



# National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2021

## National Results Webinar

[CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk](mailto:CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk)

#pickerworkshops #cpes21



# Agenda



## Listening to Patient Voices: Reflections on CPES 2021

**Ceinwen Giles**

(Co-CEO, Shine Cancer Support/ Chair, Chair of the Patient Public Voices Forum, NHS Cancer Programme, NHS England)



## The National Perspective

**David Fitzgerald** (Cancer Programme Director, NHS England)



## Key Findings

**Philippa Fortune** (National Programme Lead, Picker)

**Kirsty Laing** (Associate Insight Director, Explain)



## What do we think?

**Hanan L'Estrange-Snowden** (Insight Manager, Picker)



## King's College HNFT: Cancer Improvement Collaborative

**Irina Belun-Vieira** (Head of Nursing Cancer)

**Sola Banjo** (Cancer Quality Improvement Manager)



## Close

**Clare Enston** (Deputy Director of Insight and Feedback, NHS England)

# Objectives



Understand the national picture



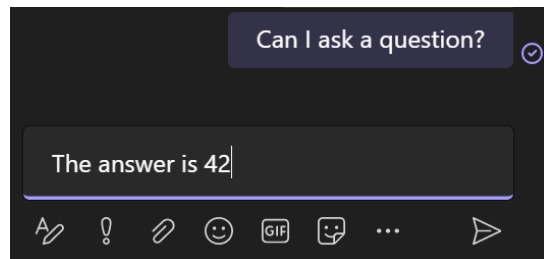
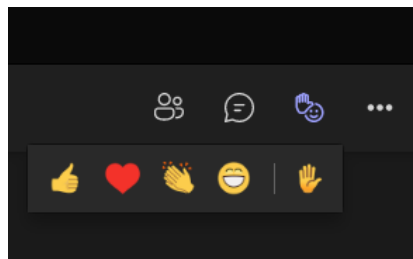
To celebrate areas of success in cancer care



To share improvement learning and experiences



Answer your questions







# Listening to Patient Voices: Reflections on CPES21

## Ceinwen Giles

(Co-CEO, Shine Cancer Support/ Chair,  
Chair of the Patient Public Voices Forum, NHS Cancer Programme, NHS England)

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# **Listening to Patient Voices**

## **Reflections on CPES 2021**

**Ceinwen Giles, Co-CEO, Shine Cancer Support**  
Chair, Patient and Public Voices Forum

# Outline

- Why patient experience is important
- Needs to different groups
- How we work with communities
- Links to the Patient and Public Voices forum
- What's coming next....

# Personal experience



- Stage 4 diffuse large b-cell lymphoma
- Six months as an in-patient
- Some amazing care and treatment – some really difficult experiences





12 years later....





# What should we care about the CPES survey?

- You know how the system should work
- Patients can tell you how it is working
- A lot of things are working well....



## Overall experience

**8.92**

Respondents' average rating of care scored from very poor to very good (scale from 0 to 10).



## Support from a main contact person

**91.9%**

said they had a main contact person within the team looking after them who would support them through treatment.



## Support from hospital staff

**89.6%**

of respondents said hospital staff gave them information that was relevant to them about support or self-help groups, events or resources for people with cancer.

# There is more to do....



## Care planning

**71.7%**

said that before their treatment started, they had a discussion with a member of the team looking after them about their needs or concerns.



## Immediate and long-term side effects

**59.5%**

said the possible long-term side effects, including the impact on their day-to-day activities, were definitely explained in a way they could understand.



## Care from your GP practice

**43.7%**

of respondents who said their GP practice was involved in their care while they were having treatment said they got the right amount of support from staff at their practice.



## Living with and beyond cancer

**62.5%**

said they were given enough information about the possibility of the cancer coming back or spreading, such as what to look out for and what to do if they had concerns.

## We also need to look more deeply....

- People from the most deprived groups gave lower average ratings for care received.
- Respondents from white backgrounds gave a higher average rating of care than respondents from mixed, Asian or black ethnic backgrounds.
- We also hear less from people from Asian, mixed and black ethnic backgrounds.
  - 3.5% of the UK population is black, but only 1.5% of respondents are.



# Age and gender....

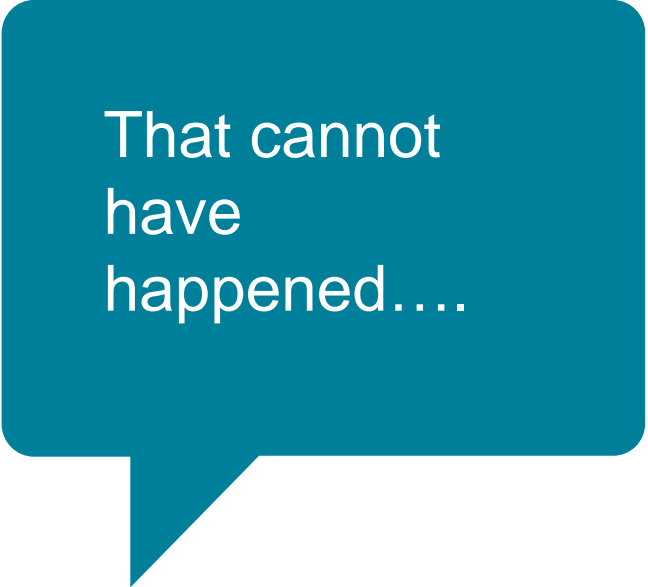
- Respondents in the 35-44 age group were the least likely to say that before their treatment started, they definitely had a discussion with a member of the team looking after them about their needs or concerns
- Males were the more likely than women to say that before their hormone therapy had started they had all the information they needed in a way they could understand.



# When patients tell us what they think...



We already  
knew that...



