

Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Centre (MDC) Steering Group

**Are you interested in improving cancer diagnosis for people with vague symptoms?
Get involved with our work and make a difference!**

What do MDCs do?

If a patient has 'vague' but concerning symptoms that could indicate cancer, it can be difficult to ensure they are referred for the most appropriate tests quickly. Often they are sent back and forth between the GP and hospital several times, until a diagnosis can be made.

For example, patients could experience:

- Unexplained abdominal pain
- Unexpected weight loss
- Jaundice
- Persistent nausea
- Loss of appetite

To speed up diagnosis and improve care for these patients, UCLH Cancer Collaborative is currently piloting five Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Centres (MDCs) across north and east London and Essex for patients who have vague symptoms that could indicate cancer.

Doctors can refer patients to an MDC where they will have diagnostic tests and scans all on the same day. This reduces the number of appointments, speeds up diagnosis and reduces the amount of time patients spend worrying and waiting. If a patient is diagnosed with cancer, they can begin their treatment earlier, which improves outcomes.

The MDC programme consists of five sites: UCLH, Royal Free London, North Middlesex Hospital, Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals (BHRUT) and Southend Hospital.

We are looking for people who are interested in improving cancer diagnosis for patients with vague symptoms to join the Steering Group overseeing the MDC project.

What is the role of the Steering Group?

As a Steering Group member you will:

- Influence how the MDC service is delivered
- Shape the long term strategy for the service
- Drive improvements in patient experience
- Ensure that information for patients about MDCs is clear and accessible.

What are we looking for in a Steering Group member?

- Experience of being treated for cancer within the past 5 years at an NHS hospital in the UCLH Cancer Collaborative area ([see map](#)) – as a patient or carer / family member
- Passionate about improving health services for people affected by cancer and interest in earlier diagnosis
- Able to offer constructive challenge to senior professionals when necessary, and confident participating in group discussions
- Collaborative, inclusive and respectful approach to working with others, and excellent listening skills
- Able to consider issues affecting the diverse range of people affected by cancer, beyond your own experiences and anecdotes
- Willing to adhere to our Ways of Working, Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreements.

What is the time commitment?

The Steering Group has monthly meetings for one hour. It will run from January 2018 – March 2019. It meets at 250 Euston Road, London NW1 2PG. This is a short walk from Warren Street or Euston Square tube stations.

How will we support you?

There will be an induction with the Project Lead and with our Patient Experience and User Involvement team, to help you understand the MDC project.

We will reimburse reasonable travel expenses, in line with our Expenses Policy.

Are you interested?

If you would like to express an interest in joining the MDC Steering Group, please contact us to discuss your suitability for the role.

The deadline to express an interest is **Sunday 22 January 2018**.

Email: uclh.getinvolvedwithcancer1@nhs.net

Phone: 07950 960 159 or 020 3447 2779.