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National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

# Shared Safety Net Action + Plan (SSNAP)



## Training for Users in Control Practices



# What we'll cover today

- Why is the research needed?
- What will it involve?
- Which patients are eligible?
- Coding for SSNAP.





# Why is this research needed?



# Why do we need SSNAP?

- Delayed diagnosis of cancer major cause of mortality.
- Early-stage diagnosis across 13 most common cancers **60% Sept 2025**, around **58% in West Yorkshire**, compared to target in NHS Long Term Plan to increase % cancers diagnosed early to **75% by 2028**.
- **Over three million referrals** for investigation on urgent suspected cancer pathways from primary to secondary care over last year, doubled over last decade.
- Safety-netting provides a valuable tool but vulnerable to **delay, misunderstanding, varying levels of patient engagement**. E.g. recent review of general practice indemnity claims found safety-net instructions often lacked detail, contributing to poor monitoring and follow up of symptoms.



# What is SSNAP?

- SSNAP (Shared Safety Net Action Plan) aims to engage patients in safety-netting about **non-specific symptoms** that could be a sign of cancer, to **support early diagnosis**.
- **Co-designed** by patients & primary care staff.
- **Not** a clinical decision-support tool.
- SSNAP records outcomes of safety-netting consultations in SystemOne when patients present with uncertain symptoms. The tool provides patients with an electronic or paper version of SSNAP to support patients in understanding **which symptoms to monitor**, for **how long**, and in **which circumstances to reconsult**.
- Also provides ways to follow patients up *via* scheduled tasks & reminders.



# What will the research involve for us?

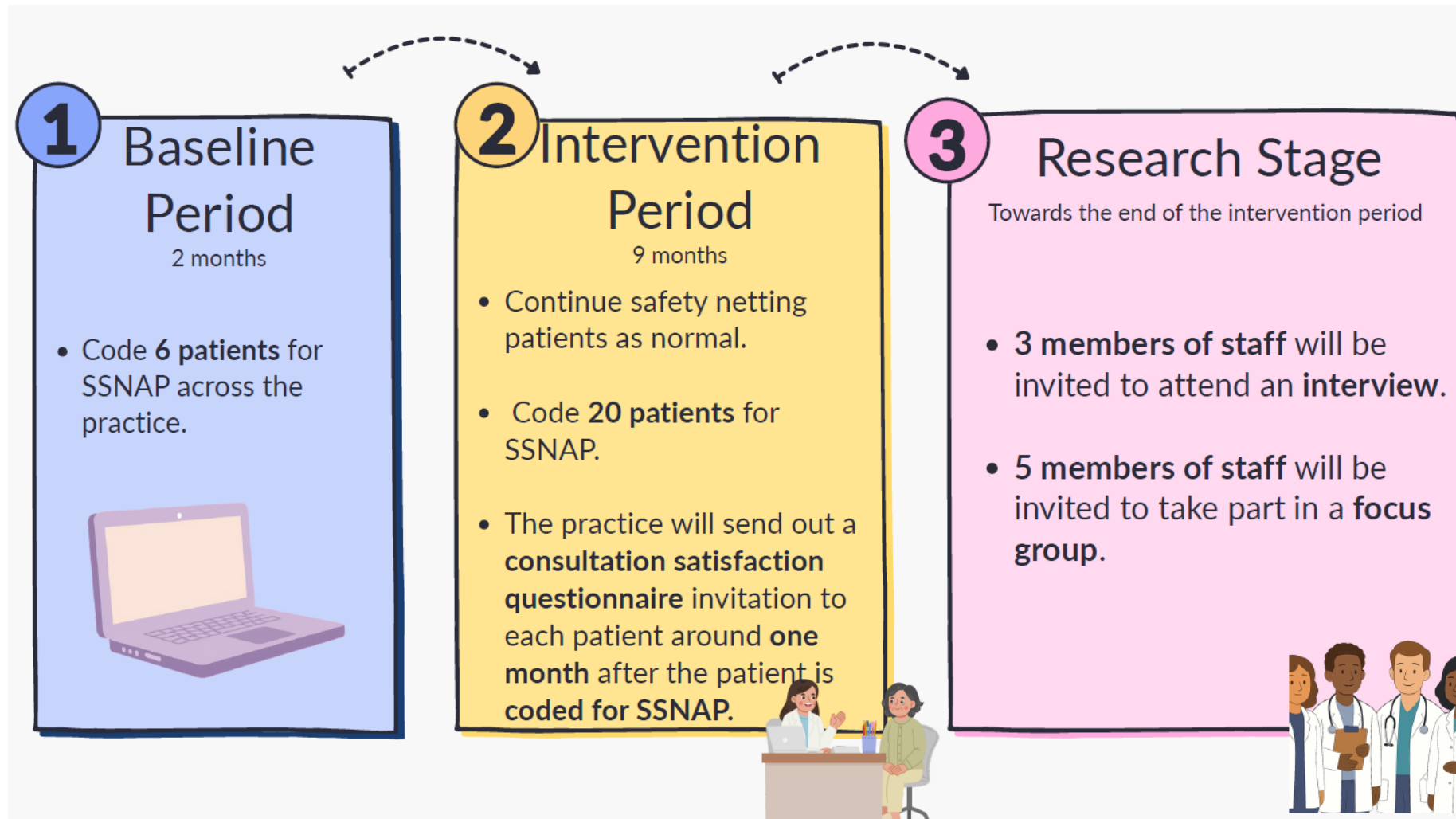


# The Study

- Feasibility trial in 6 general practices in Bradford & Airedale (3 intervention, 3 control).
- **Aims to assess the feasibility and acceptability of SSNAP to support earlier diagnosis of cancer in general practice**
- This research will then inform design of a subsequent large clinical trial.