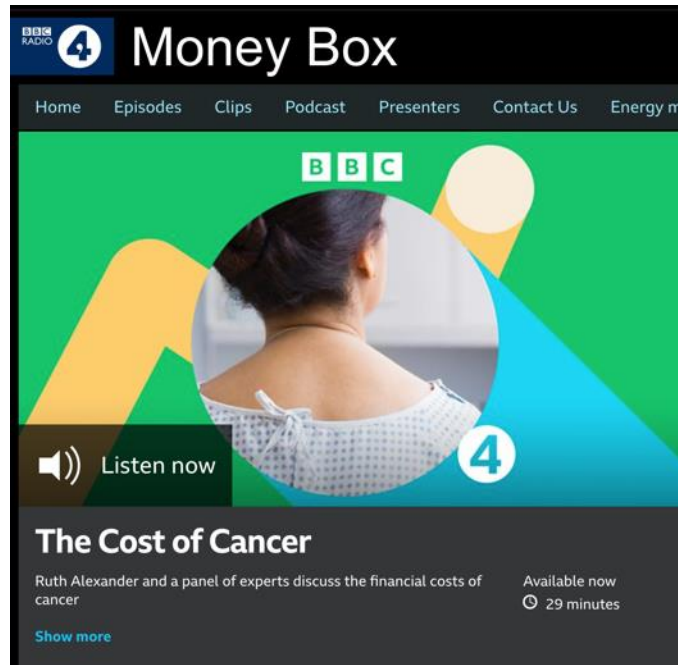
That cannot  
have  
happened....

# There are different ways to get insight and feedback

- Be curious and open
- Think about who is giving you feedback and who isn't
- Think about how you can reach those who aren't giving you feedback
  - Location
  - Time of day
  - Way that they provide feedback (online? Face to face? Written?)



# Three issues for the year ahead...



- The cost of living crisis is going to be tough for everyone – but especially cancer patients.
- Visiting in hospitals – especially if you have children.
- Masking in cancer hospitals and wards.

# The PPV Forum

- The Cancer Programme have worked hard to establish a structure for ensuring patients are engaged
- Patient & Public Engagement Manager to specifically focus on ensuring effective engagement- Rachel Lovesy from March 22
- Establishment of the Cancer Programme PPV with Terms of Reference and patient representative Chair

## **Our objectives:**

- To bring actionable on-the-ground intelligence from communities and people affected by cancer into the Cancer Programme and to relevant decision-makers
- To deliver advice, guidance and support to add value to the success of nationally-led programme, projects, and policy
- To generate mutual learning between project teams, communities, and people affected by cancer

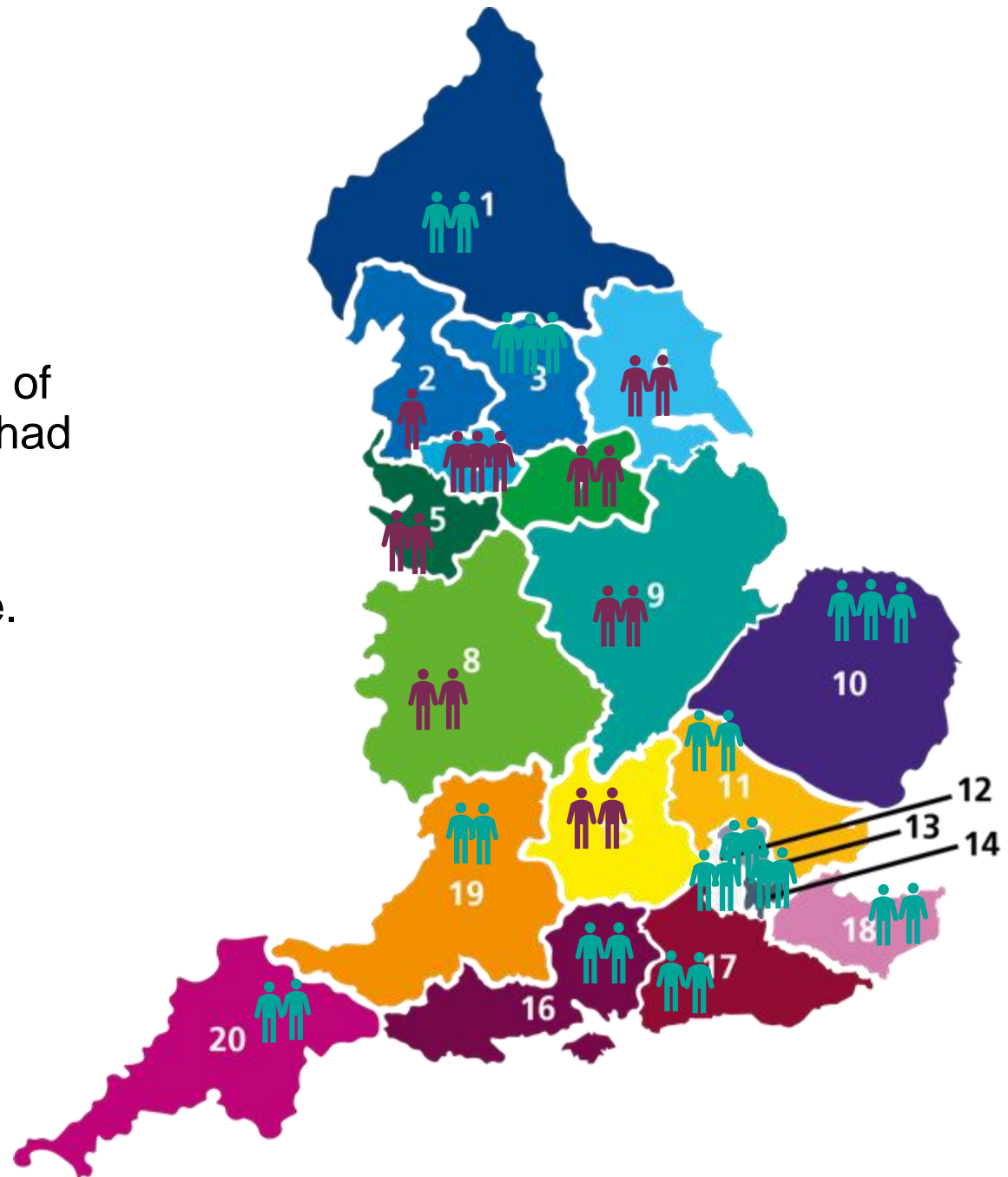


# Our Members

There are currently 35 PPV members.

All members have a personal experience of cancer, or supporting someone who has had cancer.

Members are based across the country, many are aligned to their Cancer Alliance.



