



General Election 2017 Cancer52 Calls to Action

Cancer52 is an alliance of more than 90 predominantly cancer patient support charities, united by their vision of seeing a better future for everyone affected by rare and less common cancers - defined as all cancers outside the 'big four' of breast, prostate, lung and bowel.

52 per cent (recent statistics show an increase to **54%**) of UK cancer deaths are from rare and less common cancers.

Despite this, these cancers remain severely under-represented and under-funded across all areas, including policy, services and research. Cancer52 works to address this inequality and improve outcomes for patients with these highly challenging diseases.

In the 2015 election campaign Cancer52 called for refreshed cancer strategies; more research into the rare and less common cancers; and early access to modern treatments. Important progress towards these goals have been outlined in the Cancer Strategy for England and Cancer52 now represents rare and less common cancers on the Independent National Cancer Advisory Group.

With financial pressures on the NHS and in a new era of Brexit there are considerable risks to rare and less common cancer patients, who are disproportionately affected by shrinking resources. More must be done by Government to prioritise rare and less common cancers in national policy and we call for commitments to:

- Act to reverse the newly introduced NICE Budget Impact Threshold which disadvantages rare and less common cancer patients' access to drugs
- Address the lack of available national data about rare and less common cancers which hinders knowledge and measures of improvement
- Assess the impact on rare and less common cancers of all policy decisions made to health services, including research and cross-border care

Find out more about us: www.cancer52.org.uk

May 2017