
West of Scotland Primary Care Cancer Network Regional Newsletter

Covid19 “Cancer Recovery Plan” Edition Winter 2020

This network newsletter is intended to summarise current primary care cancer issues at national and regional levels. Previous editions are available on the [WoSCAN](http://www.woscan.scot.nhs.uk) website.

“Cancer Recovery Plan” 9th Dec 2020

This national “Recovery and redesign: cancer services – action plan” has been published by the Scottish Government. This newsletter highlights the main points relevant to primary care.

Key Aims of Recovery

1. Adopt a Once for Scotland approach, where appropriate, to cancer services. This will ensure across equitable access to care and treatment.
2. Create smoother and more efficient patient pathways, from referral and diagnosis to personalised care and support after treatment.
3. Integrate innovative solutions to cancer services. These solutions will aim to improve access to cancer services, both remotely and in person, and minimise impact on waiting times.

A [Public Health Scotland website](http://www.getcheckedearly.org/) has been developed with data regarding the wider impact of covid19 on healthcare including cancer care.

Patient and Family support

All cancer patients will have access to a key support worker to receive dedicated financial, practical and emotional support.

A single point of contact framework will be developed. Aiming for dedicated person-centred support through the cancer pathway

With Macmillan Cancer Support the next Scottish Cancer Patient Experience Survey will be completed. This will provide insight into the real impact of Covid-19 on patients and their care.

Work with the Scottish Cancer Coalition will ensure quality information about individual cancer types, treatment, and various practical and emotional support services continues.

Cancer information aimed at patients and carers can be found at: www.getcheckedearly.org/

Patient Pathways

Pathways help define patient’s experience, access to treatment and outcomes. Analysis of whether new pathways for specific cancers will benefit patients will be undertaken, and where applicable with the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG). A focus will be placed on less survivable cancer pathways.

Weekly monitoring of patients moving through cancer pathways will continue. A firm focus will remain on Cancer Waiting Times performance and ensuring cancer patients are seen and treated as a priority as we progress through mobilisation and respond to any new Covid peaks.

Patients will receive testing for Covid-19, where deemed clinically appropriate, to help in minimising the spread and risk to other patients and health professionals.

Work is now underway in partnership with NES Digital Service (NDS), Public Health Scotland (PHS), and Health Boards develop technical solutions for cancer treatment summaries.

Detection and Diagnosis

A phased introduction of Early Cancer Diagnostic Centres will begin in two sites in Spring 2021. These will address either vague symptoms suspicious for cancer or improving pathways for tumour types that do not consistently meet 62-day waiting times targets.

Additional radiology capacity will be supported to aid work to increase GP direct access to diagnostic CT scanning.

An Endoscopy Renewal Plan will be created. This will include innovative endoscopy solutions such as Colon Capsule Endoscopy and Cytosponge™, which can reduce demand on traditional, more invasive, endoscopy. The role of qFIT in risk stratification will be reflected. Utilising the private sector and support from neighbouring health boards will also be explored.

The National Cancer Diagnosis Audit enables reflection, learning and quality improvement within primary care to improve outcomes and support early diagnosis. The report is due early 2021. An audit of the of the [Scottish Referral Guidelines](#) will be undertaken in Spring 2021, to understand any differing referral trends. This will also help inform the need for, and timings of, a full refresh of guidelines, in close consultation with primary care.

Cancer screening programmes

Breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening programmes have restarted in a phased, careful and prioritised way, in

line with the [recommendations](#) of the Scottish Screening Committee. screening services.

There is a need to consider the impacts of COVID-19 on uptake of, and access to, screening. There will be a focus on tackling inequalities in the national population screening programmes.

A cervical screening pilot of approaches to self-sampling will determine the potential for the use of self-sampling at national level.

Cancer Prehabilitation

Prehab helps patients prepare for treatment to optimise outcomes. Testing and evaluation will be undertaken including development of a digital resource for public and professionals.

Lung Cancer

A lung cancer awareness campaign will launch in 2021 with timings dependent on COVID-19 public health messaging to avoid public confusion.

[Clinical guidance](#) on the management of urgent suspicion of lung cancer referrals during Covid-19 was published in July.

To improve lung cancer survival rates “one-stop” lung cancer have been introduced in some areas and the concept of targeted “lung health checks” is being researched at the University of Edinburgh.

Cancer Recovery Plan – Specialist cancer services

The 68-point action plan also addresses issues relating to cancer treatment, workforce, data requirements, governance and system supports. The full report can be [viewed here](#).

If you have any concerns about primary care cancer issues, please contact us:

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