# The PPV Forum – what we do

- We represent patients and the public voice within the National Cancer Programme
- We actively support programmes by joining project teams, meetings, workshops as many other activities, as equal partners and decision makers
- At present, we are involved in over 15 projects including;
  - *Task and Finish Groups – Psychosocial and Treatment Interruption*
  - *GRAIL Implementation*
  - *CPES Awards*
  - *Health Inequalities Sub-Group*
  - *Experience of Care*
  - *Faster Diagnosis Quality Markers*

# The PPV Forum – how to involve us

- **We want to better linked to Cancer Alliances and ICS structures**
- We have a range of personal experiences and perspectives which we can bring - and would love to be involved from the start of projects.
- Many of us have experience beyond our own cancer experience and can guide and advise on how to involve communities
- We are passionate about health inequalities, particularly within our own communities



*“What I hear when I’m  
being yelled at is people  
caring loudly at me.”*

Thank you!

ceinwen@shinecancersupport.org  
@ceineken





# The National Perspective

**David Fitzgerald**

(Cancer Programme Director, NHS England)

[CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk](mailto:CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk)

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# Key Findings

**Philippa Fortune** (National Programme Lead, Picker)

**Kirsty Laing** (Associate Insight Director, Explain)

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# CPES 2021 Quantitative Results

# Key sources of data for CPES21

## National Reports

- Quantitative overview of national results (standard)
- Quantitative overview of national results (Easy Read version) (new for 2021)
- Qualitative report presenting a thematic analysis of free text comments (new for 2021)
- National level data tables – Excel

## Alliance Reports

- Cancer Alliance Level Reports – PDF – Quantitative
- Cancer Alliance data tables – Excel

## ICS Reports (new for 2021)

- ICS Reports – PDF – Quantitative
- ICS data tables – Excel

## Trust Reports

- Trust Reports – PDF – Quantitative
- Trust data tables – Excel
- Free text workbooks - Excel

Delve deeper using the interactive reporting tool on the [ncpes.co.uk](https://ncpes.co.uk) website!

# New Survey for 2021 – Trend Data

- The survey had not been reviewed since 2015, when the last full review took place.
- The survey was updated for 2021 and the CPES Advisory Group oversaw the review of the questionnaire
- There had been significant changes in service delivery, clinical practice and policy, which the survey now reflects
- As such there is no historic trend data in the 2021 Reporting



# CPES – who is eligible

- All acute and speciality NHS Trusts in England that provide adult cancer services
  - Adults > 16 years
  - Confirmed primary diagnosis of cancer

Adults who were:

- EITHER: Admitted to hospital as an inpatient
- OR: a day case patient
- For cancer related treatment

- Discharged between **1 April 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

- Response rate of 55%

59,352 out of 107,412 patients surveyed responded

# Headline Findings (Quantitative)



# Headline Findings



## Overall experience

**8.92**

Respondents' average rating of care scored from very poor to very good (scale from 0 to 10).



## Support from your GP practice

**64.1%**

of respondents who had contacted their GP practice said that the referral for diagnosis was explained in a way they could completely understand.



## Diagnostic tests

**94.4%**

always had enough privacy when receiving diagnostic test results.



## Finding out that you had cancer

**71.4%**

said that when they were first told that they had cancer, they had been given the option of having a family member, carer or friend with them.

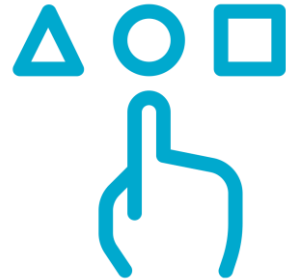
# Headline Findings



## Support from a main contact person

**91.9%**

said they had a main contact person within the team looking after them who would support them through treatment.



## Deciding on the best treatment

**79.2%**

said they were definitely involved as much as they wanted to be in decisions about treatment options.



## Care planning

**71.7%**

said that before their treatment started, they had a discussion with a member of the team looking after them about their needs or concerns.



## Support from hospital staff

**89.6%**

of respondents said hospital staff gave them information that was relevant to them about support or self-help groups, events or resources for people with cancer.

# Headline Findings



## Hospital care

**80.9%**

of respondents who had an overnight stay said they had confidence and trust in all of the team looking after them.



## Your treatment

**79.1%**

said they felt the length of waiting time at the clinic or day unit used for cancer treatment was about right.



## Immediate and long-term side effects

**59.5%**

said the possible long-term side effects, including the impact on their day-to-day activities, were definitely explained in a way they could understand.



## Support while at home

**55.4%**

said their family or someone else close to them were given all the information necessary to help care for them at home.

# Headline Findings



## Care from your GP practice

**43.7%**

of respondents who said their GP practice was involved in their care while they were having treatment said they got the right amount of support from staff at their practice.



## Living with and beyond cancer

**62.5%**

said they were given enough information about the possibility of the cancer coming back or spreading, such as what to look out for and what to do if they had concerns.



# Finding out that you had Cancer

Just under three quarters of all respondents (**71%**) said that when they were first told that they had cancer they had been given the option of having a family member, carer or friend with them (Q12).

Respondents in the **16-24** age group were the . The **35-44** age group were the least likely to say this was the case (Q12).

When asked how they felt about the way they were told they had cancer, **74%** said they were told sensitively (Q13). Overall, **84%** said that they were definitely told about their diagnosis in a place that was appropriate for them (Q15).



# Hospital Care

**89%** of respondents felt that they were always treated with respect and dignity while they were in the hospital (Q37).

When asked 'Did the hospital staff do everything you wanted to help control your pain?', **86%** of respondents said this was definitely the case (Q36)

When asked whether they were given clear written information about what they should or should not do after leaving hospital, **89%** of respondents felt they were and that this information was easy to understand (Q38).



# Hospital Care

However in some areas of hospital care respondents reported a more negative experience.

With only six out of ten (**61%**) respondents who had stayed overnight saying family or someone else close to them were definitely able to talk to someone on the team looking after them if they wanted to (Q32).

**67%** of respondents answering that during their stay in hospital they could always talk to the hospital staff about their worries and fears if they needed to (Q35).





# Care Planning

**93%** of respondents who had a discussion with staff about their needs or concerns said a member of their care team helped them create a care plan to address these (Q25).

And **99%** of respondents who had a care plan, said that a member of the team looking after them reviewed the plan with them to make sure it continued to reflect their needs or concerns (Q26).



## Support from a main contact person

**85%** of respondents found it very or quite easy to contact their main contact person (Q18).

Respondents from white ethnic backgrounds were the most likely to say it was 'very' or 'quite easy' to contact their main contact person. Respondents from Asian ethnic backgrounds were the least likely to say it was 'very' or 'quite easy' to contact their main contact person (Q18).

**96%** of respondents said that they found the advice from their main contact person to be 'very' or 'quite helpful' (Q19).



## Support while at home

Only **55%** of respondents said that their family or someone else close to them were given all the information they needed to help care for them at home (Q49).

Respondents with a **mental health condition** were the least likely to say their family or someone else close to them were given all the information they needed from the team looking after them to help care for them at home (Q49).





