

OPTIMAL CARE GUIDANCE



This represents the latest guidance for delivering optimal care for pancreatic cancer in England, developed in partnership with the National Pancreatic Cancer Audit (NPaCA).

This aims to support the NPaCA [Quality Improvement intervention](#) to increase treatment rates for people with pancreatic cancer. In addition the NPaCA team will provide bespoke feedback to Cancer Alliances about their trusts' treatment rates and share examples of good practice. This guidance should be used alongside the [NICE Guideline NG85](#) and [Hepato-pancreatic biliary \(HPB\) Service specification](#).

Optimal Care Pathway



What?

Pancreatic Cancer UK convened over 300 healthcare professionals and patients to develop [six recommendations for optimal care](#) (2023). These have formed guiding principles across the patient pathway for projects referenced in this briefing.

Key benefit

Provides an overview of key recommendations for clinical practice across the whole pathway for pancreatic cancer.

National Pancreatic Cancer Audit



What?

The [National Pancreatic Cancer Audit](#) (established 2022) evaluates patterns of care and outcomes for people with pancreatic cancer in England and Wales. It aims to highlight variations support NHS services to identify and address areas for improvement.

Key benefit

Regular reporting of Trust and Cancer Alliance-level performance against the national average for the Quality Improvement (QI) indicator.

Best Practice Timed Pathway



What?

NHS England's timed [HPB cancer diagnostic pathway](#) (2024) is designed to shorten time between referral and diagnosis, reduce variation and improve patient experience. It urges providers to diagnose aggressive cancers, such as pancreatic in 21 days: faster than the 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard.

Key benefit

Provides guidance on how to ensure more patients receive their diagnosis before they become too unwell to access or tolerate treatment.

Getting It Right First Time



What?

The [GIRET national report for pancreatic cancer](#) (2025) brings together national data, local insight and case studies showcasing exemplary practice in pancreatic cancer care and sets out evidence-based recommendations for improving outcomes.

Key benefit

Contains new approaches and innovations in managing pancreatic cancer care that can support clinical leaders to deliver transformational improvements.

PATHWAY SUPPORT



Events and information



Pancreatic Cancer UK offers free resources for health professionals:

- Online educational events delivered by experts on topics like diet, symptom management and psychological support.
- CPD accredited online courses on diabetes, PERT and the pancreatic cancer pathway.
- Health Professional Bulletin to stay up to date, hear about events and courses, and additional support for your patients.
- Free publications you can order or download for your patients. These are reviewed by clinical experts so you can share them with confidence.
- Additional support you can share with your patients to complement the care you provide, including our specialist nurse Support Line, webinars and online community groups.

Visit: www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/health-professionals

Local engagement support



Pancreatic Cancer UK offers free assistance to support you to improve outcomes across the pathway.

We are available to meet Cancer Alliances and NHS Trusts to:

- share examples of best practice from health systems across England.
- link you in with national NHS initiatives - such as NHS England's [early diagnosis pilot focusing on New Onset Diabetes](#).
- support you to capture local patient experience data through our registry platform
- put you in touch with people with lived experience to support patient involvement.

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