NHS England and NHS Improvement have set out their NHS Cancer Programme Strategic approach to the faster diagnosis of cancer which, in particular, will bring together the separate objectives relating to rapid diagnostic centres and faster diagnosis standard best practice timed pathways.

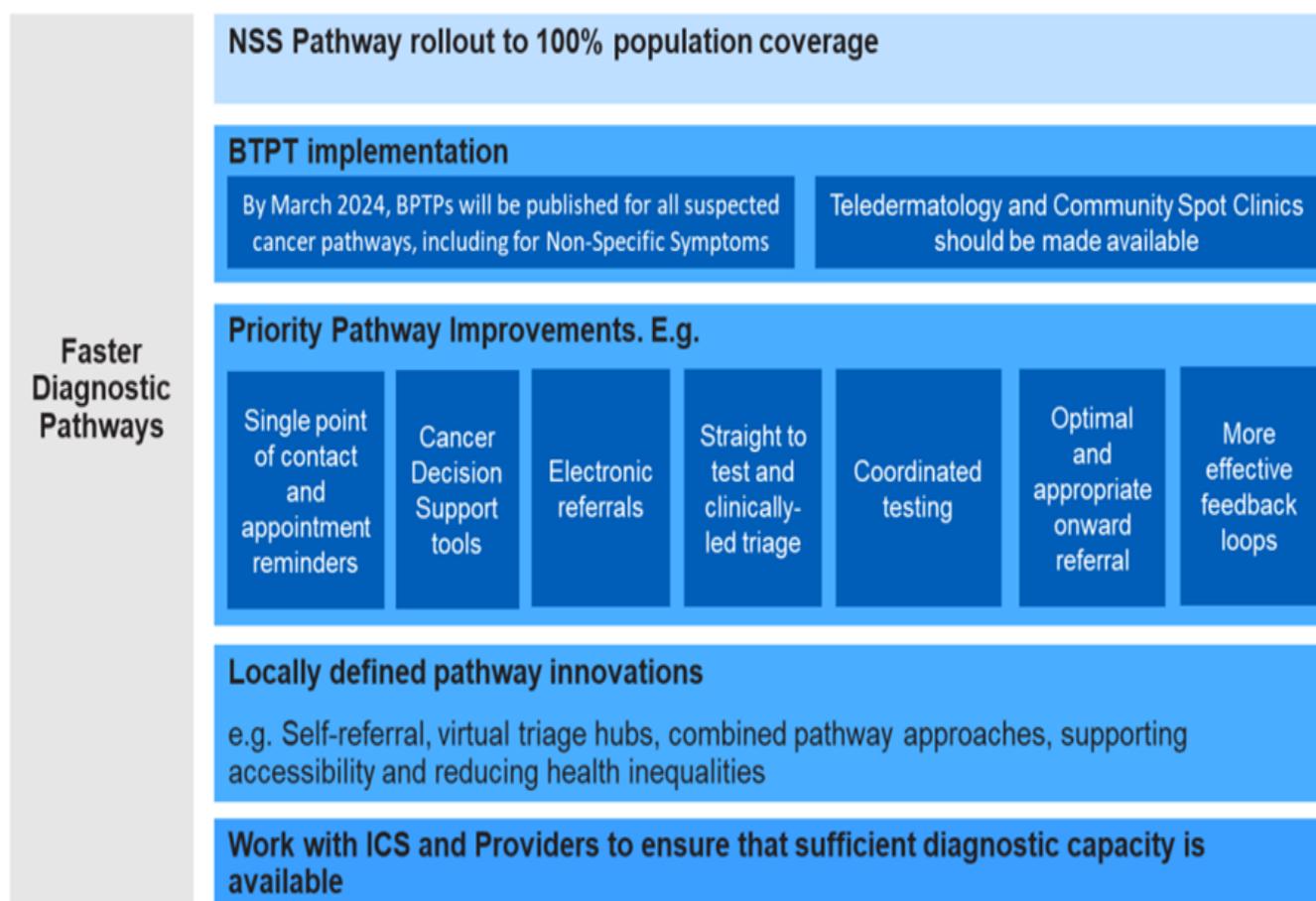
The faster diagnosis programme will now be the umbrella term used to describe;

1. The development of non-site-specific pathways .
2. Improving existing pathways in line with the faster diagnostic principles and best practice pathways.