# Care from your GP Practice

Of those that said their GP practice was involved in their cancer treatment, **44%** said they got the right amount of support from staff at their GP practice while they were having cancer treatment (Q51).

Respondents in the **most deprived** group (based on IMD quintile) were the least likely to say that they got the right amount of support (Q51).

**18%** of all respondents said they had a review of their cancer care by a member of staff at their GP practice (Q52).



## Further Guidance

For further guidance on scoring, suppression and how to use the reports please refer to the Technical Document on the NCPES website

<https://www.ncpes.co.uk/supporting-documents/>

Or email the team

CPES@pickereurope.ac.uk

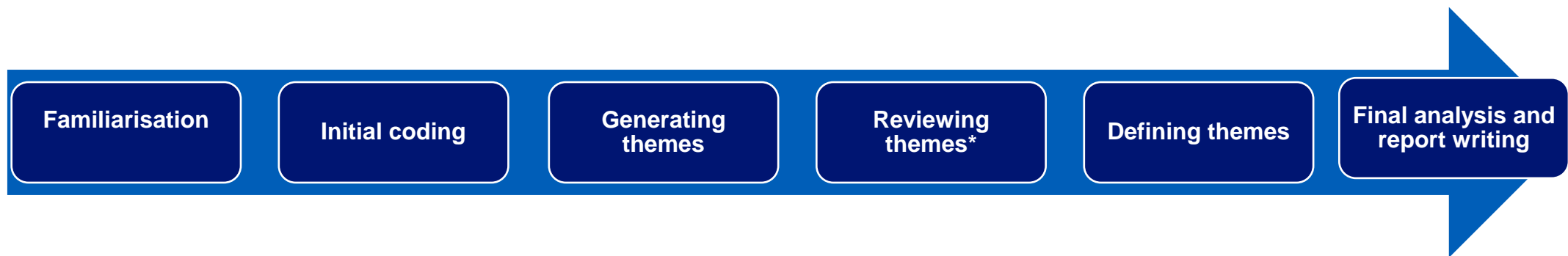


# **National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2021 – Qualitative**

# Qualitative analysis - approach

- Thematic analysis was undertaken to achieve a deep understanding of the written feedback from two open questions asked at the end of the survey.
  - This sought to facilitate reflection and learning across services delivering NHS cancer care for adults in England.
- To analyse this data, the standard six steps of thematic analysis were used to identify pattern and meaning within the data.

*[Figure 1: Thematic Analysis Approach](#)*



# Qualitative analysis – questions

QA: Overall, how would you describe your care and treatment? (84% responded)

- *Note – a third open question was asked ‘QC - any other comments?’ (44% responded) but this was not included in analysis as the majority were found to be a repetition of comments provided in QA and QB.*

QB: Was there anything that could have been improved? (62% responded)

# Qualitative analysis - sampling

- A two pronged sampling approach was taken, ensuring the sample was representative and the principle of data saturation was applied.

## Stage 1

- A random sampling technique to ensure that the sample was representative of the population as a whole (95% confidence level with a margin of 3%, sample size 1501 respondents)

## Stage 2

- Data saturation was used to ensure the sample encapsulated as fully as possible the range of experiences within the data (i.e., the point at which no new themes emerged from the data)
- *A full copy of the qualitative report and sampling information can be found here:*  
<https://www.ncpes.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/20220701-NCPES-Qualitative-National-Report-FINAL.pdf>



# Findings – gratitude

- An overwhelmingly strong theme was gratitude. Respondents discussed their care as excellent and highlighted positive experiences with staff members who were praised for their kindness and compassion.
- Care was described as being;

Progressive

Efficient

Brilliant

Outstanding

*"Treatment and care couldn't have been better. All staff have been very caring, informative and genuinely concerned. All possible tests have been completed..."*

*"My care and treatment were excellent and I was well looked after throughout. The nurses and staff were very helpful"*

- This echoes the positive overall experience of care quantitative scores.

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

Respondents were asked to rate their overall care on a scale of 0 (very poor) to 10 (very good). The average rating of care given by respondents was **8.92**.

**89.2%** of respondents felt that they were always treated with respect and dignity while they were in the hospital.

# Findings – negative experiences with General Practice

- Respondents often felt support from their GP did not meet their expectations. Concerns included:

Initial symptoms not taken seriously = delayed diagnosis

A lack of proactive follow-up by GP after diagnosis and/or treatment

Difficulty with access to GP appointments

*“When one goes to the GP with lumps...they should be biopsied/investigated as soon as possible and taken seriously. I would have been treated for cancer 7 months earlier if my lump in my armpit had been biopsied the first time I went to GP”*

*“I have had no contact from my GP practice, I think it’s important that my GP makes contact to offer further support”*

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

**64.1%** of respondents who had contacted their GP practice said that the referral for diagnosis was explained in a way they could completely understand (Q3).

**18.0%** of all respondents said they had a review of their cancer care by a member of staff at their GP practice (Q52).

Respondents were asked if they got the right amount of support from staff at their GP practice while they were having cancer treatment. Of those that said their GP practice was involved in their cancer treatment, **43.7%** said this was definitely the case (Q51)

# Findings – communication for patients

- Respondents felt inadequately informed about some aspects of their care and commented on a lack of effective follow-up. They suggested the following as examples of areas in which more information would be useful:

Detailed information  
on cancer type

Information on type  
of treatment

Information on side  
effects of treatment

Do's and don'ts after  
surgery

*"More explanation of my illness & any future care that would help me"*

*"Perhaps, a little more information during the hospital stay regarding the treatment given"*

*"I have a rare form of cancer and wasn't provided anywhere near enough information on this or any direction where to find it. I had to do the research myself"*

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

**82.2%** of respondents said their treatment options were completely explained to them in a way they could understand before their cancer treatment started (Q20).

**71.7%** said that before their treatment started, they definitely had a discussion with a member of the team looking after them about their needs or concerns (Q24).

**62.5%** said they were given enough information about the possibility of the cancer coming back or spreading, such as what to look out for and what to do if they had concerns (Q55).

