Analysis from Learning Events and Educational Tools

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Learning events (formerly SEA)

• For *individual and practice/PCN learning*
• Highlight areas for development *as individual and Practice*
• Identify gaps/weaknesses *in systems*
• Stimulate discussion and *reflection as a group/Network*
• Consider *particular types of presentation e.g emergency*
Factors influencing cancer survival and premature mortality
Updated NAEDI hypothesis

Age / Sex / Ethnicity / Socio-economic status*

- Difficulty accessing primary care
  - Low public awareness
  - Barriers to help-seeking
  - Negative beliefs about cancer*

- Delays in primary care interval
  - Late presentation to a GP

- Access to diagnostics and primary-secondary care interface factors*
  - Late presentation to hospital services
  - Emergency presentations*

- Delays in secondary care interval

- Treatment Access to treatment Other factors
  - More advanced disease at diagnosis

- Avoidable deaths

*New or changed since original hypothesis

Service level factors
Individual level factors
Learning Events (SEA) - Overview

• What happened and why?
• What was the impact on those involved (patient, carer, family, GP, practice)?
• How could things have been different?
• What can we learn from what happened?
• What needs to change?
Learning Events (SEA) – Key Points

• Title and date of the SEA discussion and subsequent events
• Date the event was discussed and the roles of those present
• A description of the event involving the GP(s) and other colleagues
• Reflections on the event in terms of knowledge, skills and performance
• Safety and Quality Improvement
Learning Events (SEA)- Key Points

• Communication, partnership and teamwork
• Maintaining trust
• What changes have been agreed for me personally and the practice team, roles and agreed timelines for action(s)
• Changes carried out and their impact?
• How could things have been different?
• What can we learn from what happened?
• What needs to change?
Improving diagnosis of cancer

A TOOLKIT FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

E Mitchell, G Rubin & U Macleod

SIGNIFICANT EVENT AUDIT OF CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Cancer SEA Report Template

| Diagnosis: |  |
| Date of diagnosis: |  |
| Age of patient at diagnosis: |  |
| Sex of patient: |  |
| Is the patient currently alive (Y/N): |  |
| If deceased, please give date of death: |  |
| Date of meeting where SEA discussed: |  |

N.B.: Please DO NOT include the patient’s name in any narrative

1. WHAT HAPPENED?

Describe the process to diagnosis for this patient in detail, including dates of consultations, referral and diagnosis. Consider for instance:

- The initial presentation and presenting symptoms (including where it outwith primary care).
- The key consultation at which the diagnosis was made.
- Consultations in the year prior to diagnosis and referral (how often the patient had been seen by this practice and for what reasons).
- Whether they had been seen by the Out of Hours service, at A&E or in secondary care clinics.
- If there appears to be delay on the part of the patient in presenting with their symptoms.
1. WHAT HAPPENED?

Describe the process to diagnosis for this patient in detail, including dates of consultations, referral and diagnosis and the clinicians involved in that process. Consider for instance:

- The initial presentation and presenting symptoms (including where if outwith primary care).
- The key consultation at which the diagnosis was made.
- Consultations in the year prior to diagnosis and referral (how often the patient had been seen by the practice; for what reasons; the type of consultation held: telephone, in clinic etc; and who - GP1, GP2, Nurse 1 - saw them).
- Whether s/he had been seen by the Out of Hours service, at A&E, or in secondary care clinics.
- If there appears to be delay on the part of the patient in presenting with their symptoms.
- What the impact or potential impact of the event was.

June 2014- Attended GP surgery concerned about aching right groin lump. GP1 referred to Surgeon for possible hernia. Surgeon diagnosed a few ‘a few shotty lymph nodes but no hernia’, which he didn’t think warranted a scan.¹

June 2014- Normal mammogram.

Nov 2014- Negative bowel cancer screening test.²

Dec 2014- Consultation with GP1 for Hypertension review and statin discussion for raised cholesterol, QRisk 19%.³

Feb 2015- Consulted with GP1 for weeping area in umbilicus. Diagnosed as Pyogenic Granuloma and cauterized with silver nitrate.

