



DEBATE PACK

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Ovarian cancer diagnosis and treatment

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Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on Ovarian cancer diagnosis and treatment has been scheduled for 30 October, at 9:30am. This debate is sponsored by Lee Rowley MP, Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ovarian Cancer.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women, after breast, lung, bowel, and uterine cancers, and the fourth most common cause of death from cancer in women. Each year over 7,000 women in the UK are diagnosed with the disease.

The national ovarian cancer charity Target Ovarian Cancer has called for improved awareness of symptoms, speedier diagnosis and improved treatment pathways.

In the lead up to the debate, people's thoughts and experiences are being gathered in the comments section of a post on the [House of Commons Facebook page](#).

For background about the disease, see the information pages on the [Cancer Research website](#), and the websites of the [Eve Appeal](#) and [Target Ovarian Cancer](#).

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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1. Background

In 2016, around 5,900 people in England and 7,400 in the UK were [diagnosed with ovarian cancer](#). Just over half were aged 65 or over. One third were aged 45-64. 13% were aged 44 or under. The number of diagnoses has increased by 1.7% since 2011 once population increases are accounted for.

[Survival rates for ovarian cancer](#) in England have increased over the past decade. One-year survival rates have increased from 60.3% to 70.9%, while five-year survival rates have increased from 31.2% to 42.9%.

However, five-year survival rates for ovarian cancer are poor compared to some other cancers and most women are diagnosed at a late stage, making successful treatment more difficult, and survival rates lower. Cancer Research UK [states](#) that almost 6 in 10 ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed at a late stage in England (2014).

Ahead of the debate the national ovarian cancer charity Target Ovarian Cancer have published a [briefing](#), calling for improved awareness of symptoms, speedier diagnosis, and improved treatment pathways.

There is currently no national screening programme for ovarian cancer. The UK National Screening Committee last reviewed the evidence to screen for ovarian cancer in 2016 and recommended that population screening should not be offered.¹

Symptoms of ovarian cancer

The NHS notes that common symptoms of ovarian cancer include:

- feeling constantly bloated
- a swollen tummy
- discomfort in tummy or pelvic area
- feeling full quickly when eating
- needing to pee more often than normal

It can be difficult to recognise the symptoms of ovarian cancer because they can be similar to those of some more common conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS). [NHS](#) advice is for women to see their GP if feeling bloated most days for three weeks.

2. News articles

Drug development

[Olaparib for newly diagnosed women with ovarian cancer](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 22 October 2018

[Ovarian cancer 'breakthrough' drug prevents disease returning for years](#), Telegraph, 21 October 2018

[AstraZeneca gets cancer trial boost for Lynparza drug](#), Financial Times, 21 October 2018

[Contraceptive pill linked with reduced risk of ovarian cancer](#), Guardian, 27 September 2018

[Drug combination shows exciting results in ovarian cancer in early trial](#), Ovarian Cancer Action, 24 August 2018

[New treatment for ovarian cancer shows great promise, say scientists](#), Telegraph, 22 August 2018

[Drug cocktail can 'shrink cancer tumours'](#), BBC News, 22 August 2018

[Clinical trial success for AstraZeneca's key ovarian cancer drug](#), Telegraph, 27 June 2018

[Ovarian cancer 'game changer' drug which holds back disease's return gets first NHS fund approval](#), Independent, 1 June 2018

[Gamechanging drug niraparib available today on NHS England](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 1 June 2018

['Milestone' ovarian cancer drug which can extend life expectancy licensed for use in the UK](#), Independent, 18 December 2017

Diagnosis

[UK waiting times for ovarian cancer diagnosis failing women compared to other countries, charity warns](#), Independent, 18 October 2018

- This was also [discussed by the BMJ](#)

[Women cannot wait for speedier diagnosis of ovarian cancer](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 18 October 2018

- A blog discussing 'multi-disciplinary diagnostic services' recommended by the 2015 Cancer Strategy.