# What's required of your practice?



# Which patients are eligible for SSNAP?



# Which patients are eligible for SSNAP?

✓ Patients 18 years or older with non-specific symptoms which could indicate cancer.

✓ Patients must have capacity or accompanied by family member or informal carer (consultee) >18.

**No need to take patient consent in this study; posters will be displayed so they know about the study and how to opt out.**



✗ Young people and children under 18 years.

✗ Patients without capacity who are not accompanied by a consultee.

✗ Opted out of data sharing.

# Which patients complete a questionnaire?

- ✓ Patients 18 years or older who received SSNAP.
- ✓ Family members/informal carers (>18) who accompanied patients in consultations where SSNAP was used.



- ✗ Patients, family members/informal carers under the age of 18.
- ✗ Family members/informal carers of patients who received SSNAP but passed away before invitation to complete a questionnaire circulated.
- ✗ Patients who could be distressed or confused by participating, inc. those who lack capacity to consent or are too ill.

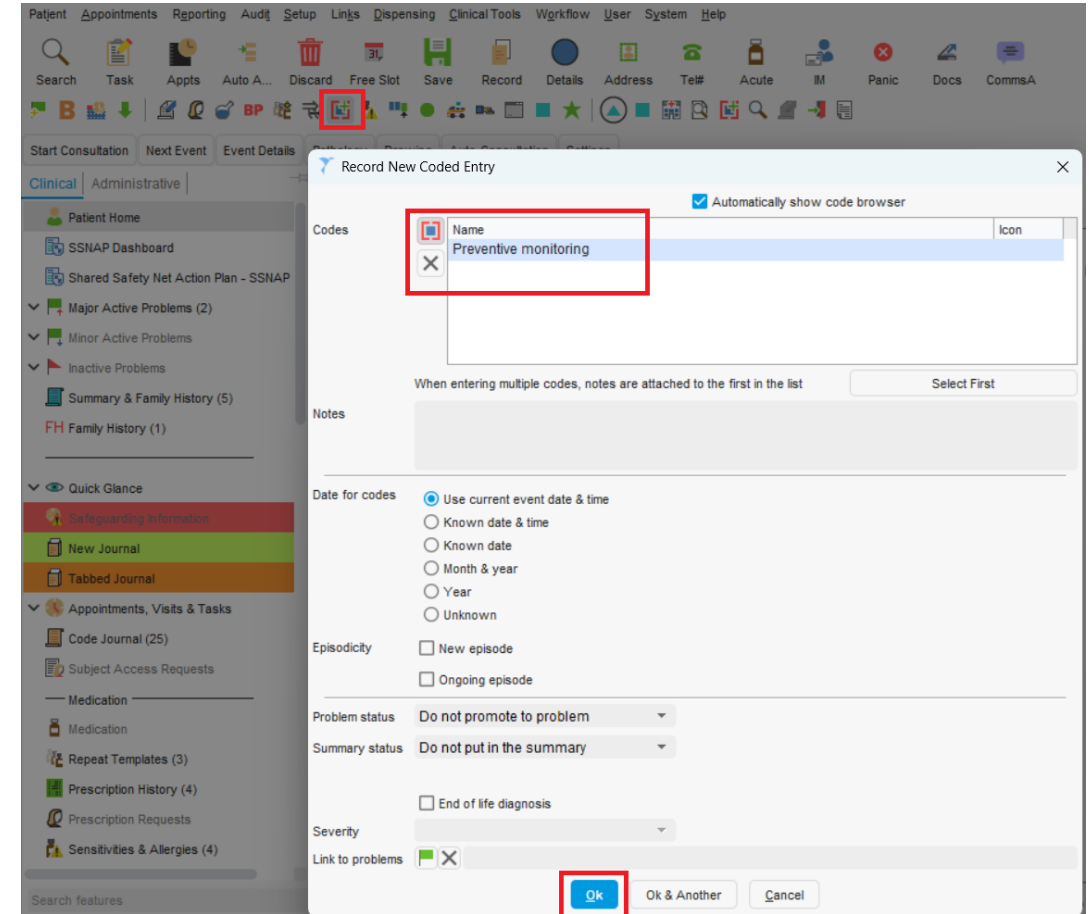


# Coding for SSNAP



# Coding for SSNAP in Baseline Period

- Use code “Preventive monitoring (Xa97Q)” to identify patients eligible for SSNAP. During baseline period, enter code into consultation box when you consider a patient meets eligibility criteria:
  1. Click the Add Clinical Code Button.
  2. Search for the code Preventative Monitoring (Xa97Q)
  3. Click OK (or your practice may add an auto-consult)
- Aim to **code 6 patients across practice over 2-month baseline period**. No need to take consent.



# Coding for SSNAP in Intervention Period

- During this time, continue to code eligible patients for SSNAP inclusively, as in baseline.
- Aim to code **20 patients for SSNAP across practice over 9-month intervention period.**
- No need to take consent.



# Inviting patients to complete a questionnaire

- Around 4 weeks after initial consultation, practices invite SSNAP-coded patients to complete **consultation satisfaction questionnaire** (online or post).
- Research team will provide wording for mobile phone text, email or letter plus SAEs, paper patient information sheets & questionnaires for patients without digital access.
- Search for these patients monthly using “Preventive monitoring” (Xa97Q) or ICB can provide monthly report which shows all SSNAP-coded patients in last 4 weeks.





# Support & Further Information



# Further Guidance

- Further information about SSNAP study – including copy of these slides - will be available online.
- **Dr Hannah Gregson**, Research Fellow:  
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- **Dr Lynn McVey**, Chief Investigator:  
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## Support & Further Information

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Thank you!