11th April 2015 – Consultation with GP2 for aching in left lower leg 2d after long haul flight. No clinical signs of DVT and Wells score -1. Muscle strain thought more likely. Counselling for signs of DVT and advised to raise concerns at BP check the following week and if worse would need scan to exclude DVT.⁴
1. WHAT HAPPENED?

Describe the process to diagnosis for this patient in detail, including dates of consultations, referral and diagnosis and the clinicians involved in that process. Consider for instance:

- The initial presentation and presenting symptoms (including where if outwith primary care).
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- Whether s/he had been seen by the Out of Hours service, at A&E, or in secondary care clinics.
- If there appears to be delay on the part of the patient in presenting with their symptoms.
- What the impact or potential impact of the event was.
Early Diagnosis of Cancer Significant Event Analysis Toolkit

Cancer SEAs prompt a GP to reflect on their diagnosis, and identify any potential improvements in practice systems using documentation or proactive safety netting.

At CCG or Health Body level, a cancer or quality improvement lead may find emerging themes and use local intelligence to address and manage issues. Cancer Significant Event Analysis (SEA) can support dialogue between the primary and secondary care interface and have benefits for clinicians, practices and patients.

Who is the toolkit for?

This cancer SEA toolkit and its resources support GPs, practice staff and commissioners in conducting high quality cancer SEAs with the aim of improving patient outcomes in the early diagnosis of cancer.

This toolkit may be used by CCG/Health Body or cancer leads, practice GP leads or any GP in practice delivering training and includes guidance for quality improvement across the primary secondary care interface.

If you are based in Wales or Scotland and interested in your practice taking part in the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit, please find out more and register here. Note that the audit in England has now closed.

Training resources for cancer/commissioning leads
Examples of SEAs with thematic analysis
Resources and guidance for training practice staff
Safety netting in primary care
Additional cancer risk assessment tools
Background and rationale
The Cancer SEA GP guide can be used by any GP wishing to undertake a Cancer SEA. The guide can also be issued as a ‘hand-out’ for GPs in your training events.

'Early Diagnosis of Cancer - Quality Improvement Using Cancer Significant Event Analysis’ training session resources

The following resources consist of a presentation that can be adapted for your training events, and resources to support this:

- Cancer SEA training slides with trainer notes
- Cancer SEA session - lesson plan
- Example cancer SEA session agenda

Resources for training sessions:

- Cancer SEA Template (2016)
- Instrument feedback tool
- Workshop brief
- Example SEA – Patient A handout
- Example SEA – Patient B handout
- Example SEA – Patient C handout
- Example evaluation form
The role of primary care in cancer diagnosis via emergency presentation: qualitative synthesis of significant event reports

E D Mitchell, G Rubin, L Merriman, and U Macleod

Research

Elizabeth D Mitchell, Greg Rubin and Una Macleod

Understanding diagnosis of lung cancer in primary care:
qualitative synthesis of significant event audit reports
East Midlands Emergency presentation of lung cancer - SEA Thematic Analysis

- Common themes
- Divided into:
  - Tumour
  - Person
  - System
  - Diagnostics
  - Primary Care
  - Secondary Care
Tumour Themes

- No symptoms
- Anaemia
- Weight loss
- Neurological features:
  - ataxia, arm/facial weakness, seizure
- Breathlessness
- Pain
- Recurrent COPD exacerbations in the 6 months leading to diagnosis
Person Themes

- Nihilism and reluctance to “bother” G.P
  - Seizure 4 months before
  - Haemoptysis, saw pharmacist
- Stoic attitude rarely attend G.P
- Attribution of symptoms to another problem
- Attend AE
- Declining further investigations
  - Abnormal CXR
- Slow to represent after Investigations
- Frail with comorbidity
Community Themes

- Understanding of NICE referral guideline criteria
- What to do if CXR normal?
- Symptoms not always respiratory and meet referral criteria
- Pathway redesign
The Practices

