

## CANCER IMPROVEMENT OFFER

The NHS Cancer Programme is driving local improvement across cancer services in England through Cancer Alliances. Cancer Alliances bring together clinical and managerial leaders from different hospital trusts and other health and social care organisations to transform the diagnosis, treatment and care for cancer patients in their local area. These partnerships enable care to be more effectively planned across local cancer pathways.

The independent Cancer Taskforce set out an ambitious vision for improving services, care and outcomes for everyone with cancer: fewer people getting cancer, more people surviving cancer, more people having a good experience of their treatment and care, whoever they are and wherever they live, and more people being supported to live as well as possible after treatment has finished. Cancer Alliances are key to driving the change needed across the country to achieve the Taskforce's vision.

This year Alliances are working to:

- Support delivery of all eight waiting time standards for cancer, including the 62 day referral-to-treatment cancer standard.
- Progress towards the 2020/21 ambition for 62% of cancer patients to be diagnosed at stage 1 or 2, and reduce the proportion of cancers diagnosed following an emergency admission.
- Implement the nationally agreed rapid assessment and diagnostic pathways for lung, prostate and colorectal cancers, ensuring that patients get timely access to the latest diagnosis and treatment.
- Progress towards the 2020/21 ambition for all breast cancer patients to move to a stratified follow-up pathway after treatment, including putting in place clinically agreed protocols for stratifying breast cancer patients and a system for remote monitoring by the end of 2018/19.
- Ensure full implementation of the new cancer waiting times system ahead of the introduction of a new 28 day early diagnosis standard in 2020.
- Support the rollout of FIT in the bowel cancer screening programme.
- Support the implementation of the new radiotherapy service specification, ensuring that the latest technologies are available for all patients across the country.
- Where relevant, participate in pilot programmes offering low dose CT scanning based on an assessment of lung cancer risk in CCGs with lowest lung cancer survival rates.

To help deliver this ask, support that all Cancer Alliances will receive in 2018/19 to transform care for their cancer patients includes:

- Core funding to establish and maintain a team to support the new way of working led by the Alliance
- Transformation Funding to deliver improvements in early diagnosis and quality of life for people living with and beyond cancer
- Dedicated support from our new analysis, evidence and data service
- Support and assurance from NHS England regional offices
- A tailored development programme
- A series of national Cancer Alliance events to share best practice and information across Cancer Alliances.

We are on track to invest at least £200 million in Transformation Funding for the two financial years from 2017/18 to 2018/19 – supporting Alliances to deliver earlier and faster diagnosis and improved quality of life for people with cancer.

NHS England works with Cancer Alliances to make sure funding goes to areas that have robust plans for effective use of these funds, and who, through their day to day operations, have established a solid foundation for transforming care. As a result, an element of the funding released to support each Alliance in 2018/19 is linked to their 62 day performance.

**Key resource for support improvement in this area:**

- [Independent Cancer Taskforce Report](#)
- [Five Year Forward View for Cancer](#)
- [Cancer Strategy Implementation Plan](#)
- [CCG Planning Guidance 2018/19](#)
- [Refreshing NHS Plans for 2018-19](#)
- [Cancer Dashboard](#)
- [Progress Report](#)
- [One Year On](#)

**For advice/guidance on national improvement support in this area please contact:**

[England.cancerpolicy@nhs.net](mailto:England.cancerpolicy@nhs.net)

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