[We now know the UK trails other countries in early ovarian cancer diagnosis](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 18 October 2018

- An article about [The every woman study](#) by the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition (Oct 2018).
- The article also discusses some of the charity's recommendations for the Government, including:
 - A government-funded symptoms awareness campaign

- Sped up diagnostic testing so that more women receive an earlier diagnosis
- Rolling out multidisciplinary diagnostic services

[Simple urine test for ovarian cancer which could radically improve survival rates on the horizon](#), Telegraph, 11 September 2018

[Comment regarding potential urine test for ovarian cancer](#), Ovarian Cancer Action, 12 September 2018

[NHS to offer tracking tests for women at high risk of ovarian cancer](#), Telegraph, 23 August 2018

[NHS cancer patients 'failing to be correctly monitored'](#), Guardian, 2 June 2018

- Patients with a cancer diagnosis, including ovarian, might not receive follow-up appointments for long enough on the NHS

['Holy grail of cancer research': doctors positive about early detection blood test](#), Guardian, 1 June 2018

- An article about the liquid biopsies, which have a high success rate with the diagnosis of some cancers, including ovarian cancer

[Blood test could use DNA to spot eight of the most common cancers, study shows](#), Guardian, 19 January 2018

[In the news: Blood test could spot eight common cancers earlier, including ovarian cancer](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 19 January 2018

[Angelina Jolie gene testing for all?](#) BBC News, 18 January 2018

[In the news: should we give every woman over 30 a test for a BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation?](#) Target Ovarian Cancer, 18 January 2018

[Families put at risk because NHS is refusing to test for deadly 'Angelina Jolie gene', report claims](#), Telegraph, 6 January 2018

[Women should be offered 'Jolie gene' cancer tests to prevent more than 10,000 cases, major study finds](#), Telegraph, 4 November 2017

[Needing to urinate more is a symptom of ovarian cancer, warns charity](#), Independent, 25 October 2017

[Scientists might have been looking for ovarian cancer in the wrong place, new breakthrough study suggests](#), Independent, 24 October 2017

New treatments/research

[Exciting new research could lead to personalised ovarian cancer treatments](#), Ovarian Cancer Action, 13 August 2018

[Could regular aspirin use reduce ovarian cancer risk?](#) Ovarian Cancer Action, 26 July 2018

[Virus trained to destroy ovarian cancer by Cardiff University](#), BBC News, 24 May 2018

[Immunotherapy-first cancer treatment a 'game-changer', say scientists](#), Telegraph, 16 April 2018

[Ovarian cancer vaccine improves women's survival rates](#), New Scientist, 11 April 2018

Trends

[Ovarian cancer diagnoses 'will rise 55% in the next 20 years'](#), Guardian, 1 May 2018

[New report ranks UK ovarian cancer survival 45th out of 59 countries](#), Ovarian Cancer Action, 31 January 2018

[Marked fall in ovarian cancer deaths is attributed to oral contraceptive use](#), BMJ, 8 September 2016

Devolved administrations

[Northern Ireland moves to create better access to cancer drugs](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 14 September 2018

[Niraparib: innovative new ovarian cancer drug now available in Scotland](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 13 August 2018

[We're helping GPs in Scotland to diagnose ovarian cancer earlier](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 5 July 2018

- A note discussing the differences in clinical guidance in Scotland

3. Parliamentary material

3.1 Bills

[Ovarian Cancer \(Public Awareness\) Bill 2017-19](#)

05 Sep 2017 | Presentation bills | House of Commons | Bill 93 2017-19

Member: Peter Bone MP

- Currently before Parliament, this Private Members' Bill would "make provision about public awareness measures in respect of the symptoms of and screening for ovarian cancer; and for connected purposes."

3.2 Petitions

[Fund a clinical audit of ovarian cancer to urgently improve survival rates](#) (e-petition 214322), closed 12 September 2018

3.3 Parliamentary questions

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 162544, 17 Jul 2018

Asked by: Sturdy, Julian

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of early diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Public Health England (PHE) has been funded by cancer charities to pilot and assess the feasibility of an ovarian cancer audit, this pilot will take place over the next two years.

Since early diagnosis increases survival outcomes, NHS England is working to diagnose cancer earlier and faster. This is particularly important for cancers like ovarian, where early diagnosis makes a huge difference in survival. We are developing new models of care and pathways that will transform services by speeding up diagnosis. This includes the commitment to roll out a new Faster Diagnosis Standard by 2020 to ensure that patients referred for an investigation with a suspicion of cancer are diagnosed or have cancer ruled out within 28 days.

