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**The Cancer Research UK Health Professional Engagement Programme**

**Background**

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is partnering with the NHS and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to help improve early diagnosis and cancer outcomes in primary care by providing intensive support in several regions.

**Aims and objectives**

The programme’s overall aims are to:

* Raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis
* Reduce the time from first presentation of symptoms to a cancer diagnosis
* Improve 2 week wait referral ratios, conversion and detection rates
* Increase use of the four diagnostic tests outlined in “Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer” (IOSC)
* Improve the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2
* Improve engagement between primary and secondary care clinicians

The specific objectives of the programme are to:

* Engage with all practices in the defined region
* Help facilitate consideration and discussion on early diagnosis and detection of cancer
* Improve practice staff awareness of cancer signs and symptoms
* Increase early detection of cancer in general practice and to increase detection via the 2 week wait referral route
* Support practices to implement simple action plans to drive early diagnosis and other priorities identified by the practice which leads to improved cancer outcomes
* Support practices to learn from previous cancer cases and make sustainable improvements
* Enhance and support GP education and leadership skills across the network
* Support CCGs in achieving their commissioning strategy plans in relation to cancer outcomes

**Practice Toolkit**

There are a range of tools that practices can engage with to help increase understanding of early diagnosis, signs and symptoms, as well as to help build on skills and confidence in broaching a cancer referral with a patient. Some of the tools that Primary Care Facilitators will introduce practices to include:

* The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) Practice profiles – provide a suite of demographic, cancer incidence and referral data for individual practices benchmarked against CCG and national averages
* Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) for colorectal and lung cancer – tables containing the risk values for each cancer symptom in isolation, for repeat attendances at the GP with the symptom and in combination with one other symptom. The RAT should be used with NICE guidance to identify suspected cancer.
* Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) primary care audit and serious event audits – audit templates for cancer to help improve understanding delays in diagnosis

**Enhanced support**

Your Primary Care Facilitator is there to provide tailored support to suit your practices’ specific needs. Examples of support provided include: in-depth discussion with practices on cancer data including 2 week wait referrals, Safety Netting Training, setting practice initiatives to encourage uptake of the national screening programmes.

**Contact**

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