# Findings – communication for patients



- They also expressed a desire for face to face communication and emphasised the importance of a single point of contact

*“Having 1 point of contact in the beginning would have been much better as it was confusing to know who to speak with, I felt a bit being sent from pillar to post, obviously when worrying about my condition. It would have helped if it was better co-ordinated”*

*“Given that it was during Covid lockdown, care was mostly done by phone, even checking the wound was by video link. It was ok but I didn’t feel I was able to share my thoughts adequately”*

*“I would have preferred being told I had cancer face to face rather than in a telephone call”*

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

Respondents were asked whether once their cancer treatment had finished, they could get emotional support at home from community or voluntary services. **31.8%** of respondents that needed care and support said this was definitely the case (Q53)

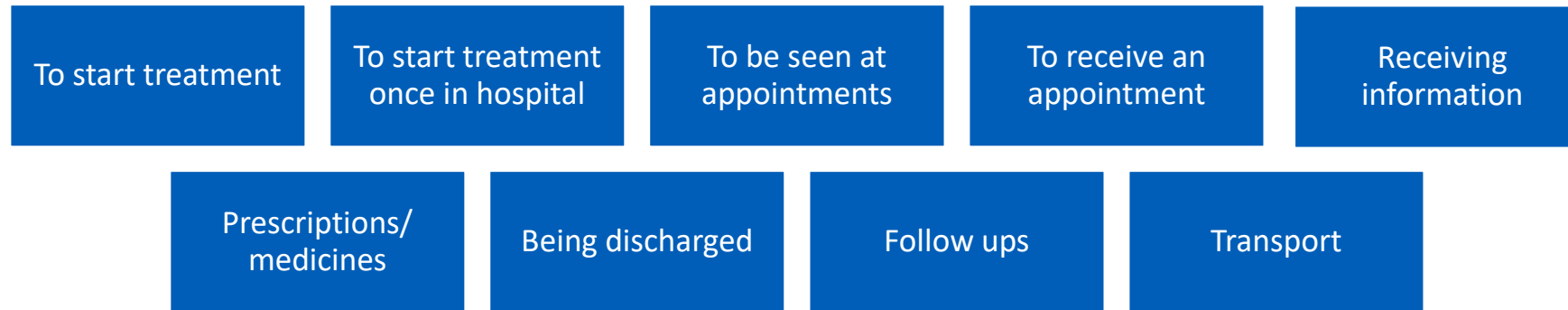
**91.9%** said they had a main contact person within the team looking after them who would support them through treatment, with **81.5%** saying that this person was a specialist nurse (Q17).

**55.4%** said their family or someone else close to them were given all the information they needed to help care for them at home (Q49).

**85.0%** said it was ‘very’ or ‘quite easy’ to contact their main contact person (Q18).

# Findings – waiting times

- Long wait times were mentioned in many different contexts.



- The most prominent example was waiting longer than anticipated for tests and treatment. Some understood this wait to be associated with poorer prognosis.

*“There was a 3/4-month delay in starting treatment. A matter of concern if my cancer was time sensitive”*

*“It did feel to me that it was a long time before I actually got to treatment, especially when my cancer had spread so rapidly with a poor prognosis”*

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

When asked how they felt about the length of time they had to wait for their test results, **81.9%** felt the length of time was about right (Q7).

**79.1%** of respondents felt the length of waiting time at the clinic or day unit for cancer treatment was about right (Q43).



# Findings – negative experiences with hospital staff



- Reflecting the pivotal role of staff, when a negative interaction was experienced it stood out to respondents.
- There were isolated incidents of staff being unprofessional or inconsiderate, as well as a common feeling staff were ‘too busy’ and wards were ‘understaffed’ which impacted care.
- Specific to cancer care, a small number of respondents highlighted they felt there was a need for staff to undergo more specialist training.

*“Maybe more training for nurses with regard to blood taking and canular insertion”*

*“Good overall apart from a few individuals who were rude to me / just ignored me when waiting for treatment. However, some nurses were outstanding and very kind, knew exactly what to say when I have been upset and gave me lots of time, never rushed me”*

What does the quantitative survey data tell us?

**76.2%** said they could always get help from hospital staff when they needed it (Q34).

During their hospital stay, **66.9%** of respondents said they could always talk to the hospital staff about their worries and fears if they needed to (Q35).

**60.6%** of respondents who had stayed overnight said family/someone close to them were definitely able to talk to someone on the team looking after them if they wanted to (Q32).

# Findings – wider hospital issues



- Anticipated to impact patients widely, issues were cited with;

*“Bedding is poor, sheets are too heavy and do not keep one warm. Adding sheets didn’t help as weight was uncomfortable. Thank heavens for a home delivered quilt”*

*“No privacy when talking to medical staff about my conditions or treatment in hospital settings on a ward is always a problem”*



Food quality and variety



Parking access and costs



A lack of privacy



Noise disturbance at night



Décor needing an update



Beds being uncomfortable



Restrictions linked to COVID-19

*“The food is difficult for people with a number of eating difficulties. It is very hard to find anything that would allow multiple diet requirements to be met which does not help recovery. During my hospital stay I became malnourished”*

*“Car Park fees are excessive”*

# Questions?



# What do we think?

## Hanan L'Estrange-Snowden (Insight Manager, Picker)

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# Regional break out rooms



**What do we think about the feedback?**

**What should we be celebrating?**

**What do we want to focus on going forward?**

**Contact**  
**CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk**  
**to access breakout room**  
**notes**





# King's College HNFT: Cancer Improvement Collaborative

**Irina Belun-Vieira** (Head of Nursing Cancer)

**Sola Banjo** (Cancer Quality Improvement Manager)

[CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk](mailto:CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk)

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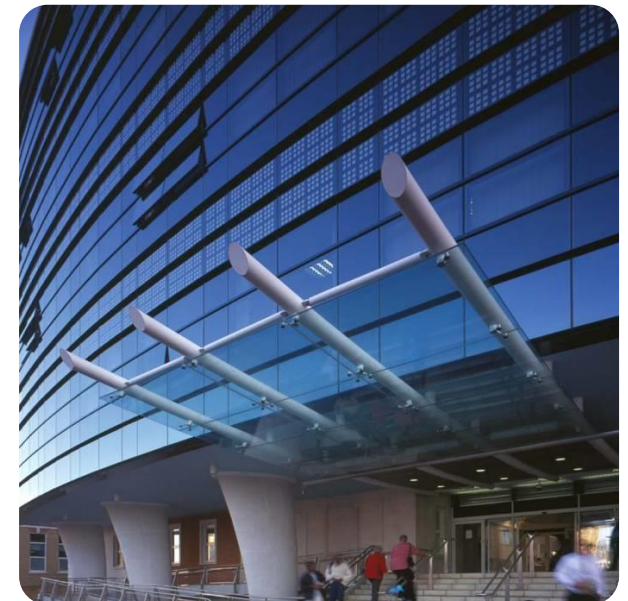
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# Cancer Improvement Collaborative (NHSE/I):