Eastgate Medical Group

Church View Surgery

The Hedon Group Practice

Orchard 2000 Medical Centre

New Hall Surgery
Oakfield Court Cottingham Road

Royal College of General Practitioners

The Ridings Medical Group

Cancer Research UK
Presenting symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loose stools</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR bleeding</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT Loss</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaemia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor appetite</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constipation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenesmus</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiredness</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incontinence</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal Mass</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus pain</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomitting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epigastric pain</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue discouloration in fingers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold hands</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paresthesia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally unwell</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant Event Analysis of Lung and Colorectal Cancer in Hull (and safety netting!)
A pie chart showing the referrals of patients diagnosed with bowel cancer

Significant Event Analysis of Lung and Colorectal Cancer in Hull (and safety netting!)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning point</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety netting is important when managing patients with red flag symptoms, arranging investigations and sending referrals</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know the NICE guidelines on the recognition and referral of cancer and the red flags</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a robust system for dealing with the results of investigations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A careful examination should be undertaken and documented in patients presenting with abdominal symptoms</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients presenting multiple times with similar symptoms should be monitored</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a low threshold for investigating patients who present infrequently</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with significant comorbidities, may present late or have new symptoms labelled as part of their existing disease</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate patients with iron deficiency anaemia and know the local referral pathway</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good communication with secondary care can improve diagnosis times</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not be reassured by normal blood results when a diagnosis of colorectal cancer is suspected</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure patient contact details are correct when organising investigations and referrals</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presenting complaint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOB</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing sputum</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of appetite</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeze</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoptysis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally unwell</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiredness</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night sweats</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoarse Voice</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal bloods</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant Event Analysis of Lung and Colorectal Cancer in Hull (and safety netting!)
Key Lung Cancer Learning Point

• 37 (31%) patients had a first CXR which was negative for lung cancer.

• A negative CXR significantly increased median time to diagnosis with a fivefold increase in time to referral.

• A detailed review of cases showed that negative CXRs seemed to divert the GPs attention away from the possibility of lung cancer with multiple trials of treatments, routine referrals and referrals to other specialities being made.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning point</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety netting is important when managing patients with red flag symptoms, arranging investigations and sending referrals</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a low threshold for requesting chest x-rays, particularly in current or ex-smokers</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know the NICE guidelines on the recognition and referral of cancer and the red flags</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients presenting multiple times with similar symptoms should be monitored</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a robust system for dealing with the results of investigations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be aware that chest x-rays can be negative even in patients with cancer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients presenting to A&amp;E or OOH should be monitored and reviewed as needed</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a low threshold for investigating patients who present infrequently</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A careful examination should be undertaken and documented in patients presenting with chest signs</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a system in place to monitor investigations that have been requested and to chase up patients who do not attend</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good communication with secondary care can improve diagnosis times</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document and record smoking status in patients presenting with chest symptoms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with significant comorbidities, may present late or have new symptoms labelled as part of their existing disease</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure patient contact details are correct when organising investigations and referrals</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant Event Analysis of Lung and Colorectal Cancer in Hull (and safety netting!)

Royal College of General Practitioners
Types/Uses of Educational Resources

- For professionals to **understand patient journey**, eg Healthtalkonline
- For professionals to **share with patients** eg If I were Tom
- For professionals to **aid action** eg Cancer Maps
- For professionals to **aid clinical skills** eg Oral and Skin cancer toolkits
- For **Primary Care Teams** including Practice Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Associates, Pharmacists
- For professional **understanding of systems** eg NG12
GP Educational Needs

Consultation/Clinical Skills

Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative

Patient

Larger Care System

Practice Systems
Resources

- QCancer
- Cancer Maps
- If I were Tom
- Health talk online
- Cancer Stories
- OCT/Skin Cancer toolkit
- Gateway C

