LCA BREAST CANCER CLINICAL GUIDELINES A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN REDUCING VARIATION IN CARE FOR PATIENTS IN WEST AND SOUTH LONDON

The London Cancer Alliance (LCA) has published the LCA Breast Cancer Clinical Guidelines, which provide a practical, multidisciplinary guide for the diagnosis, treatment and holistic care and support of breast cancer patients. They combine evidence based and best practice recommendations with the aim of reducing variation in services, improving outcomes for patients and ensuring equitable, high quality care across the LCA. They draw on the expertise of a wide range of clinicians and cover the complete breast cancer pathway, from diagnosis to end of life care.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK. Adoption of the LCA guidelines will allow widespread implementation of up to date and evidence based management of breast cancer patients, and will assist in the provision of a consistently high standard of care across the LCA.

The LCA guidelines make clear that all patients for whom mastectomy is a treatment option should have the opportunity to receive advice on breast reconstructive surgery, as recommended in A model of care for cancer services. The new guidelines also recommend the 23-hour model of care for non-breast reconstructive surgery, helping ensure that medically fit patients have treatment as a day case. This will lessen the amount of time they spend in hospital and improve patient experience.

LCA breast pathway group chair Dr William Teh, consultant radiologist and clinical director of cancer services at The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, said: ‘These guidelines aim to promote high standards of care to help clinicians improve the assessment, investigation and management of breast cancer patients. And with more patients surviving breast cancer, it is crucial that the psychological, rehabilitation and information needs of patients are also addressed. These guidelines include a number of recommendations for healthcare professionals so they can help their patients live as full and active a life as possible after cancer.’

Claire Dowling, LCA Programme Director said: ‘It is a huge achievement to reach clinical consensus about a best practice cancer pathway across the 16 provider organisations in the LCA. This is a major step toward reducing variation in access, and improving the quality of care and experience for patients with breast cancer.’


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For further information on the London Cancer Alliance please contact Ricki Ostrov, LCA Communications Manager, on 020 7811 8892.
Notes for editors

1 The LCA has also produced the LCA Acute Oncology Clinical Guidelines and the LCA AOS Directory. Further clinical guidelines, including those for lung cancer, oesophageal-gastric cancer and colorectal cancer, will be published shortly.

2 The London Cancer Alliance was established in 2011 as the integrated cancer system across west and south London. The LCA works in partnership with 16 NHS organisations, including two academic health science networks, and the voluntary sector in a formal, governed way to provide comprehensive, integrated cancer patient pathways and services, driving improvements in patient outcomes and experience for the populations served.

3 The following NHS trusts have co-created the LCA:
   - Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
   - Croydon Health Services NHS Trust
   - Ealing Hospital NHS Trust
   - Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
   - Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
   - The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
   - Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
   - King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
   - Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
   - Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
   - Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
   - The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
   - Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust
   - St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust
   - The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
   - West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust