



20 April 2020

## Wessex Cancer Alliance Update Bulletin 4.

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

### Wessex Cancer Alliance

- **Difficult Conversations:** Health Education England have produced four short videos which have been developed by experienced Palliative Care clinicians to support health care professionals having challenging conversations in these times of Covid-19, based on the Real Talk evidence base. They can be used for self-training or for training others. They also highlight the importance of self-care for those staff having these conversations. Please do share with colleagues. Further information as well as the videos can also be found on the [E learning for Health website](#) or you can also access via: <https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/helping-break-unwelcome-news>
- Health and social care professionals in England are being encouraged to refer individuals who are highly vulnerable to coronavirus for support through the **NHS Volunteer Responders volunteering scheme**. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers are available to help with tasks such as collecting shopping and prescribed medicines or driving patients to medical appointments. You can make referrals through the [NHS Volunteer Responders referrers' portal](#) or by calling 0808 196 3382. Please see further information attached.

### Dorset Cancer Partnership

- **Public Health Dorset calls on smokers to quit.** Smokers in Dorset are being urged quit as evidence shows they are more likely to develop complications from COVID-19. <https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/18383115.public-health-dorset-calling-smokers-quit/>

### National Information

- **Specialty guidance for cancer** is being published here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/other-resources/specialty-guides/>
- **National Quality of Life Metric** – due to the COVID-19 outbreak the national launch, planned for June, will now be delayed and reviewed later this year.
- **NICE guideline NG161:** On 9 April 2020, a [table of the NHS England interim treatment regimens](#) was added to the NG161 guidance, as an option for delivering systemic anticancer treatments. They also added [recommendations on how to follow them](#).
- **Pancreatic Cancer UK:** have shared details of the support they are currently offering and various resources that are available. All of this can be accessed via their website; <https://www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/information-and-support/>
- **Health and well-being:** Some psychological self-help apps are available to all NHS staff for free via NHS England. These include Unmind, Headspace, Sleepio and Daylight. NHS England and NHS Improvement announced the first in a series of psychological support mechanisms for all NHS staff during the COVID19 outbreak, recognising the importance of looking after your own health and wellbeing, whilst supporting patients and your family. Links to the Apps mentioned here, can be found in the attached document.
- **Cervical Screening** – Guidance for sample taking has been issued; see attached PDF.



## Regional Information

- Please see the latest **key published documents** in the attached crib sheet.

## Contact us

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

[dcp@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:dcp@dorsetccg.nhs.uk) | [england.wessexcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:england.wessexcanceralliance@nhs.net)