To improve the explanation of diagnostic test results in a completely understandable way for breast adult cancer patients in ethnically diverse communities

Kings Cancer Collaborative Project Team



KING'S HEALTH PARTNERS

**Improve the experience of Kings College Hospital BAME adult breast cancer patients, as measured by for the NCPES Q7, with a target improvement of 10%**

	Breast tumour only					
	2017		2018		2019	
	Score	N	Score	N	Score	N
WhiteBME						
White	83.7%	86	78.4%	97	71.0%	74
BME	69.2%	26	61.4%	44	55.2%	29

Patient Breakdown	PRUH	DH
Black African	2	8
Black Caribbean	2	3
Indian	1	0
Any Other Asian	5	1
Other Black / Caribbean	1	1
White Other (Polish)	1	0
White British	2	0
Any Other Ethnic Group	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>

### Main findings

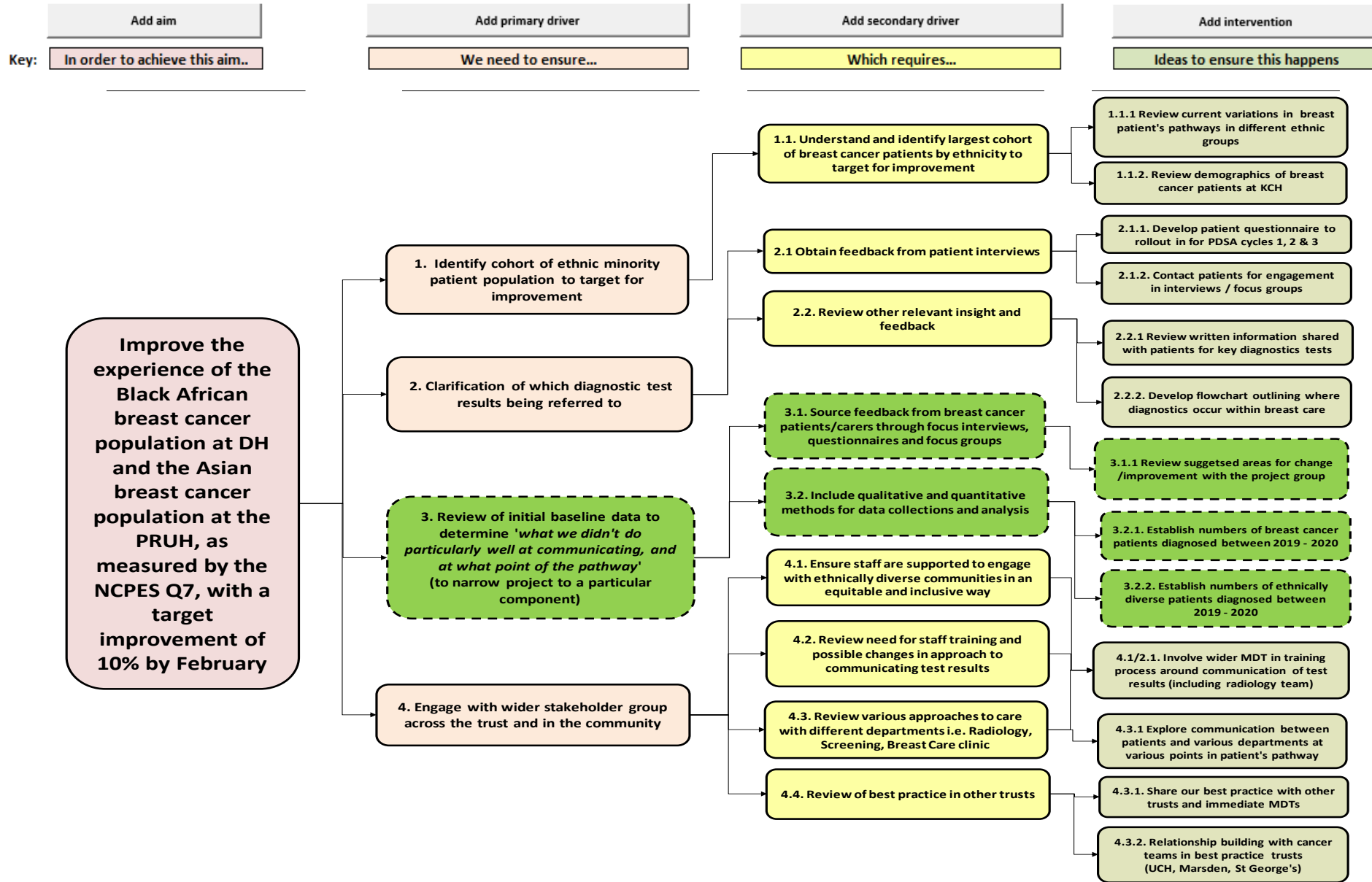
Overall CNS and Consultant explanation of diagnostic testing, care and compassion is great!!!! 89% of our patients commended this aspect of care

The wider experience of care (including access to information and support) was an area identified for improvement for 11% of our patients

**Improve the experience of the Black African breast cancer population at DH and the Asian breast cancer population at the PRUH, as measured by the NCPES Q7, with a target improvement of 10%**

# KCH Cancer Collaborative

## Driver Diagram



## Piloting change.....

**Breast care  
flowchart  
for  
diagnostic  
testing**

**Updated  
breast care  
unit  
webpages**

**Updated  
2ww letter**

**Consistent  
presence  
of CNSs in  
2ww / One  
Stop Clinic**

**Staff  
Training  
Video**

Patient Video has been removed for copyright purposes.

To access please contact [CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk](mailto:CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk)



## 1. Secure backing from trust executive leadership, internal and external partners

## 2. Get the right people round the table

- ✓ Set up a project group team, including recruiting patient representatives lived experience, CNSs, Cancer Clinical Lead, Comms, Patient engagement and experience, South East London Cancer Alliance breast cancer improvement, Radiology colleagues, Equality and Diversity Team

## 3. Understand your CPES results

- ✓ Use results in the way to demonstrate there is an issue and link in how it affects outcomes
- ✓ Link data to experience of care and pathway you are focusing on to inform

## 4. Understand your population demographics

- ✓ Review and understand ethnic representation in your community
- ✓ Link to the clinical outcomes team for better data analyses
- ✓ Use PALs data
- ✓ Use Public Health Data

## 5. Wider team engagement

- ✓ Cross site engagement events to update on aims and present change ideas being discussed with all MDM
- ✓ Allow wider team to feed into changes
- ✓ Present at the cancer alliance tumor group level
- ✓ Share success with all who are interested to hear!