For patients with suspected cancer, the Faster Diagnosis Programme aims to deliver:

- An earlier and faster diagnosis to patients, whether or not they are ultimately diagnosed with cancer
- Excellent patient experience, a holistic assessment of patient needs and streamlined support across community, primary and secondary care.
- Increased capacity in the system through more efficient diagnostic pathways.
- Support systems to reach the Faster Diagnosis Standard.

Faster Diagnosis Programme Objectives



FASTER DIAGNOSIS FRAMEWORK/CONTINUED

The Peninsula Cancer Alliance 2022/2023 objective is to continue to support the implementation and monitoring of best practice pathways and acceleration of NSS pathways across the region.

FDS Best Practice Timed Pathways (BPTPs) were published in 2018/19 for suspected cancers in:

- Prostate
- Lung
- Colorectal
- Oesophago-gastric

with further pathways published in March 2022 for

- Head and Neck
- Gynaecological
- Skin

Audit tools have been developed by the PCA to assess current practice against the pathways and identify areas which are causing delays in meeting the 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard.

Project Officers for Lung and Colorectal have been recruited on behalf of the PCA to support this work and to work with Trusts to capture data to review where delays are occurring and work with cancer managers and clinical leads to put measures in place to address these. Meetings are now taking place with Trusts following the completion of the audits.

Additional focus will be given on other confirmed timed pathways for prostate and gynaecology in 2022 to ensure meeting FDS.

For further information on the faster diagnosis framework please visit our [website](#)



FREE NHS LUNG HEALTH CHECK FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN CORNWALL

The Targeted Lung Health Check programme is being offered to people between the ages of 55 and 75 who are current or former smokers and at greater risk of lung cancer. Those eligible will be sent a letter to invite them for a Lung Health Check.

The initial invitation will be to a telephone consultation with a Specialist Trained Health Professional who will offer a further appointment for a scan where appropriate. This lung health check can help with early identification of any lung problems.

Find out more: [Targeted Lung Health Checks – Peninsula Cancer Alliance](#)



EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF OVARIAN CANCER

The Peninsula Cancer Alliance, in partnership with Target Ovarian Cancer, have launched innovative new tools for practices to promote the earlier diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Every year 7,400 women in the UK are diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Unfortunately, most patients with ovarian cancer will receive their diagnosis late, at stage III or IV. Like all cancers, the earlier ovarian cancer is diagnosed, the easier it is to treat and the greater the chance of survival. This project will help to address possible misdiagnosis of benign disease, like IBS or Diverticulitis across the Peninsula and create a standard of best practice for earlier diagnosis. Practices will have received two protocols, for a GP alert and search criteria, along with a supportive guidance project pack. The GP alert will help flag possible ovarian cancer in an appropriate cohort, while the search will address possible misdiagnosis over the last six months. For any questions about the project, please contact Natalie Ritrovato, Clinical Change Manager and Kirsten Leslie, Programme Manager c/o peninsula.ca@nhs.net

NATIONAL LYNCH SYNDROME PROJECT UPDATE

The National Lynch Syndrome (LS) project has been developed to ensure an effective and fast diagnostic pathway from diagnosis of colorectal and endometrial cancer to diagnosis of LS. The main aims are to:

1. Assist in meeting the NHS Long Term Plan ambition to diagnose cancer at an early stage. The Long-Term Plan aims to diagnose 75% of cancers early by 2028.
2. Increase the identification and diagnosis of LS in colorectal and endometrial cancer diagnosis.
3. Improve cancer prevention through identification of individuals at risk by genetic testing of unaffected family members through cascade testing (subject to patient consent and confidentiality).