NHS England has also committed more than £200 million in cancer services between 2017 and 2019, to accelerate diagnosis, improve survival and enhance quality of life.

NHS England is introducing Rapid Diagnostic and Assessment Centres which will operate as one-stop shops to reduce time-to-diagnosis and time-to-first treatment. This is a real step change in the way people with unclear symptoms are identified, diagnosed and treated. General practitioners can refer patients suffering from vague symptoms.

NHS England is also delivering the largest single upgrade in National Health Service cancer treatment for the last 15 years. The £130 million radiotherapy modernisation programme is upgrading and replacing radiotherapy equipment in hospitals across England.

Through this programme, patients will have access to the most modern, innovative radiotherapy techniques to create better health outcomes and improve patient experience.

The Department is also closely working with PHE to develop an approach to raise awareness of generic symptoms that can indicate a wider number of cancers, including ovarian cancer, and the need to visit the doctor promptly with these symptoms.

PHE also ran a regional pilot ovarian campaign in the North West of England from 10 February to 16 March 2014. The campaign's key message was 'Feeling bloated, most days, for three weeks or more could be a sign of ovarian cancer. Tell your doctor'.

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 149059, 11 Jun 2018

Asked by: Rowley, Lee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of running an awareness campaign on the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Public Health England ran a regional pilot ovarian campaign in the North West of England from 10 February to 16 March 2014. The campaign's key message was 'Feeling bloated, most days, for three weeks or more could be a sign of ovarian cancer. Tell your doctor'.

The public awareness survey results, general practice attendance data and referrals data suggest that the regional campaign did have an effect on the target audience's understanding of the key symptom of 'bloating'. However, the results showed no impact on diagnoses and there has not been any further roll out of the campaign.

Results for the number of cancers diagnosed, the stage at cancer diagnosis and survival have shown no evidence of an impact, although it has been difficult to evaluate due to small numbers, the availability of the data sets and a time lag in terms of the effect.

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 149058, 11 Jun 2018

Asked by: Rowley, Lee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that ovarian cancer is either diagnosed or ruled out within 28 days.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

NHS England is committed to rolling out a new Faster Diagnosis Standard by 2020 to ensure that patients referred for an investigation with a suspicion of cancer are diagnosed or have cancer ruled out within 28 days. National Health Service trusts were able to begin using the new pathways from April 2018 and all will be expected to be using them from April 2019. NHS England committed more than £200 million in cancer services

over the next two years, to accelerate diagnosis and enhance quality of life.

[Cancer: Diagnosis](#), PQ 146862, 04 Jun 2018

Asked by: Ashworth, Jonathan

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Prime Minister's speech on science and modern Industrial Strategy of 21 May 2018, if he will place in the Library the methodology used to calculate (a) that smart technologies will lead to the earlier diagnosis of 50,000 more people a year with lung, bowel prostate or ovarian cancer, and (b) that this combined with the great treatment and care provided by our NHS will mean 22,000 fewer people will die within five years of their diagnosis compared to today.

Answering member: Mr Sam Gyimah | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

In order to produce the Early Diagnosis Mission, the Government worked closely with a range of experts on a variety of diseases to define its scope and identify its potential impacts. The numbers referenced convey the potential impacts of integrating artificial intelligence and data technologies with respect to the four types of cancer you mentioned and were made available thanks to the work and methodology of Cancer Research UK.

[Cancer: Screening](#), PQ 124244, 29 Jan 2018

Asked by: Hendrick, Sir Mark

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will take steps to introduce testing for all women over 30 years old for early signs of (a) ovarian and (b) breast cancer.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) offers screening to an asymptomatic population for conditions which have been evaluated against their robust and extensive criteria. The UK NSC last reviewed the evidence to screen for ovarian cancer in 2016 and recommended that population screening should not be offered. Research has shown that screening women under the age of 50 is less effective especially when they have not entered into the menopause phase.

There are currently no plans to offer screening to women over the age of 30 for either ovarian or breast cancer.

