

**2026**

Dear Practice Manager

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GPs**

### **Are you aware of the facts of cholangiocarcinoma?**

#### **The Facts**

- Cases of **cholangiocarcinoma (CCA; bile duct cancer)** have more than doubled in the UK since 2001<sup>1</sup>
- Its incidence is equal to **hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)** – but it's far less recognised<sup>2</sup>
- **2,973** people were diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma in 2022 in England alone<sup>3</sup>
- The 5-year overall **survival rate is less than 10% – early diagnosis is critical.**<sup>4</sup>

Cholangiocarcinoma starts in the bile ducts, and causes few symptoms in its early stages. Any symptoms there are can be quite vague, such as nausea, loss of appetite, unexplained tiredness or weight loss. Although these symptoms may be caused by conditions other than cancer, a liver function test should be carried out because the early signs of cholangiocarcinoma may show in a **slightly abnormal liver function test**.

#### **Other more specific symptoms (usually indicative of more advanced disease) include:**

- **Jaundice** (may be less visible in darker skin tones)
- **Dark urine, pale stools**
- **Pain under the right ribs**
- **Unexplained weight loss, general malaise and fatigue**

#### **We Need Your Help:**

I support **AMMF, the UK's only cholangiocarcinoma charity**, dedicated to raising awareness, providing information, and supporting research. Please be cholangiocarcinoma aware – while the early non-specific symptoms may be attributable to a number of benign conditions, **urgent assessment is crucial**.

If a patient presents with these symptoms, **consider cholangiocarcinoma**. Though more common over 60, cases in younger people are rising. Missing a diagnosis of cholangiocarcinoma could mean **losing the chance for life-saving surgery**, currently the only potentially curative treatment.

For more information about cholangiocarcinoma, please visit the AMMF website: **[www.ammf.org.uk](http://www.ammf.org.uk)**

Yours sincerely

Name and address of sender for further contact:

*Sign here*

<sup>1, 3, 4</sup> *Cholangiocarcinoma across England...*, *JHEP Reports*, 2023

<sup>2</sup> *National Disease Registration Service (NDRS): [nhsd-ndrs.shinyapps.io/get\\_data\\_out/](https://nhsd-ndrs.shinyapps.io/get_data_out/)*