The ultimate aim of the project is the delivery of a comprehensive service for the detection of LS. At a more local level, a number of key milestones have been met across the Peninsula Cancer Alliance (PCA) since project inception:

- Identified Lynch Clinical Champions for both colorectal and endometrial cancers in the 5 hospital trusts across the PCA.
- Audited current pathological tumour testing and compliance practice across the PCA.
- Published a signposting LS [website](#) for clinicians and patients (in co-operation with the East of England CA).

Continued project work streams through Q4 21/22 and Q1 22/23 with a view to mainstreaming LS tumour testing including:

- Working with the Southwest Genomic Medicine Service Alliance in developing a regional registry of Lynch patients across the Peninsula Cancer Alliance (PCA). This involves jointly working alongside the Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon & Gloucestershire Cancer Alliance (SWAG).
- Monitoring completion of training and workshop modules (end March 2022).
- Aligning tumour testing mainstreaming to 2022/2023 NHSE/I planning priorities.

NATIONAL CANCER CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST DAY

On 15 March 2022, the Peninsula Cancer Alliance was proud to be part of National Cancer CNS Day, which was a joint effort of Cancer Alliances nationally.

The purpose of the day was to highlight and celebrate the dedication and hard work of CNS teams and make this professional group feel respected and recognised, whilst also creating a sense of belonging that the generalist nursing workforce will aspire to be a part of.

With the help of the CNS Nurses, the Peninsula Cancer Alliance was able to create some really thought provoking and engaging social media content to showcase the role of our valuable nurses, including:

- An interview on BBC Radio Devon
- Role Profiles
- Thank you messages to the nurses
- Patient Stories
- "What your role means in one word".

We are yet to receive full analytics for the day. However, engagement was very high and the hashtag #NationalCancerCNSDay trended at third on Twitter. It is planned that this will be an annual event. Please read [Sue's story](#) on the following page.

We asked our Cancer Nurse Specialists to describe their role in one word and created a word jumble from their responses.



#NationalCancerCNSDay



Royal Devon and Exeter
NHS Foundation Trust



Hello my name is Sue and I am a breast Reconstruction nurse.

I work within the Breast Cancer Nursing team, guiding and supporting patients through partial and full breast reconstruction. I run nurse-led clinics, supporting patients in the pre and post-operative period, as well as carrying out ward visits and tele-consults. I offer teaching to the ward staff around this specialised area and am involved in audits and data collection, striving to improve patient care and experience.

I have worked in, and had a passion for, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery for over 20 years.

During this time, I have cared for a significant number of patients undergoing reconstructive surgery following procedures to remove cancers. Seeing the difference reconstruction can make to patients living with cancer has had a profound effect on me. I see how, not only does it improve patient's body image but also their self-esteem and confidence. I am able to combine my passion for reconstruction, with being able to spend time with patients and their families throughout their whole treatment pathway.

The patients! I love being able to support them in the pre-operative period, guiding them through their options and helping them reach a decision. For those seeking reconstruction in the delayed setting, I love visiting them on the ward following their surgery, to see how much having a breast mound means to them; they often tell me 'it makes them feel whole again'. Its great being a part of that! Seeing how far they have come from their point of diagnosis, through a raft of treatments, and to their completion surgery to not only rebuild their breast, but also their lives. I love it!

#WorkforcePlanning

NATIONAL CANCER
Clinical Nurse Specialist Day

15 March 2022 #NationalCancerCNSDay



MY SUNRISE CANCER COMPANION APP

This has been a busy period for the MySunrise app. We have been shortlisted for the National HSJ Partnership Awards in the Health Tech Partnership of the Year, alongside the Peninsula Cancer Alliance. We are really proud of this recognition of the great partnership we have with the Peninsula Cancer Alliance.

We have been working and making excellent progress on developing an updated version of the MySunrise app which has specific versions to Lung, Breast, Colorectal, Prostate, Head & Neck and Endometrial cancer. This is looking to go live in mid-2022 and will offer targeted support for our main cancer group patients.

Listening to feedback from our patient groups, we have developed a Wellness tracker which will be piloted in the coming months, initially at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, with a view to rolling out across the Peninsula. This will look to pick up on issues and provide support to cancer patients with the common problems they face, such as side effects of their treatment and mental health.

