



30 March 2020

Wessex Cancer Alliance Update Bulletin 1.

Please find below, details of the most recent communications and guidance issued for Cancer.

Wessex Cancer Alliance

- Our Medical Director has issued an update letter to stakeholders. (attached)
- Our local patient information website, Cancer Matters has been launched with specific Covid-19 advice - <https://cancermatterswessex.nhs.uk/>

Dorset Cancer Partnership

- DCP are working closely with Wessex Cancer Alliance, the Dorset system partners and with both the SW and SE Regional teams.

National Information

- Specialty guidance for cancer is being published here:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/other-resources/specialty-guides/>
- A summary of the National key published documents that have been shared with Wessex Cancer Alliance has been put together (attached).
- Health Education England has an e-learning resource in response to the coronavirus global pandemic aimed at the entire UK health and care workforce, including those working in the NHS, the independent sector and social care.
<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/coronavirus/>
- National Incident Coordination Centre have issued guidance for Nursing and Medical Directors “Caring for People at Highest Risk” and a template letter for Trusts to issue to patients (attached)
- **The RCGP** has published (25/3/20) top 10 tips for Covid-19 telephone consultations: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us/rcgp-blog/top-10-tips-for-covid-19-telephone-consultations.aspx>
- Message from Macmillan: **The details of the Macmillan Support Line are shown below in case anyone is feeling isolated, alone and worried about the virus and it's effects on their, or their loved ones cancer.** Macmillan Support Line - for information, support or just someone to talk to, call **0808 808 00 00** or visit macmillan.org.uk the support line is open 7 days a week 8am to 8pm and free to call.

Regional Information

- A COVID-19 South East Cancer Cell has been set up to:
 - Support and implementation of the leadership directives from the National Incident Centre Control Centre
 - Clinical review and application of the national guidance in SE context by tumour site
 - Facilitate local application of pathways according to guidance, patient stratification



- What should be prioritised at different stages of the COVID response and different levels of system stress
 - Relocation of diagnostics, treatment, surgery to continue to deliver cancer services for high risk patients
 - Ensure that there is clear understanding of how the pandemic is to be managed amongst cancer community and also facilitate engagement processes where appropriate.
- Update regarding Screening:
 - Ministerial sign off for guidance is still awaited. Expected shortly.
 - Some technical guidance has been circulated by Hitachi (Breast screening) and NHS Digital (Colorectal FIT screening) to screening providers advising on the safe way that screening can be rescheduled, in the circumstances that a local decision is taken pending national guidance. This interim guidance has been shared because it is clear that in some cases screening services have already needed to pause.
 - It clearly references that this is being provided whilst the official national guidance is being finalised.
 - As previously communicated in the absence of national guidance, trusts that are considering changes to the programme pathway of any kind are required to have completed a risk/impact assessment and documented the decision within the trust action log.
 - A note: NHSE has advised further careful review in particular for any patients who have already returned a positive FIT test to assess their priority for colonoscopy, again documenting the decision until national guidance advises on how such patients should be managed
 - No technical guidance has currently been shared with regard to cervical screening.

Contact us

If you need to contact Wessex Cancer Alliance or Dorset Cancer Partnership, please email:

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