A proposal to change an existing programme, such as age to the breast screening programme would follow the UK NSC's evidence review process. Information about this process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-nsc-evidence-review-process>

[Ovarian Cancer: Drugs](#), PQ 122855, 24 Jan 2018

Asked by: Shannon, Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the timetable is for the introduction of new medicines to help prevent the spread of ovarian cancer.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a number of technology appraisal guidance documents on the treatment of ovarian cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance makes recommendations for the National Health Service on whether drugs and treatments represent a clinically and cost effective use of resources. NHS commissioners are legally required to fund drugs and treatments recommended through the technology appraisal programme within three months.

NICE has positively appraised guidance on use of "Paclitaxel in the treatment of ovarian cancer" (TA:55), published in May 2005; "Olaparib for maintenance treatment of relapsed, platinum-sensitive, BRCA mutation-positive ovarian, fallopian tube and peritoneal cancer after response to second-line or subsequent platinum-based chemotherapy" (TA:381), published in January 2016; and, "Topotecan, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride, paclitaxel, trabectedin and gemcitabine for treating recurrent ovarian cancer" (TA:389), published in April 2016.

Ovarian Cancer, PQ 2424, 06 Jul 2017

Asked by: Bone, Mr Peter

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when he plans to publish the two research studies into ovarian cancer awareness which the previous Government indicated it planned to publish in the summer of 2017.

Answering member: Steve Brine | **Department:** Department of Health

Public Health England (PHE) has published one full evaluation report on the pilot campaign and one interim report on the regional campaign for the Be Clear on Cancer ovarian cancer campaign.

The full evaluation of the local ovarian cancer pilot campaign which ran from 14 January – 17 March 2013 it can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ovarian-cancer-awareness-campaign-local-pilots-evaluation-report>

The interim evaluation report on the regional ovarian cancer awareness campaign, which ran from 10 February- 16 March 2014 in the North West of England it can be accessed here:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_type_and_topic_specific_work/topic_specific_work/be_clear_on_cancer/

PHE is planning to produce a full and final evaluation report for the Be Clear on Cancer ovarian cancer awareness regional campaign by April 2018.

The Department's Policy Research Unit on Cancer Awareness Screening and Early Diagnosis has undertaken a qualitative research study in which members of the public were given access to available leaflets on ovarian cancer awareness and then participated in six focus groups and interviews on their

acceptability and how they would be received and understood if included within the clear screening results letter from the breast or cervical screening programme.

This study is now complete and has been presented at the recent Cancer Research UK Early Diagnosis conference. The work is currently being written up for submission to a peer-reviewed medical journal. The Health Research Authority approval for a further qualitative research study with professionals has now been granted, and the work is in progress.

A second project is a synthesis of published incidence, mortality, stage distribution and stage-specific survival rates for ovarian cancer by age. The aim of this project was to identify which age group would be most likely to benefit from such an intervention, in terms of risk of ovarian cancer, and room for improvement in stage at diagnosis. This study is now also complete, fully written up, and has been submitted to a journal for publication. The journal's response is awaited.

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 65673, 02 Mar 2017

Asked by: Bone, Mr Peter

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when NHS England plans to publish its service specification on ovarian cancer.

Answering member: David Mowat | **Department:** Department of Health

In order for NHS England to formally consider a new or revised service specification, a number of associated reports and processes need to be completed. The Complex Gynaecological Services Clinical Reference Group (CRG) did start the process of developing a new service specification for ovarian cancer, however, this did not progress through the process. This was due to technical difficulties encountered during the Impact Assessment stage and included issues in identifying activity and the associated financial impact.

In the subsequent period, CRGs have been restructured and the responsibility for this clinical area now resides with the Specialised Cancer Surgery CRG, within the National Cancer Programme of Care. In addition, NHS England has also published a revised process for service specification development (titled: 'Methods'), which can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/key-docs/>

The Methods sets out the process for completing service specification work and, in accordance with this process, the Specialised Cancer Surgery CRG has been asked to consider progressing this work. The CRG Chair is due to discuss the matter with a representative of the Gynaecology CRG later this week and, following this, it is expected that the first step of the process will be completed by the middle of March 2017.

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 62053, 06 Feb 2017

Asked by: Hodgson, Mrs Sharon

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when the findings of the ovarian cancer regional pilot that took place in 2014 will be published.

