

THREE TARGETS

TO TRANSFORM THE FUTURE OF OVARIAN CANCER IN WALES



Ovarian cancer continues to be overlooked and women with the disease are being failed.

As a Member of the Senedd you have the power to change this by working with Target Ovarian Cancer.

We have a plan: three targets that will transform the future for everyone diagnosed with ovarian cancer. We need you to help us achieve them.



A government funded awareness campaign, so everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

We know that too often women's pain and discomfort have not been taken seriously, and they have not been equipped with the information they need on ovarian cancer.

With no viable screening programme, it is vital that every woman knows the symptoms, and that we address the misconceptions around ovarian cancer to ensure women feel empowered to contact their GP at the earliest opportunity.

"I'd never even heard of ovarian cancer before I was diagnosed. While waiting for my scan results, I finally googled my symptoms and ovarian cancer came up – but months had already passed since I first went to the GP. If I'd known the signs earlier, I could have pushed for it to be considered sooner and been diagnosed much earlier. Awareness isn't optional; it's lifesaving. Too many women don't know the symptoms, and too many are dismissed or diagnosed too late. We urgently need better awareness, better information, and a system that listens." – Sarah L



can name the symptom of bloating.



of women wrongly believe that cervical screening detects ovarian cancer.



To ensure that everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer we must see:

- ▶ A funded awareness campaign that features the symptoms of ovarian cancer.
- ▶ The Welsh Government to update cervical screening information and make it available on Public Health Wales website, making clear that it will not detect ovarian cancer.

A shorter diagnostic pathway for ovarian cancer, with support and training for GPs.

Currently, to get a diagnosis, women need their GP to refer them for a CA125 blood test and if that is raised then an ultrasound can be ordered. There are delays both in accessing tests and GPs then receiving the results. We know that the earlier a woman is diagnosed the greater her chance of survival, yet delays in accessing tests stop women from starting life-saving treatment.

The CA125 blood test is not always a reliable test for early-stage (stage I or II) disease, so using CA125 alone may miss early-stage disease which is the most treatable. To address both the delays in tests and the limitations of current diagnostic tools we need to see CA125 and ultrasound undertaken at the same time in Wales.

The findings reflected in the Unheard report in Wales reinforce the urgent need to strengthen GP awareness and training to support earlier diagnosis of ovarian cancer. GP awareness is also key to early diagnosis. However, too many women experience misdiagnosis and delays as a result of GPs not being appropriately educated or supported to diagnose ovarian cancer quickly.

"My experience shows just how vital GP awareness and rapid access to tests can be. When I discovered a lump in August 2024, my GP acted immediately - within days I had blood tests, scans, and referrals. That speed quite literally changed the course of my life.

I will always be grateful for how quickly my GP responded, trusted my instincts, and made sure every test was done without delay. Early action matters, and in my case, it made all the difference." - Sarah H



54%

of GPs reported waiting 15 days or more to receive ultrasound results.

40%

women in Wales had an emergency admission 28 days prior to diagnosis.

To ensure that everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer we must see:

- ▶ The diagnostic pathway for ovarian cancer shortened, with the CA125 blood test and ultrasound being carried out at the same time.
- ▶ The recommendations of the Unheard: Women's Journey Through Gynaecological Cancer report implemented to strengthen GP education on ovarian cancer and access to effective decision support tools.

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A new long-term cancer strategy to drive improvements in cancer outcomes and improve access to treatment and clinical trials

Everyone with ovarian cancer in Wales deserves the best possible treatment, targeted to their needs. Access to the right treatment is vital to improving a woman's chance of survival, and surgery is the treatment that offers the best long-term prognosis. Access to treatment should not be determined by age or where you live.

We must see improved access to clinical trials particularly for those with limited treatment options, helping to ensure everyone diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Wales has the best possible chance of survival.

International evidence shows that those countries with cancer strategies have been most effective at improving outcomes for patients, we need to see a joined-up approach to addressing the challenges facing cancer in Wales.

"Since my diagnosis 15 years ago, I've taken every opportunity to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and call for a stronger, bolder cancer strategy in Wales.

For too many women ovarian cancer is found late, with treatment options then limited. We cannot accept that. Wales remains the only UK nation without a cancer strategy and that must change.

With my recurrence in 2026, I'm more determined than ever: Wales needs urgent, decisive action." – Linda

**1 in 4**

diagnosed received no ovarian cancer treatment at all.

25%

of women diagnosed in Wales were asked by anyone involved in their treatment about joining a clinical trial.



To ensure that everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer we must see:

- ▶ New long-term cancer strategy to drive improvements in cancer outcomes.
- ▶ Patients must be empowered to ask about clinical trials, with signposting to information on clinical trials embedded into interactions between patients and their clinical team.