

Cllr Bakul Kumar

Two items on the Agenda

A. UPDATE ON CANCER PATHWAY

Preventing and Supporting earlier cancer diagnosis

- Extension of bowel screening to eligible patients over the age of 50 years.
- Found out that patients with learning disabilities were presenting late with cancer leading to deaths. The Integrated Care System has established bowel screening programme for this programme.
- Information sessions in GP surgery regarding uptake of Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) to identify bowel cancer.
- Development of Community breast pathway to enable patients presenting with lower risk symptoms such as breast pain (no lump) to be seen and reassured in the community setting.
- Development of a post-menopausal bleeding pathway for early diagnosis of cancer.
- Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) a new cancer screening programme for people aged 55 – 74 with a history of smoking.

Screening programme update

- A new database to underpin the cervical screening programme went live in June 2024.
- Three Cancer screening programme in Worcestershire remains GOOD, with the majority of KPIs being met on a quarterly basis.

Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

Worcestershire Acute Trusts receives an average of 2,700 urgent suspected cancer referrals per month across all specialities, though referrals to skin and urology have been on increase.

In July 2024, 80.7% of patients received their diagnosis within 28 days, higher than national average of 77%.

In July 2024, 71.28% of patients were treated within 62 days, higher than national planning requirement of 70%.

To address the growing demand, it is the intention of the Trusts to develop a further Community Diagnostic Centre, with an opportunity to provide an opportunity for more access to PET-CT scan.

(Positron emission tomography (PET) scans produce detailed 3-dimensional images of the inside of the body.

The images can clearly show the part of the body being investigated, including any abnormal areas, and can highlight how well certain functions of the body are working.

PET scans are often combined with CT scans to produce even more detailed images. This is known as a PET-CT scan.

Challenges

Dermatology services

	December 2023		July 2024	
	No. of patients	% Performance	No. of patients	% Performance
Faster diagnosis standard	538	69.0%	723	87.3%
31-day decision to treat to treatment	69	97.1%	118	43.2%

Urological Cancer

Impacted by National stories and has not had sufficient capacity to meet the demand.

A new and expanded Urology Intervention Unit was opened in Alexandra Hospital in August 24 with additional staff and upskilling existing staff to increase the diagnostic capacity of the service.

	December 2023		July 2024	
	No. of patients	% Performance	No. of patients	% Performance
Urological Cancer				
Faster diagnosis standard	252	36.1%	353	51.8%
31-day decision to treat to treatment	149	81.9%	210	85.7%

Lung Cancer

Problems

- Capacity
- Demand on respiratory physicians
- Relative consultant capacity compared to the population and the associate lung cancer rates.
- Patients require multiple of repeat diagnostic tests, staging scans which elongates the time between diagnosis and treatment.
- Improvements include Funding for an additional respiratory physician and a service called EBUS (Bronchoscopy and Endobronchial ultrasound scan and biopsy).

	December 2023		July 2024	
	No. of patients	% Performance	No. of patients	% Performance
Lung Cancer				
Faster diagnosis standard	24	75.0%	44	56.8%
31-day decision to treat to treatment	23	87.0%	38	97.4%

Living with and beyond Cancer

Clinically led “Living with and Beyond Cancer” has been set up to support patients and families.

Development of a Patient Forum to engage with cancer patients from all tumour sites.

Development of a Cancer Services App – a tool with information and signposting to partner organisation to assist living with and beyond cancer.

(Concerns were raised by HOSC members regarding inadequate information provided to cancer patients and their families, unlike in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. They are going to investigate and improve).

B. ACUTE DERMATOLOGY SERVICES UPDATE

- During 2022-23, the Trust saw more than 13,000 patients with severe inflammatory skin disease and cancer.
- 2023-24, Consultant Dermatologists resigned, as a result there is no data for dermatology service demand.
- Challenges – trusts difficulty in recruiting permanent staff
- Led to challenges in maintaining services and longer waiting times for some patients.
- Worcester has developed a partnership with Wye Valley Trust, which will help in recruiting, peer-support, mentoring and guiding. They have an SLA.
- Since February 24, a private sector insourcing provider, Health Harmonie, has been providing services in Kidderminster Treatment Centre and Worcester Royal Hospital.
- The contract with Health Harmonie includes:
 - 2 weeks outpatients’ clinic and follow up
 - Micrographic surgery of skin cancer
 - Minor operations on skin cancer
 - Drug treatment for diseases like psoriasis and eczema.

Nurses work with members of Health Harmonie and the latter will work for another 12 months.