- CRUK CPD
- Cancer screening PHE
- Macmillan Info site
- Cancer Stories
- Fingertips PHE
- CRUK Online Learning
- CRUK Facilitator Visits
GP Educational Needs

- Consultation/Clinical Skills
- Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative
- Larger Care System
- Practice Systems

Patient
# Cancer

**Overview**

There are many different types of cancer. We have interviewed a wide range of people with personal experience of cancer, so that you can share in their stories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Type</th>
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<th>Cancer Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowel screening</td>
<td>Breast cancer in men</td>
<td>Breast cancer in women</td>
<td>Breast screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical abnormalities</td>
<td>Cervical cancer</td>
<td>Cervical screening</td>
<td>Colorectal cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukaemia</td>
<td>Living with and beyond cancer</td>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic cancer</td>
<td>Penile cancer</td>
<td>Prostate cancer</td>
<td>Testicular cancer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[Healthtalk.org](http://healthtalk.org)
Pancreatic Cancer

Overview

In this section you can find out about the experience of pancreatic cancer by seeing and hearing people share their personal stories on film. Our researchers travelled all around the UK to talk to 40 people (including 8 people who cared for a relative who died from the cancer) in their own homes. Find out what people said about issues such as symptoms, treatment, potentially curative surgery and impact on family. We hope you find the information helpful and reassuring.

You can start viewing topics by clicking ‘Next Topic’ above, or selecting from the list on the left. You can also view ‘People’s Profiles’ from the tab above.

Hugh Grant introduces ‘Pancreatic can...’
Tom is dealing with prostate cancer. The waiting. The treatments. The side effects. What would you do in his place? Watch these videos to map out a strategy that will work for you.

IF I WERE TOM

Get Started ▸ Choose Scene ▾
GP Educational Needs

- Consultation/Clinical Skills
- Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative
- Larger Care System
- Practice Systems

Patient
Online cancer education for primary care

GatewayC is an online cancer education platform developed for GPs, practice nurses, and other primary care professionals. The platform aims to improve cancer outcomes by facilitating earlier and faster diagnosis and improving patient experience, through:

- Improved knowledge of symptoms
- Increased confidence in when and when not to refer a patient(s)
- Improved quality of suspected cancer referrals, reducing delays in the system
- Improved communication to enhance the patient experience and support patients at each stage of their cancer journey.

GatewayC has been developed by GPs, specialists, and patients.

Courses are endorsed by Cancer Research UK and accredited by the Royal College of General Practitioners.
Every year in the UK over 300,000,000 GP consultations take place
The original tool is based on two risk calculators for cancer; the Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) algorithm developed by Professor Willie Hamilton and the QCancer® algorithm developed by Professor Julia Hippsley-Cox.

Currently:

- Integrated QCancer tool is available for EMIS Web users in England, Wales and NI.
- Integrated CDS tool is available for INPS Vision users across the UK.
- Still working with TPP SystmOne.
QCancer

Prompts

For each patient with a cancer risk above 2%, a prompt appears with the patient’s QCancer score and the reasoning behind it.

Uses patient record, relevant tests and read-coded symptomatic information from the previous 12 months.

Useful if a patient has presented with vague symptoms and/or has seen a number of GPs.
QCancer Symptoms and Follow Up

Review the symptoms and then calculate the QCancer Score

QCancer Cancer Risk

To view site specific QCancer risk scores before reviewing symptoms, click Calculate then View. Then re-calculate after symptoms have been recorded.

Symptom Check List

The following check list is not exhaustive

QCancer uses a current symptoms algo.

Pre-existing information from the medic

Does the patient currently have.... (brackets denote calculation.