Answering member: David Mowat | **Department:** Department of Health

Public Health England has been commissioned by the Department to evaluate the Be Clear on Cancer (BCoC) Campaigns. An interim evaluation report on the ovarian cancer pilot has been published and is available on our BCoC website:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_type_and_topic_specific_work/topic_specific_work/be_clear_on_cancer/

This includes results for public awareness and knowledge, urgent general practice (GP) referrals for suspected cancer, cancer diagnoses resulting from an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer, conversion rate, cancer diagnoses recorded in the cancer waiting times database and detection rate.

[Ovarian Cancer: Medical Treatments](#), PQ 62049, 06 Feb 2017

Asked by: Hodgson, Mrs Sharon

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans NICE has to include guidance on treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer in its review of NICE guidelines.

Answering member: Nicola Blackwood | **Department:** Department of Health

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised that its guideline on ovarian cancer (CG122) currently covers the recognition and initial management of ovarian cancer. The treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer is not covered by the current guideline's scope.

The guideline was last considered for review in 2016 and at this stage NICE decided to update the guideline. This update may include developing recommendations specifically related to the recognition of recurrent cancer depending on the final scope, which is yet to be determined.

It is for NHS England to commission new clinical guidelines from NICE on health-related topics.

[Ovarian Cancer: Diagnosis](#), PQ 60486, 25 Jan 2017

Asked by: Shannon, Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to increase early diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

Answering member: David Mowat | **Department:** Department of Health

Improving early diagnosis of cancer is a priority for this Government.

NHS England's Accelerate, Coordinate, Evaluate pilots are exploring new models for delivering a diagnosis of cancer quickly and effectively, including piloting multi-disciplinary diagnostic centres, which we hope will be particularly effective for patients

with vague or unclear symptoms. If successful, NHS England will work with Cancer Alliances to support wider roll out across the country in future years.

An updated suspected cancer referral guideline by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) was published in June 2015 and supports general practitioners (GPs) in identifying patients and urgently referring them as appropriate where cancer is suspected. NICE noted that more lives could be saved each year in England if GPs followed the new guideline, which encourages GPs to think of cancer sooner and lowers the referral threshold.

Public Health England is developing a new strategic approach to the Be Clear on Cancer awareness raising campaigns which will enable them to cover a range of symptoms in one campaign. A regional pilot campaign to test the approach is planned to run in the East and West Midlands from February to March 2017 to raise awareness of a range of abdominal symptoms that can indicate a wider number of cancers, including ovarian cancer. The regional pilot will be evaluated and results will help inform decisions about how to expand this campaign in the future.

[Cancer Referral Times](#), Oral questions, HC deb 15 Nov 2016, volume 617 cc107-8

- A discussion following a questions about the average time taken between referral and treatment for patients with ovarian and bowel cancer

[Cancer: Diagnosis](#), PQ 51918, 14 Nov 2016

Asked by: Bone, Mr Peter

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether genetic centres are recording disease-specific data to ascertain whether a BRCA test has been referred from an ovarian or breast cancer diagnosis.

Answering member: David Mowat | **Department:** Department of Health

In July 2015, NHS England published a clinical commissioning policy to guide and expand access to BRCA testing based on updated guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The Clinical Commissioning Policy: Genetic Testing for BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 mutation, offers genetic testing to people with a 10% risk of carrying a BRCA mutation compared to the previously published 20% risk of carrying.

The recording of disease specific information is usually recorded in the patient notes and on the test request form, rather than in genetic centres, and in some cases may be recorded on the patient management database at an individual testing centre but is not aggregated up into disease specific data sets.

Data collection for BRCA 1 and 2 stopped in 2013 with the introduction of the Social Care Act and the restrictions on the collection and processing of personally identifiable data, however, NHS Digital (previously the Health and Social Care Information Centre) is now authorised to resume data collection on behalf of the UK Genetic Testing Network (UKGTN) for England. Data collection took place between June and July 2016

respectively for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The report is due to be available to UKGTN at the end of March 2017.

However, NHS England will explore data collection on testing for lynch syndrome with UKGTN as part of their work to look at options for implementation of Recommendation 36 of the independent Cancer Taskforce report.

[Ovarian Cancer: Surgery](#), PQ 43044, 20 Jul 2016

Asked by: Shannon, Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many women had their ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to prevent cancer in each of the last five years.

