

Transforming Cancer Care in the West Midlands: A Pathway to Personalised Treatment

The National 10-Year Cancer Plan: Shaping the Future of Cancer Care

Cancer care in the UK is entering a transformative era, with the 10-year Cancer Plan focused on harnessing the power of genetics and genomics to revolutionize diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes. By integrating genomic technologies across all cancer pathways, the plan aims to deliver personalised, targeted therapies, improve survival rates, reduce health inequalities, and enable more precise treatments tailored to each patient's genetic makeup.

Key Takeaways:

- Genomic integration at the heart of cancer care
- Personalised treatments to improve outcomes
- Ensuring equitable access to innovations for all patients

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) is proud to contribute to this national movement, aligning with the national standards and helping shape the future of cancer care.

Building collaborative pathways for better cancer care

At WMCA, collaboration drives our progress. We've united pathologists, geneticists, oncologists, biomedical scientists, and NHS managers to enhance cancer care across our large, diverse region.

Key Collaborative Achievements:

- **Cross-Network Integration:** working towards improving collaboration across the region to ensure genomic testing and treatment planning are increasingly harmonised.
- **Setting Standards and recommendations:** laying the foundation for genomic testing standards that promotes equity and consistency.
- **Improving Turnaround Times:** reduced testing turnaround times, speeding diagnosis and ensuring quicker access to personalised treatments.
- **62-day Cancer Standard:** getting personalised treatment recommendations to clinicians faster.

Through these efforts, we're not only enhancing care in the West Midlands but also contributing to the national shift towards equitable, efficient, and personalised cancer care.



Celebrating National Innovation: Liquid Biopsy and its Role in Pathway Standardisation

The liquid biopsy is a non-invasive blood test that analyses circulating tumour DNA, offering quicker, more accurate results. This is a game-changing tool that helps clinicians make timely, personalised treatment decisions.

Key Takeaways:

- Faster diagnosis and more precise treatments for patients
- National implementation of liquid biopsy across the NHS
- Helping to align pathway standardisation with cutting-edge innovation.

By incorporating liquid biopsy into our standardised pathways, we ensure that patients across the West Midlands have access to the latest genomic testing.

Workforce Impact and Engagement: Driving Daily Improvement

The WMCA in collaboration with its partners is improving daily operations by setting genomic testing standards and developing clear recommendations. This helps local labs improve their workflows and gives clarity on referrals, ultimately benefiting both patients and staff.

Key Takeaways:

- Empowering staff with high-quality training through our partners at the CAS GMSA
- Promoting collaboration and better decision-making
- Creating opportunities for involvement in shaping future cancer care
- Together, we're fostering a skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Aspirations for the Future: Shaping the Path Ahead

At WMCA, we are committed to achieving:

- **14-Day Turnaround:** from biopsy to genomic result, ensuring faster diagnoses and treatments (*as technological advances allow*).
- **Equity Across All Cancer Sites:** providing the same high-quality care to all patients, no matter where they live.
- **Solving Sample Tracking:** developing solutions that integrate with the National Genomics Informatics Platform for more accurate, efficient testing.

Key Takeaways:

- Collaboration among key stakeholders to drive progress
- Alignment with national initiatives to stay at the forefront of genomic advancements
- Laying the groundwork for timely, personalised cancer care for all patients.

What's Next for Cancer Care?

As we move forward with integrating genomic testing into all cancer pathways, we encourage you to connect with us and discuss opportunities for involvement, share your insights, and help shape the future of personalised cancer treatment.