☐ - Appetite loss (1m)
☐ - Abnormal or Unexplained weight loss (1m)
☐ - Abdominal pain (1m)
☐ - Abdominal swelling (1m)
☐ - Difficulty swallowing liquids (1m)
☐ - Difficulty in swallowing solids (1m)
☐ - Indigestion (1m)
☐ - Heartburn (1m)
☐ - Cough (12m)
☐ - Change in bowel habit (12m)
☐ - Constipation (12m)
☐ - Painless rectal bleeding (1m)
☐ - Painful rectal bleeding (1m)
☐ - Blood in vomit (1m)
☐ - Blood in sputum (1m)
☐ - Blood in urine (1m)
Welcome to the QCancer®-2016 Web Calculator

Welcome to the QCancer®-2016 risk calculator for men:

About you

Age (25-89): 64

UK postcode: leave blank if unknown

Postcode:

Clinical information

Smoking status: non-smoker

Alcohol status: non-drinker

Do you have...

- a family history of gastrointestinal cancer?
- a family history of prostate cancer?
- type 2 diabetes?
- chronic pancreatitis?
- chronic obstructive Airways disease (COPD)?

Do you currently have...

- loss of appetite?

QCancer works out the risk of a patient having prostate cancer. It does not give a diagnosis.

The QCancer®-2016 algorithms have been developed based on 20 years of collected data from many thousands of GPs and cancer registries. QCancer®-2016 has been developed for the UK.

The science underpinning the QCancer® equation is published in the following reference:

Cancer Research UK

Royal College of General Practitioners
GP Educational Needs

- Consultation/Clinical Skills
- Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative
- Patient
- Larger Care System
- Practice Systems
Updated National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) referral guidelines for suspected cancer were published on 23rd June 2015, replacing the 2005 version.
NICE: SUSPECTED CANCER RECOGNITION AND REFERRAL – SYMPTOM Desk Easel

This resource summarises NICE’s 2015 referral guidelines for suspected cancer (NG12).
The information in this summary is correct to the best of our knowledge but does not replace clinical judgement.
The full guidelines can be found here: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng12
If you have any feedback or want more information please contact earlydiagnosis@cancer.org.uk or visit our webpage http://bit.ly/1QiV6U0

Please note, pathways may differ due to local variation in commissioned services.

Abdominal symptoms

Bleeding symptoms

Gynaecological / urological symptoms

Lumps and lymphadenopathy

Neurological / skeletal / pain symptoms

Respiratory symptoms

Skin / surface symptoms

Investigation findings

Non-specific symptoms

Children and young people

Safety netting summary

**KEY**
- B: Baked
- 2w/w: 2 week wait
- 40+ and over: 40 and over etc
- BCC: Basal cell carcinoma
- BJR: Bone-Jones protein urine test
- CRP: C-reactive protein
- D: Digital rectal examination
- EBV: Epstein-Barr virus
- ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- FBC: Full blood count
- FOBT: Faecal occult blood test
- GFR: Glomerular filtration rate
- G: Gastric Procedures
- L: Lower urinary tract symptoms
- N/P: Nausea/Vomiting
- OGD: Oesophagogastroduodenoscopy
- PSA: Prostate specific antigen
- SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma
- SOB: Shortness of breath
- SWB: Whole body scan
- X: X-ray

**Abbreviations**
- DVT: Deep vein thrombosis
- ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- FBC: Full blood count
- FOBT: Faecal occult blood test
- IDA: Iron deficiency anaemia
- IDV: Intravenous infusion
- LUTS: Lower urinary tract symptoms
- M: Malignant
- NG12: National Guidelines
- NICE: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
- PSA: Prostate specific antigen
- SOB: Shortness of breath
- SWB: Whole body scan
- X: X-ray

June 2016

Royal College of General Practitioners
THE CANCER MAPS®

Summarising the 2015 NG12 NICE Guidelines

Developed by Dr Ben Noble
bennole@nhs.net

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Symptoms
- abdominal pain
- anorexia
- anaemia
- appetite loss
- ascites
- back pain
- bleeding
- bloating
- blood glucose
- bone pain
- bowel habit change
- bruising
- chest infection
- chest pain
- chest signs
- constipation
- cough
- diabetes
- dizziness
- dyspepsia
- dysphagia
- erectile dysfunction
- fatigue
- fever
- finger clubbing
- fracture
- haematemesis
- haemoptysis

