



# Delivering Excellence in Neuro-Oncology

Authors: Professor Catherine McBain, Claire Goldrick  
Affiliations: Greater Manchester Cancer, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

## Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence

In 2021, Salford Royal and The Christie's brain tumour services received a national award for excellence in patient care. Manchester's brain tumour centre has been recognised as a Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence following rigorous expert-led assessments by the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission. The national accolade was awarded to Salford Royal and The Christie and was measured on a range of criteria, including excellent clinical practice and training opportunities, emphasis on patient quality of life, providing clinical trials and offering a high standard of research opportunities.

*The service embodies 'the human-centred culture of kindness and compassion that Tessa advocated for during the course of her illness, providing wraparound holistic care that meets the patient where they are'.*



## Tessa Jowell Academy Founders

Professor Catherine McBain and Mr Pietro D'Urso from Greater Manchester are part of the founding committee for the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission's Academy. The academy is an online learning platform designed to improve equity of services and improve patient care, share excellence and promote interdisciplinary networks, deliver expert led content and promote research. Specialist Allied Health Professionals Sara Robson and Lindsay Sudell and Specialist Radiographers Charlotte Smith and Amy Davis have also delivered national teaching for the TJBMC academy and are actively involved in extending the good practice for which Manchester was commended.

<b>660</b> Registered members	<b>29</b> NHS hospitals with members
<b>30</b> Centres connected through the peer support service	<b>1200</b> Workshop Sign-ups

Utilised by 97%  
of NHS Brain  
Tumour  
Centres



**ANY PROGRESSIVE SYMPTOMS?**  
Look for any new neurological symptoms, progressing over a few months. Common symptoms include changes in mobility, balance, speech, cognition, mood, or vision. Could any symptoms be seizures?

**CT OR MRI SCAN**  
A normal CT scan does not exclude a brain tumour. An MR scan with contrast is required.

**Headache vs Brain Tumour?**  
Fast Fact videos and a think A-G Brain Tumour infographic have been developed in the past twelve months to support appropriate and timely identification and referral into secondary care for patients with suspected brain tumours.

**GREATER MANCHESTER REFERRAL PROFORMA**

- Please refer all patients using the Greater Manchester form
- Ensure the patient understands the reason for the referral
- Ensure referral contains a specific clinical history

**REFERRAL PROCESS FOR GREATER MCR**

History  
Examination  
GM referral form

## Embedding Genomics in Neuro-Oncology

The Brain Matrix is now open which offers patients full genomic profiling within the setting of a national clinical trial. Patients' genomic data is aligned with imaging and clinical data, to increase understanding of disease processes and offer access to new therapeutic options.

The Neuro-Oncology service in GM are also focusing on:

- Introducing routine testing of glioma specimens for actionable mutations including NTRK & FGFR
- Leading a new multi-centre international clinical trial (FIGHT209) of FGFR inhibitor Pemigatinib
- Working with TJBMC Genomics Subgroup to ensure this testing is adopted as a national standard
- Increasing the numbers of patients having Whole Genome Sequencing
- Linking to Early Phase Group to increase brain tumour access to novel therapies.



## Improving the Neuro-Oncology Multidisciplinary Team Meeting

The GM Neuro-Oncology team is implementing a new platform called Patient Pass to manage the Specialist MDT.

This new approach aims to:

- Improve the quality of information submitted to support discussion and decision making
- Allow instant return of MDT decisions to the referrer to improve efficiency of the pathway and timely communication with patients
- Improve efficiency of the MDT meetings
- Allow review of referrals listed for discussion prior to MDT meeting to ensure appropriateness of referrals and discussion

Roll out expected late 2022.



We are also delighted to announce that the Greater Manchester Neuro-Oncology team have welcomed Dr Jenny King, Dr Claire Barker and Chantelle Davies to form a new brain metastases team, providing expert care and support for patients diagnosed with brain metastases. They will integrate with the Acute Oncology pathway board and support the reform of the Neuro-Oncology MDT