Answering member: David Mowat | **Department:** Department of Health

The following table provides the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis identifying that prophylactic surgery has been performed due to a family or personal history of cancer and a main or secondary procedure of salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes) in each of the last five years.

	FCEs
2010-11	1,194
2011-12	1,348
2012-13	1,252
2013-14	1,362
2014-15	1,504

Notes:

- Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

- Activity in English National Health Service Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

- An FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs should not be considered a count of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

- The following OPCS classification of interventions and procedures codes were used to identify a salpingo-oophorectomy:

Q22.1 – Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of both ovaries and fallopian tubes)

Q23.1 – Unilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of one ovary and fallopian tube)

Q23.2 - Salpingo-oophorectomy of remaining solitary fallopian tube and ovary

Q24.1 - Salpingo-oophorectomy NEC (not elsewhere classified)

[Ovarian Cancer](#), PQ 37866, 26 May 2016

Asked by: Jarvis, Dan

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if his Department will take steps to ensure that the proposals to more closely align the approval process for the new cancer drugs fund with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence do not limit access to potential life-saving treatments such as Avastin for the treatment of ovarian cancer.

Answering member: George Freeman | **Department:** Department of Health

Since October 2010, the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) has helped over 84,000 people in England in accessing life-extending cancer drugs that would not otherwise have been available to them.

NHS England is responsible for the operational management of the Fund and has consulted, jointly with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, on new arrangements for the CDF which will go live on 1 July 2016.

NHS England has advised that, under these new arrangements, it envisages that a greater number of cancer drugs will be funded from baseline commissioning. This will be as a consequence of more appropriate pricing arrangements proposed by pharmaceutical manufacturers and better evidence being available through the Fund as to longer term patient outcomes.

4. Further reading

Relevant NICE Guidelines, Pathways and Quality standards can be found on the [NICE website on Ovarian Cancer](#).

Diagnosis and public awareness

[Diagnosing ovarian cancer sooner: what more can be done?](#). All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ovarian Cancer, May 2018

- Summarised and commented on in this [press release from Target Ovarian Cancer](#)

University College London Hospitals Cancer Collaborative and Abcodia Ltd are running the '[ALDO](#)' ([Avoiding Late Diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer](#)) [project](#). More information can be found in the document, [Avoiding late diagnosis of ovarian cancer](#), published by Abcodia. The project is also discussed in a [news article from Target Ovarian Cancer](#).

[Diagnosis of ovarian cancer](#), BMJ, 1 September 2015

- Although an older article, this provides a useful introduction to the difficulties of diagnosing ovarian cancer, the various forms of cancer out there and treatment.

Public Health England ran a trial awareness campaign about the symptoms of ovarian cancer in 2013. The results of this can be found in:

- [Evaluation of the Be Clear on Cancer ovarian cancer awareness campaign Highlights from local pilots: 14 January to 10 March 2013](#), Public Health England, March 2015
- [National Cancer Intelligence Network Be Clear on Cancer: ovarian cancer awareness regional pilot campaign - Interim evaluation results](#), Public Health England, February 2015

Trends

[The every woman study: summary report](#), World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Oct 2018

[Cancer facts and figures 2018 – Special section- Ovarian Cancer](#), American Cancer Society, 2018

[Policy brief: Women and Ovarian Cancer in the EU](#), European Institute of Women's Health, May 2018

[The World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Atlas: Global trends in incidence, mortality and survival](#), World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, April 2018

[Regional variation in the diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer in England](#) – Target Ovarian Cancer, 2017

[Pathfinder 2016 : Transforming futures for women with Ovarian Cancer](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 2016

- The Pathfinder series looks at “women’s experiences, public awareness, GP knowledge and clinical practice” when it comes to ovarian cancer in the UK

[Global trends and predictions in ovarian cancer mortality](#), Annals of Oncology, 5th September 2016

[The Ovarian Cancer Postcode Lottery](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, June 2015

Devolved administrations

[Ovarian Cancer Quality Performance Indicators](#), NHS National services Scotland, Feb 2018

[Petitions Committee : Support Yearly Screening for Ovarian Cancer – Report on the Consideration of a Petition](#), National Assembly for Wales, 2017

[Pathfinder : Scotland](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 2017

[Pathfinder : Wales](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 2017

[Pathfinder : Northern Ireland](#), Target Ovarian Cancer, 2017

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