Other symptoms
- hepatosplenomegaly
- hoarseness
- hypercalcemia
- jaundice
- leukemia
- leukopenia
- lump
- mass
- nausea
- night sweats
- organomegaly
- parox
- pruritus
- renal bleeding
- recurrent infection
- reflux
- shortness of breath
- thrombocytosis
- ulceration
- urinary symptoms
- vaginal discharge
- vomiting
- weight loss
- white cell count

RCGP
Royal College of General Practitioners
Cancer Maps
Oral, head and neck examination technique for GPs
Skin cancer recognition toolkit
Improving your knowledge of skin lesions, typical features and referral guidelines

Lesion recognition resource
Browse images and descriptions of different types of lesion and view referral guidelines.
› View resource

Image discussion
Upload images of diagnosed lesion images to share and discuss with colleagues.
› View resource

Top 2-week referrals
Some of the most common referrals under the 2-week wait rule that are confirmed not to be melanoma.
› View resource

Differentiating carcinomas and melanomas
Increase your confidence in diagnosing basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas using the CRUK skin lesion gallery.
› View resource

Patient case studies
- Mary’s story by Dr Abha Gulati, Academic Clinical Lecturer in Dermatology
- Kate’s story by Dr Abha Gulati, Academic Clinical Lecturer in Dermatology
› View patient case studies

Accredited education
Boost your knowledge in differentiating between malignant and benign skin lesions and in appropriate referral pathways with this accredited 20-minute eCME quiz.
› Take the eCME quiz

Acknowledgements
Skin cancer recognition toolkit

Improving your knowledge of skin lesions, typical features and referral guidelines

Top 2-week wait referrals
Here is a list of some of the most common referrals under the 2-week wait rule that are subsequently confirmed not to be melanoma. It may be helpful to consider these options when presented with a suspect lesion:

- Benign melanocytic naevo
- Seborrheic keratosis
- Dermatofibroma
- Angioma
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma, Bowen's disease and solar keratosis
- Solar lentigo
- Lichenoid keratosis
- Viral warts
- Pyogenic granuloma

Medical knowledge and the legislative framework are constantly changing. As new information becomes available changes in treatment, procedures, equipment and the use of drugs is necessary. The authors and editors have, as far as it is possible, taken care to ensure that the information given in this module is accurate and up to date at the time it was created. However, users are strongly advised to confirm that the information complies with current legislation and standards of practice.

Top tips
A systematic approach to lesion recognition in primary care.
Advice for GPs from Dr GC Moncrieff, GPwSI in Dermatology common referrals under the two-week wait rule that are subsequently confirmed not to be melanoma.

View top tips

Lesion recognition resource
Browse images and descriptions of different types of lesion and view referral guidelines.

View lesion recognition resource
Lesion recognition resource
Differential diagnosis

Seborrhoeic keratosis

Seborrhoeic keratosis (otherwise known as seborrhoeic warts or basal cell papillomas) are benign proliferations of epidermis. They are present in nearly all people over the age of 50 years and many younger adults too. They have no malignant potential. The only issue is in distinguishing them from skin cancers and although most are easily diagnosed, some melanomas actually induce "wartiness" of the overlying epidermis and may mimic seborrhoeic keratoses.

These lesions may look "stuck on" and "greasy". Most often they are coffee coloured but can be very variable in colour from pale grey or yellow to brown or black. There is usually a rough or fissured surface. Milia like cysts may be visible to the naked eye and especially with the dermatoscope. However, such cysts may also be seen in melanomas. It is quite common for parts of the seborrhoeic keratoses to fall off and they are relatively easily picked off. They may be itchy or irritating.

Browse images and descriptions of different types of lesion and view referral guidelines.
Online learning

Self-directed and bite-size learning.

Essentials of Smoking Cessation

Smoking cessation advice, types of pharmacotherapy and how to provide smoking cessation support for different patient groups.

RCGP position statement on e-cigarettes: video and podcast

Watch or listen to the new RCGP video on the role of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid.

