

LGBT+

It is thought that around 3.6 million people in the UK identify as LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans). Fear of discrimination and lack of sexual orientation and gender identity recording suggests many are invisible to health services.

We don't know nearly enough about cancer in the LGBT+ community though there is reason to believe there is a disproportionate cancer burden through a combination of social and economic factors.

There is research suggesting at least 7 cancers may affect the LGBT+ community disproportionately - anal, breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, prostate, uterine.

LGBT+ people face a number of barriers related to cancer:

Lack of **understanding** of risk factors, symptoms and signs of cancer by LGBT+ people

There is still **fear** of facing discrimination from health care professionals
Health care professionals **lack knowledge** and confidence regarding LGBT+ specific issues

Coding issues may prevent invitations to national cancer screening
Disparities in **cancer survivorship** including poorer quality of life with apparent insufficient specific advice regarding impacts of treatment for LGBT+.

What can we do in Primary Care?:

Create a welcoming and respectful environment

Education - bridge gaps to better understand the unique needs of our LGBT+ population

Promote cancer awareness for LGBT+

Ensure LGBT+ people are invited for appropriate Cancer Screening

Support LGBT+ people diagnosed with cancer including signposting to [Live Through This](#)

Recommended resources:

- [Cancer Research UK - Improving cancer care for the LGBTQ+ community](#)
- [Cancer Research UK podcast: How can we improve LGBTQ+ cancer care? – That Cancer Conversation](#)

- [Macmillan Cancer Support - Support for LGBTQ+ people affected by cancer](#)
- [Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust - Cervical screening for trans men and/or non-binary people](#)
- [The Eve Appeal - Info for the Transgender, Non-binary and Intersex Communities](#)
- [Out with Prostate Cancer](#)

LGBT+ Inclusive Care webinar series for Primary Care

The Wessex Cancer Alliance teamed up with Live Through This earlier this year to deliver two LGBT+ Inclusive Care webinars for Hampshire and Isle of Wight practices:

Session 1 – An Introduction to LGBT+ Inclusive Care

Session 2 – Supporting LGBT+ Patients in Cancer Care & Screening

Please email victoria.wright42@nhs.net if you would like to view these recordings.

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