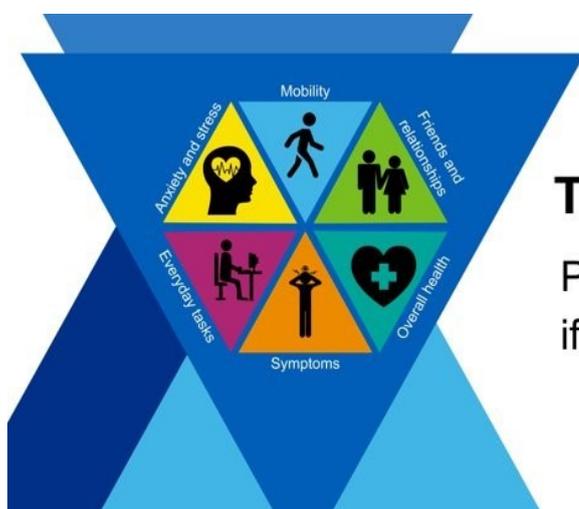
Work continues with the South West Academic Health Science Network (SWAHSN) to examine health inequalities relating to digital health inclusion and exclusion for our cancer patients. This fits alongside the British Sign Language (BSL) videos and subtitled videos for non-English speaking patients already recently added to the app.

We have also been working with the chemotherapy unit at the Royal Cornwall Hospital to develop a hybrid pre-assessment pathway for immunotherapy patients using videos and information on the MySunrise app, alongside a video review to streamline patients onto immunotherapy and maximise nursing time.

We look forward to sharing these developments in the new version of the app due to be released soon over the coming months and welcome your feedback.



QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY



Tell us, how are you doing?

Please fill in the Cancer Quality of Life Survey if you're asked



NEW PENINSULA CANCER ALLIANCE PATIENT FORUM

Our first new Patient Forum will be held on the 26 May 2022 and will bring together patient and carer voices from our Site-specific Groups (SSGs), project teams and the wider cancer patient/carer community to provide the PCA with a body of patient and carer opinion. The group will focus on a number of engagement objectives and supply advice, guidance and support to the PCA work programme to ensure the needs of the patients and carers are always considered.

For more information on this forum or for an expression of interest form, please visit our [website](#) or email Beth Kingshott at rde-tr.peninsulacanceralliancesgs@nhs.net

CANCER FORUM FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

This year the PCA will be running bi-monthly webinar calls aimed at our colleagues in the charity and third sector. Please see the list of sessions below. Further information about dates and joining instructions will be released when we have ensured that everyone has had a chance to register. To register please complete [this form](#).

List of 2022 Sessions

Session One: PCA Grant Scheme 2022.

Session Two: Cancer Recovery and Inequalities.

Session Three: Physical and Psychological Support in Cancer.

Session Four: Access to Services and the Challenges of Ruralty.

Session Five: Communicating Cancer Campaigns to Deprived Neighbourhoods.

Session Six: Cancer Screening Uptake.

Anyone in the Charity or Third Sector, whose work includes cancer patients in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is welcome to join us. Please direct any questions to peninsula.ca@nhs.net



DERMATOSCOPE TRAINING

Last year GP practices in Devon and Cornwall were sent dermatoscopes, a booklet and an adapter in order to help diagnose and minimise the referrals of benign lesions and improve the speed of diagnosis and treatment of malignant ones. Dr Emily McGrath, Consultant Dermatologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and her team provided an initial Teams session with follow up lunchtime sessions in order to increase GP confidence in using the scopes to recognise benign lesions.

Following the success of last year's sessions, we will be running further interactive teams GP training this year. The initial kick off session has now finished, but a recording is available on the NHS Futures platform. In order to register and access this recording please complete the [form here](#).

There will now be lunchtime sessions running on a monthly basis for the remainder of this year. For a breakdown of the subjects covered on this course and a link to register, please follow [this link](#).

Please direct any questions to peninsula.ca@nhs.net. Please have a look on our [website](#) for more information on our educational events.