## 6. Listen to your patients

- ✓ Baseline data collection from patients (1:1 and focus groups)
- ✓ Work with live experience patients as partners to identify areas of concern, even if they are not answering a question you trying to understand
- ✓ Share success and final work with all who contributed

## 7. Be flexible and responsive

- ✓ Allow your improvements to be lead by what your learned from patients
- ✓ Offer a platform for patients and staff to design what good look like



# **King's Cancer Collaborative**

## **Appendices - Ideas for change / improvement**

[today's date]



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[sourceaddress2]  
[sourceaddress5]  
www.kch.nhs.uk  
Tel: 0203 299 9000

Hospital Number: [PatientID]  
NHS Number: [NHSNumber]  
D.O.B: [DOB]

Dear [firstname] [lastname],

**Confirmation of your outpatient appointment**

**If you have a disability, impairment or sensory loss and need help to access and understand hospital information, please contact 020 3299 4826 or email [kch-tr.accessability@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.accessability@nhs.net)**

We are pleased to confirm that a face-to-face appointment has been booked for you with the [speciality] Department. The team are looking forward to meeting you in the clinic.

Date:	[appointment_date]
Time:	[appointment_time]
Under the care of:	[practitioner]
Hospital:	[hospitalsite]
Location:	[locationaddress1] [locationaddress2] [locationaddress3] [locationaddress4] [locationpostcode]

**How to contact us about your appointment**

To change this appointment or if you have any questions, please call the 2WW Booking Team on **01689 865800** and select **option 3**, Monday to Friday 08:30 – 17:00, or alternatively you can email us on [emailaddress].

**Please note that any calls received from the hospital may come from a withheld number.**

**Important information about your appointment**

- Please bring a list of all your current medication with you.
- Please arrive in plenty of time for your appointment.
- Please note you may have to wait as clinics can have a high number of patients and you may be required to spend several hours at the hospital.
- Please be aware that some appointments can be very lengthy, especially if diagnostics are needed. Please make provisions accordingly.

King's College Hospital is smoke free in the buildings and grounds.

- Please note that you may bring a friend or relative into the consulting room if you wish

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

Please bring this letter with you to your appointment; it will enable you to check in at one of our Express Check-In Kiosks or at reception.

If needed, we can provide this letter or information in a different format, such as large print or alternative languages. For further details, please see below.

Please note that due to limited space in clinic we respectfully request that patients are accompanied by no more than one person where possible. Your co-operation is appreciated.

**For further information about the breast care clinic and how we care for you please see the breast care clinic website below**

[pruh.kch.nhs.uk/services/breast-care/](http://pruh.kch.nhs.uk/services/breast-care/)

We look forward to welcoming you to your appointment.

Yours sincerely,

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**Translation, interpreting and access support**

If you have a disability or sensory impairment, we want to make sure you can access and understand the information we send you and that you receive any communication support you may need for your appointment.

We provide British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter support and other interpreting and translation services, including Braille and Easy Read.

If you would like support for your appointment or would like to receive this information in a different format or language, please call our dedicated Accessibility phone line on **020 3299 4826**, or email us on [kch-tr.accessability@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.accessability@nhs.net)

**Getting here**

We encourage you to use public transport to travel to your appointment as we have very limited parking at our hospitals. You can plan your journey using the Transport for London Journey Planner: <https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/>

For more information about disabled access or requesting transport for your appointment, please contact the Patient Transport Assessment Centre on **020 3299 8000** to confirm you are eligible.

For further information to help you on the day of your appointment or for detailed maps of our hospitals, please visit our website: [www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk)

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## Breast Care Unit

### General Information


### Referring to this service

### Key Clinical Staff


## What we do

This page is for anyone who has been referred to our Breast Care Unit.

If you have been referred to King's for routine breast screening please see our [breast screening webpage](#). The [NHS Cancer Screening Programme website](#) has a step by step guide to breast screening. [Public Health England](#) also has a full guide to screening.

If you are referred to the Breast Care Unit by your GP (General Practitioner) you will receive an [appointment letter](#)  with full details of your appointment.

### How we will care for you

We provide a [diagnostic](#)  and treatment service for women with [breast conditions](#). We see all new patients within 14 days of referral, as per the [NHS standard for urgent referrals](#). We run clinics every weekday, as follows:

- Monday: mornings
- Tuesday: afternoons
- Wednesday: afternoons
- Thursday: mornings
- Friday: mornings

Morning clinics start at 8.30am. Afternoon clinics start at 12.45pm or 1pm.

We aim to offer you same-day consultation and investigation with a member of the breast care team, though this is not always possible. If you need any further investigations, such as a mammogram (breast x-ray) or biopsy, you may be in the unit between two to four hours. Please make provisions for this, such as bringing snack or refreshments.

### What will happen at your appointment

1. You will be seen by a Consultant Breast Surgeon or a member of their team. They will record your medical history and complete a clinical examination.
2. If they feel further investigations are needed, you will be sent for diagnostic testing to confirm or rule out breast cancer or other conditions. You may have a [mammogram](#), [tomosynthesis](#), an [ultrasound](#), a [biopsy](#), or a combination of these.
3. Your diagnostic tests will be reviewed by a Consultant Radiologist and Consultant Breast Surgeon.

If no further tests are required, you will receive a letter and be discharged by your Consultant Surgeon back into the care of your GP.

If you have a biopsy:

1. An appointment will be scheduled for you to discuss the results. If the doctor that performed the biopsy is concerned by the findings, our breast clinical nurse specialists will be available to talk you through the next steps.
2. The results of your biopsy will be discussed at our breast care multi-disciplinary team meeting. This is a team of health professionals with different areas of expertise including a radiologist and breast care surgeon.
3. You will then be asked to attend a clinic (virtually or face to face) with one of our consultant surgeons and clinics nurse specialists, where the results of your biopsy will be shared with you. You may bring a relative or friend into the consulting room with you if you wish. If no-one is able to accompany you, it may be helpful to have someone on stand-by who can listen to the consultation on the phone.

Our [Breast care pathway for diagnostic tests](#)  and [Breast care glossary of terms](#)  have more details.

