Providing in-depth analysis and insight through a review of cancer pathways

One of the biggest actions the NHS can take to improve cancer survival is to diagnose cancer earlier. Patients diagnosed early, at stages 1 and 2, have the best chance of curative treatment and long-term survival. As referenced in the national NHS priorities and operational planning guidance for 2024/25, the focus on cancer pathways, and the recognition of the significance of early cancer diagnosis, continues to be an NHS priority.

With a proven track record of delivering deep dive cancer pathway analysis, NHS Midlands and Lancashire (NHS ML) are able to support regional cancer alliances and integrated care boards (ICBs) in achieving the NHS Long Term plan ambition for cancer. This ambition is that the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 will rise to three-quarters of cancer patients by 2028.

Our most recent in-depth review of cancer pathways across an integrated care system, focussed on the priority areas of late-stage cancer presentation and diagnosis, and a review of primary care urgent suspected cancer referrals, with the aim of improving patient experience and outcomes.

Why choose NHS ML

Objective system wide approach

We are committed to providing an objective system wide approach to cancer pathway reviews.

Support end to end delivery of projects

We support the end-to-end delivery of both national and regional projects, ensuring stakeholder engagement is integral to our design and implementation.

Wraparound multi service offer

We provide a wraparound multi-service offer to incorporate subject matter experts, including specialist clinical expertise from our Nursing and Urgent Care team, to support clinical audit and clinical engagement.

What we offer:

- **Complete pathway analysis** adopting a mixed method approach to inform an in-depth detailed analysis.

- **Review and identification of best practice evidence** for cancer referrals and diagnosis.

- **In-depth quantitative analysis** from the uptake of screening through to mortality rates, incorporating quadrant analysis of referral and conversion rates, geospatial analysis, and assessment of late-stage diagnosis data.

- **Analysis of the quality and consistency of primary care networks (PCN) and GP processes and referrals** to determine any significant variation between PCNs, GP practices, acute providers, communities, and populations.

- **National and regional** benchmarking to identify system variation.

- **A rich qualitative analysis of late-stage presentation & diagnosis (stage 3 & 4)** featuring a case study audit of the diagnosis and presentation to determine what happened in the patient journey which may suggest that the cancer could have been identified earlier.

- **Potential to capture the patient perspective** of their cancer journey to provide invaluable insight from which system partners can reflect on when taking forward agreed recommendations.

How you'll benefit

Business Intelligence Lead Consultant Analyst:
to act as lead contact, working in collaboration with NHS ML clinical experts, along with analytical and data management team resource, to ensure access to the best possible data and information and required input from clinical specialists..

Mixed method analysis:
shapes a rich study, providing the evidence and insight to inform recommendations for improvement of cancer pathways across integrated care systems/ regions.

Partnership working:
with cancer alliances, ICB, primary care and acute hospital provider cancer services teams, to identify and include all relevant stakeholders.

Comprehensive detailed report:
with key recommendations to enable a system action plan to be developed, to progress elements which will enhance the patient experience and lead to improvements in early cancer diagnosis, and in health outcomes.