

# The 10 Year Health Plan and Cancer

## Top lines

The 10 year health plan will deliver three big shifts in how the NHS works. The three shifts will enable rapid progress on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer:

- Hospital to community will make it easier to access cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment services in patients' local areas, with more choice for people on how and where they access these services.
- Analogue to digital will ensure the NHS is able to harness the power of technological innovation to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all cancers.
- Sickness to prevention will enable the NHS to identify those who are at greatest risk of developing cancer earlier and make it easier for everyone to access screening services.

## Key policies

### The plan will improve screening and diagnosis of cancer:

- **We will eliminate cervical cancer by 2040;** to support this goal, women and girls will all be able to access the HPV vaccine. We will make smear tests more accessible by enabling women to test themselves in the privacy of their own home using self-sample kits.
- **Cancer screening will be available to book on the NHS App,** and histories of cancer screenings will be logged on the App meaning both patients and healthcare professionals can review a patient's full medical history when providing treatment.
- **We will provide lung cancer screening to those most at risk,** with a history of smoking, to detect more cases of cancer at an earlier stage when the disease is more treatable and survivable.
- **Genomic testing for inherited causes of cancers will be expanded** from next year, to allow for earlier detection and intervention.
- **The MHRA will prioritise the review of personalised cancer vaccines** as part of wider work to focus attention on the most complex and potentially transformational treatments and modalities.

**The plan will enable the NHS to capitalise on new technologies and innovations to treat and prevent cancer:**

- **Increased use of digital will support faster diagnostics**, reduce delays and increase choice of treatment. For example:
  - **Teledermatology hubs** will allow GPs to refer patients with suspected skin cancer to 'photo clinics' in the community.
  - **Roll out of innovative programmes** to improve patient care, such as world leading research by The Royal Marsden in adoption and delivery of precision oncology, and the use of AI in Chelsea and Westminster, will support clinical decisions in dermatology
- **10,000 cancer vaccines will be provided in the next 5 years.** To enable this the NHS will work with key partners in universities and industry to ensure it is best placed to generate research evidence and plan the implementation of personalised mRNA vaccines.
- **DHSC has also set up the Children and Young People Cancer Taskforce** to look at how cancer in children and young people can be prevented, diagnosed more effectively and how patient experiences can be improved. The Taskforce's work will form part of the National Cancer Plan.

The plan will support those living with cancer to better manage their condition and improve their quality of life:

- **The NHS App will enable patients to better manage their condition.** Patients will be able to book and manage their appointments, prescriptions and medication and see their medical history.
- **The single patient record will mean patients do not have to retell their story**, whether they are receiving care in hospital, the community or at home, healthcare professionals will be able to access patients' medical history.
- **Access to 24/7 advice on the NHS App will provide patients with reassurance when facing the difficulties of living with cancer.** By 2030, our vision is for every patient to have a virtual assistant in their pocket to provide advice, powered by Artificial Intelligence.
- **Patient's care will be informed by their full medical history**, the single patient record will enable healthcare providers to access previous consultations and diagnoses to join the dots on symptoms which may be associated with their treatment or co-morbidities.
- **The MyHealth tool through the NHS App will bring all health data in one place, enabling remote monitoring**, giving patients piece of mind that their condition is being monitored and healthcare professionals will step in if needed.

## **The plan will promote healthier behaviours, and reduce the number of people smoking:**

- **The Tobacco and Vapes Bill** will create the first smoke-free generation, gradually ending the sale of tobacco products across the country and breaking the cycle of addiction.
- **We will strengthen the existing ban on smoking in public places** through the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. This will reduce the harms of passive smoking, particularly around children and vulnerable people.
- **The NHS App and the HealthStore will provide digital support to quit smoking**, through learning individual's smoking habits, digital tools will provide personalised support. As we provide more information about individual health risk based on lifestyle, demographic, medical and genomic data, we will also be able to provide quantified warning about the risk of lung cancer.

## **What the 10 year health plan team heard from the engagement:**

- We received submissions from **79 cancer organisations**, held a cancer specific event attended by **more than 80 cancer organisations**, and convened four meetings of a Partners' Council that included **17 cancer organisations**. **19 people** who had been diagnosed with cancer in the last 24 months attended one of our public deliberative events.
- **Strong appreciation for NHS cancer care**, with participants praising the quality of treatment and the compassion of staff, though concerns about delayed diagnosis and not being listened to were common.
- **Communication needs to be more compassionate and consistent**, especially around diagnosis and prognosis, with some people struggling to access test results.
- **Better use of technology could improve coordination and control**, particularly through shared digital records and AI to support faster diagnosis, though participants stressed this must support rather than replace staff.
- **Prevention and early detection are key priorities**, with calls to expand screening for younger people and improve GP training on early signs of cancer. Participants believed investment would be needed to make the prevention agenda a reality.