## Preparing for your appointment

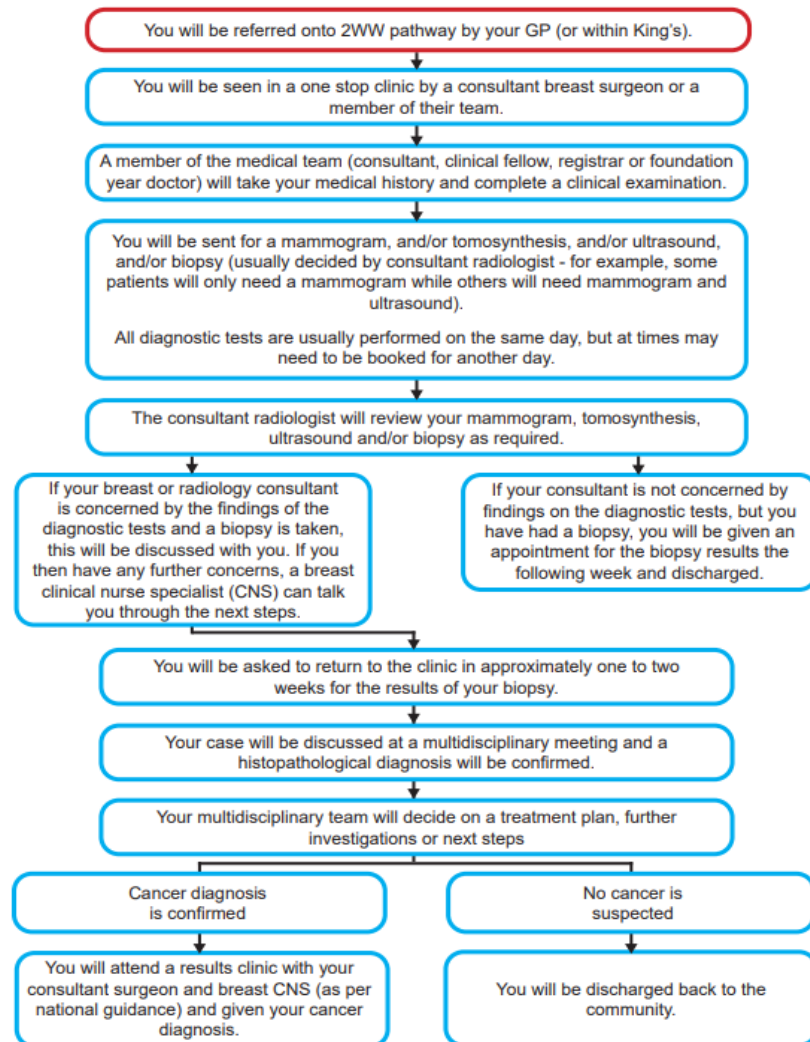
No special preparation is needed for this clinic appointment. You are welcome to bring a friend or family member with you, as it may be helpful if you have concerns about understanding what the medical team will discuss with you.

You may be in the unit between two to four hours. Please make provisions for this, such as bringing snack or refreshments.



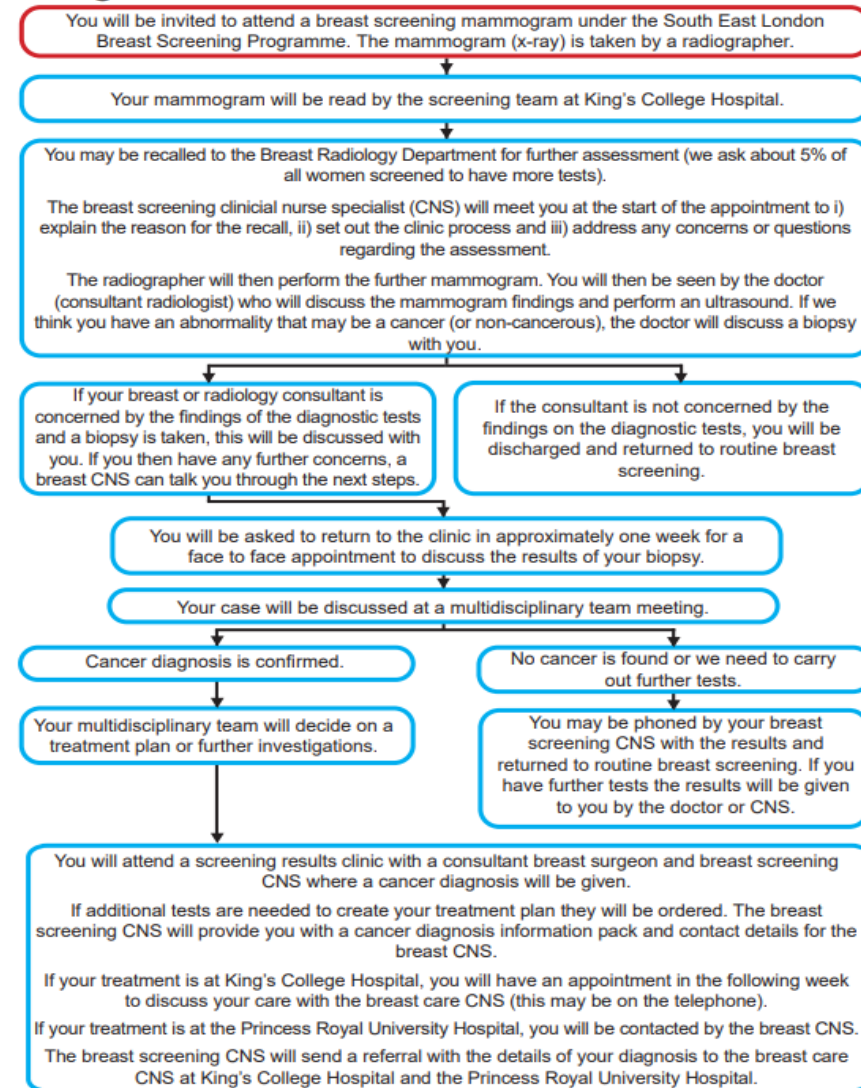
## Breast Care Pathway for Diagnostic Tests (2ww)

**NHS**  
King's College Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Breast Screening Pathway for Diagnostic Tests

**NHS**  
King's College Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust





# Close and thank you

**Clare Enston** (Deputy Director of Insight and Feedback, NHS England)

[CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk](mailto:CPES@PickerEurope.ac.uk)

#pickerworkshops #cpes21