Webinar - Why and how to support your patients to stop smoking

Dr Alex Bubak on the size of the problem, clinical and economic benefits, the current landscape, tobacco

Questions?
If you have specific queries, please see the contact details in each section.
For something not covered here:

Email the web team
Welcome to the Cancer Education Hub

There are five key areas where GPs are involved in cancer care. These form a ‘patient journey’, although not all steps will be relevant for individual patients:

Resources
- Improving diagnosis of Cancer - a toolkit for General Practice
- National Cancer Diagnosis Audit Tool

- Screening
- Early Diagnosis of Cancer
Early Diagnosis of Cancer

This course highlights the importance of recognising cancer in its early stages and the essential role of the GP in identifying common delays. It includes reflective cases, risk toolkits and practical suggestions on how to improve your practice and helps you to discover ways to diagnose cancer earlier.

This course was developed in partnership with Cancer Research UK.
This course is FREE to all healthcare professionals in the UK.

Time to complete this course:
30 minutes
Date of publication:
November 2012
Reviewed and updated:
October 2018

When you have completed the activities a link to your eCertificate will appear above.

Learning Sessions
Work your way through the course by clicking on the links below.

[Link to Learning Sessions]
Welcome to the Cancer Education Hub

There are five key areas where GPs are involved in cancer care. These form a ‘patient journey’, although not all steps will be relevant for individual patients.

Resources
- Improving diagnosis of cancer - a toolkit for General Practice
- National Cancer Diagnosis Audit Tool

Search courses:

Screening
- Bowel Cancer Screening - The Essentials
- Breast Cancer Screening - The Essentials
- Cervical Screening Update
- HPV - The Essentials

Early Diagnosis of Cancer
- Bloating & Other Abdominal Symptoms: Could it be Ovarian Cancer?
- Cancer in Children and Young People
- Blood Cancer
- Brain Tumours in Children
- Early Diagnosis of Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer: Early Diagnosis in General Practice
- Primary Bazo Cancer
- Prostate Cancer: Early Diagnosis in General Practice
Continual Professional Development (CPD)

Keep up to date in this fast changing clinical area with accredited educational resources designed to test your knowledge and support the early diagnosis of cancer. These resources have been developed or compiled by Cancer Research UK in partnership with relevant clinical experts and organisations including Doctors.net.uk, RCGP, BMJ and the Department of Health. Most of the resources are open access, some are located on the other organisations’ websites, and some might require a login.

Primary Care Cancer Toolkit

A collection of key evidence-based resources about cancer prevention, diagnosis and care relevant for the primary care setting from CRUK and RCGP. Open access to all health professionals.

Primary Care Cancer Toolkit
GP Educational Needs

- Consultation/Clinical Skills
- Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative
- Larger Care System
- Practice Systems

Patient
Safety netting is an important tool that can be used to support management of diagnostic uncertainty, helping ensure patients are re-evaluated in a timely and appropriate manner.

What is safety netting?

Evidence for safety netting in diagnosing cancer

Safety netting recommendations and resources
Safety Netting

EMIS WEB GUIDE

Delivered in collaboration with the NW London Primary Care Cancer Board, this pilot has been developed for all members of the practice team including clinicians and administrators to improve confidence to implement safety netting systems in your practice using EmisWeb in ways that are already familiar.
GP Educational Needs

- Consultation/Clinical Skills
- Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative
- Patient
- Larger Care System
- Practice Systems
Screening for cancer

Cancer screening involves testing apparently healthy people for signs of the disease. It can save lives by finding cancers at an early stage, or even preventing them. Screening is not the same as the tests a person may have when doctors are diagnosing or treating cancer.

Are you eligible for screening?

- Female
- Male

Age: [ ]

Where do you live?

- England
- Wales
- N. Ireland
- Scotland

The UK has 3 screening programmes

- Bowel cancer screening
- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening

Benefits and risks of screening

We know that cancer screening saves thousands of lives each year. It can detect cancers at an early stage and in some cases, even prevent cancers from developing in the first place.

