The Cancer Specialist Library is a comprehensive evidence-based resource committed to supporting busy health professionals find the high-quality cancer information they need to keep up-to-date. We provide a comprehensive range of links to emerging guidance and evidence and strive to organise cancer information in accessible and innovative ways, through our Knowledge Updates and National Knowledge Weeks

Guide to the Cancer Specialist Library

1. Who has developed the Library?

The Cancer Specialist Library is part of the National Library for Health (NLH) and is being developed and maintained by a Management Team, based in the Research Institute at the Churchill Hospital, part of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH). The Library uses an Editorial Group and a Reference Group to direct and support its development.

2. Who is the Library for?

The Library has been developed to support all UK health professionals find the cancer information they need to keep up to date. Patients, families and the general public are also welcome to use the site.

3. Can I trust what I find on the Library?

The Library is an evidence-based resource and so quality of information included is very important. Selection criteria are applied to all resources in the Library. Resources include: guidelines, systematic reviews synopses, health policies and strategies, patient information and news items.

4. I have a specific clinical question, how do I find relevant information on the Library?

The Library’s search box is situated in the top left-hand area of the website. Type in your search terms, click on “go”, and search results will be displayed according to information types under horizontal tabs.

An example search might be: breast cancer aromatase inhibitors
To broaden the number of results, truncate search terms using “%”: liver met% mr imaging
To combine search terms in order to broaden or reduce results, use: AND, OR or NOT: magnetic resonance imaging OR mr imaging OR mri
5. Will the Library help keep me up-to-date with published research?

The Library provides 'knowledge updates' which are accessible from a contents page for each cancer. Well-conducted systematic reviews provide the most reliable answers to clinical questions. The Library searches for these continually, and adds them to the Library’s 'knowledge updates'. The Library has also created a 'knowledge map' for each cancer to show at a glance where high-level evidence has been published and where gaps remain.

6. Does the Library address current issues in cancer?

National Knowledge Weeks are an information initiative which bring together expert summaries and the evidence base for current issues in cancer. National Knowledge Weeks are developed and updated on an annual basis by the Library’s Management Team and an external Advisory Panel.

7. How do I find NICE guidelines and other evidence-based guidelines on the Library?

Click on the cancer you are interested in from the left-hand vertical menu. Search results are displayed under horizontal tabs according to information type. Click on the first tab 'Guidance and Pathways'. Details relating to all relevant NICE guidelines and other evidence-based guidelines will appear in a list. Click on the guideline title to view more details, or click on 'View full text' to see the guideline in full.

8. Does the Library provide links to full text information?

The Library will always link to full text information when it is freely available online. Sometimes, the Library links to some journals that are only accessible in full text via the National Library for Health (NLH) with an Athens login (see Q9). In all other instances the Library links to a summary or a PubMed abstract.

9. What is an Athens password, and how do I get one?

The Athens Access Management System controls access to journals and databases available via the National Library for Health (NLH). An Athens password is freely available to all NHS employees. You can obtain your free Athens password by setting up an online account.

10. I have a comment/further question about using the Library, how do I get in touch?

The Library welcomes all feedback. Please contact us.

Generic issues in cancer (knowledge update)
This section of the site contains knowledge updates for generic issues in cancer. These are collections of systematic reviews, grouped by clinical activity relating to cancer and its management. The Cancer Library has found these resources by comprehensively searching a large number of international databases and applying a quality check. See our development policy for more information.

**CAUSES, RISKS and PREVENTION**

Carcinogens
Diet and Nutrition
Genetics
Health Education
Miscellaneous Topics
Smoking Cessation

**SCREENING**
Genetics
Miscellaneous Topics

**ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS**
Diagnostic Imaging
Miscellaneous Topics

**TREATMENT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

  Biological Therapies
  Chemotherapy
  Complementary Therapies
  Other Drug Therapy
  Palliative Care
  Psychosocial Care
  Quality of Life
  Radiotherapy
Shared and Informed Decision Making

SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT

Anaemia
Fatigue
Pain
Spinal Cord Compression
Weight Loss/Wasting

SIDE EFFECTS OF TREATMENT

Anaemia
Anorectal Injury
Cardiotoxicity
Fatigue
Neurotoxicity
Neutropenia

SERVICE DELIVERY AND STANDARDS

Economic Assessment
Service Improvement
Statistics
Survival
Trials and Research

- **Publication Type:** Systematic Review
- **Publisher:** Cancer Specialist Library
- **Creator:** Cancer Specialist Library
Activities

- Diagnosis
- Patient information and support
- Prevention
- Quality and monitoring
- Service delivery
- Treatment and disease management

Keywords

- Neoplasms

Resources
The Cancer Specialist Library has developed this page to help users locate quickly the websites and resources they use most frequently. Most of the resources featured on the Library are freely available and where possible we link to full text. Some information from oncology journals is only available by subscription but NHS staff can have access to a wide variety of full text journals by registering for an Athens password. A list of free journals is available via the National Library for Health.

STATISTICS, EPIDEMIOLOGY and DEMOGRAPHICS

Cancer Research UK - CancerStats
United Kingdom Association of Cancer Registries (UKACR)
National Statistics Online - cancer mortality
NHS Screening Programme

GUIDELINES - sources and appraisal tools

NICE - Cancer service guidance and guidelines
NICE - Technology appraisals
Guidelines Finder - UK Database of clinical guidelines
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) - Clinical guidelines
AGREE Collaboration - AGREE Instrument (guideline appraisal tool)

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS - databases and appraisal tools

Cochrane Library - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) - DARE
NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme (HTA)
PubMed
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine - Worksheet for systematic reviews of therapy

**CLINICAL TRIALS** - databases, overviews and appraisal tools

PubMed
Cancerbackup - Trials database
CancerHelp UK - Trials database
Current Controlled Trials - Trials database
Cancerbackup - Research - clinical trials
CancerHelp UK - Understanding clinical trials
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine - Critical appraisal worksheet for therapy

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**
International Union Against Cancer (UICC) - calendar

**QUICK LINKS TO PATIENT INFORMATION**
Breakthrough Breast Cancer
Cancerbackup
Cancer Black Care
CancerHelp
CSCS'IP - National Patient Information Pathways
Macmillan Cancer Support
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Oxford Cancer Information
The Prostate Cancer Charity
UK Prostate Link