

East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Cancer Board Briefing Note – 22 January 2024

For the attention of EMCA Board members, Accountable Officers, CEOs, Cancer Managers and Cancer leads in ICSs and Trusts:

The East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board met on 22 January 2024 via MS Teams to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in EMCA. The meeting was chaired by Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive, UHL and Chair of East Midlands Cancer Alliance. The Board has representation from the five East Midlands ICSs across both commissioning and provider organisations. It also has representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Leads and CEOs, Specialised Commissioning, primary care, public health, Workforce Training and Education (WTE), Macmillan, and Cancer Research UK (CRUK). The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed contributions from all colleagues.

Quality and Patient Experience**Gynaecology - East Midlands Ovarian Cancer MDT Presentation**

Viren Asher, Consultant Gynaecologist and Gynaecology ECAG lead, presented on the work of a new EMCA funded regional Ovarian MDT established in March 2023 in response to national data highlighting variation in East Midlands. The MDT discussed cases referred by Trusts which were complex or not offered treatment to enable sharing of best practice and reduce variation.

Genomics and Early Detection - Future Impact and Development Presentation

Vicki Kiesel, Lead Genetic Counsellor, EMCA secondary care clinical lead for genomics and East Genomics Medicines Services Alliance (GMSA) lead for Lynch Syndrome, presented on the GMSA and EMCA joint genomics strategy for 2024/25 and the impact genomics has on cancer outcomes. Genomics decreases the incidence of cancer, as well as morbidity and mortality through improving prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and those living with cancer. The GMSA and EMCA are working closely together as cancer genomics is a rapidly expanding area. Work identified included education, audit, triage, research, and IT involving many different audiences across the cancer pathway.

Outcomes and Learning – Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) Report

Robert Ferris, Programme Director and Pardip Hundal, Deputy Programme Director for LDA/SEND at NHS England presented on cancer and people with learning disabilities and autistic people who experience significant health inequalities. People with a learning difficulty can die up to 20-23 years earlier than the general population. 42% of these deaths were deemed as 'avoidable'. Cancer is one of the top 3 causes of avoidable death (e.g.: bowel, breast, lung & prostate) alongside cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. Going forward a digital flag on the records of people with a learning disability or autism is being introduced. This short [video](#) about the work being done to support people with learning disability and autistic people was recommended to everyone. For further information, please contact Pardip Hundal – email pardip.hundal@nhs.net

EMCA Cancer Performance Pack – Sitrep Overview

Mike Ryan, Head of Service, EMCA East Midlands updated that there is significant improved performance in the 28 days faster diagnosis standard. However, challenges remained around meeting 31-day decision to treat and commencing treatment within 62 days of diagnosis standards. Although operational improvement has been made over the last 6 months. The three tertiary trusts within the region remain in tiered status whilst United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust were congratulated on moving to their existing tiered status.

Oncology Development

An update was received from East Midlands Acute Providers (EMAP), Specialised Commissioning and EMCA who are jointly developing a programme around cancer oncology treatments in adults (non-surgical) delivered under the responsibility of a medical or a clinical oncologist. The programme has moved from defining the problem and discovery phase into a 'design' phase with two workstreams – current mutual aid and improvement needs and secondly future state sustainable services. The programme will require a long-term approach and further updates will be given.

2024/2025 Planning

The National Cancer Deliverables and Operational Planning Guidance for 2024/25 still to be confirmed although the Alliance has received draft guidance. 24/25 service development funding will mirror 2023/24 with further targeted funding to be confirmed, with the focus on targeted lung health checks (TLHC) to enable a national screening programme by 2028. Tiered Trusts will attract additional funding. EMCA priorities would also include less survivable cancers which account nationally for 50% of cancer deaths with only 16% surviving more than 5 years as well as the national deliverables, increasing survivorship, reducing health inequalities supported by the ACE programme, increasing early diagnosis and detection, and living well with cancer.

EMCA TUPE Transfer and Host

A month-long consultation process has initiated for EMCA staff to transfer to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB by April 2024, started mid-January.

Specialised Commissioning

Alison Kemp, Interim Director of Specialised Commissioning advised that the Midlands was one of three regions delegating 59 of its services to ICB level from April 2024, and presented a paper on working with the Cancer alliance going forward.

Items for Information

EMCA Finance Report Update

Sarah Hughes, Managing Director of the Alliance updated board members on allocations distributed to ICBs. Some uncommitted targeted funding for targeted lung health checks in 2023/24 had been returned to the national team.

Cancer Screening Update

The Board was presented with a screening report for December 2023 for information. The bowel screening programme was entering its fourth year and age extension would include 50–52-year-olds with plans before a national bowel screening trial to reduce the FIT threshold from 120 to 80µg Hb/g (as in Scotland) and expression of interests would be sought from Trusts.

The Lancet reference report – Mortality from leading cancers in districts of England from 2002 to 2019

[This report](#) published Dec 2023 shows cancer has overtaken cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death. Cancer incidence and survival can be affected by a range of modifiable risk factors, screening, and effective treatments, these had the greatest geographical inequality.

For further information please contact:

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Date of next Board Meeting:

25 March 2024 @ 1pm – 3pm via MS Teams.

EMCA ICS leads contact details:

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