But screening is not perfect. The tests can miss cancers, and have other risks too.

Your choice

Whether or not to go for screening is your choice. You should read the information you are sent with your screening invitation to help you make an informed decision, and ask your doctor if you need help.

- Find out more about screening
Bowel screening resources

Here you can find resources and examples of good practice that can support you to plan and deliver improvement activity at a local level. A growing evidence base has highlighted a number of interventions that increase uptake of bowel screening, which is currently low, while promoting informed consent.

To let us know if you are aware of or are involved in projects that could provide further evidence of good practice in order to support local teams, please email us on endoscopy@cancer.org.uk.

- English GP Good Practice Guide
- Scottish GP Good Practice Guide
- Welsh GP Good Practice Guide
- GP endorsement letters
- Bowel screening leaflets
Introduction of the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

Any questions?
Contact the Early Diagnosis Team for any other questions on FIT introduction.

Email us

Bowel cancer screening reduces bowel cancer mortality. Since bowel cancer screening began in the UK, it has made use of a certain type of faecal occult blood test - a guaiac-based test (gFOBT). Now, the guaiac test is being replaced by a Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) test.

Here you can find information on the new test, its implementation and how this will affect healthcare professionals, people invited for screening, and patients.

What is FIT?

FIT in screening

Why is FIT replacing gFOBT in the bowel screening programme?

Reporting of FIT screening results to health
Online registration for the next NCDA will open from February 2019
Data collection in England due to start from April 2019

How it works:

GPs register online and will be given a secure account and password for the online NCDA portal which is linked to their practice.

• From April 2019 patients newly diagnosed with cancer registered at their practice will automatically appear on the portal once they are logged on the Cancer Registry; GPs will get a monthly email to alert them to new cases.

• For each patient GPs then submit data on key dates, symptoms, number of consultations, types of investigations, referral(s) and patient characteristics.

• Patients with certain characteristics will automatically be flagged by the system for further review / as a learning event (e.g. emergency diagnosis, those who died within 30 days of diagnosis etc.)

• Analyse the data and create tailored practice reports which will be shared via the online portal.

• Support from CRUK facilitators & Macmillan GPs, and resources from CRUK and the RCGP, are available to support discussion of audit findings and planning of quality improvement activity.
Tailored help for GP practices

Support for quality improvement in your practice.

Facilitator visits

Our Facilitators work directly with the NHS to drive improvement in cancer prevention and diagnosis.

- More about what we do

Where are the facilitators

Our regional teams of Facilitators work across England, Scotland, and Wales, and will soon arrive in Northern Ireland.

- Find a Facilitator near you

Training by Facilitators

Facilitators deliver training across all cancer priority areas, particularly, safety netting and urgent referral guidelines.

- See more on training

“CRUK Facilitators have played a significant role in introducing and embedding improvement in cancer screening and referral.”

Conclusion of independent evaluation, Healthfocus, 2017
GP Educational Needs

Consultation/Clinical Skills

Knowledge – Clinical and Administrative

Patient

Larger Care System

Practice Systems
Resources

- QCancer
- Cancer Maps
- If I were Tom
- Health talk online
- Cancer Stories
- OCT/Skin Cancer toolkit
- Gateway C

- CRUK CPD
- Cancer screening PHE
- Macmillan Info site
- Cancer Stories
- Fingertips PHE
- CRUK Online Learning
- CRUK Facilitator Visits
Bonus Resource

- Behind the headlines
Major study finds no link between night shift work and breast cancer

Wednesday May 29 2019

"Night shifts do not increase breast cancer risk, study concludes," reports The Guardian.

This reassuring headline follows analysis of information about more than 100,000 women in the UK over a 10-year period.

A link between night shift work and breast cancer risk was first proposed 30 years ago.

This was because of fears that working with artificial light at night could disrupt the body clock or the production of the hormone melatonin.

In turn, these imbalances could increase the risk of breast cancer.

But studies since then have been inconclusive.