

Gateway reference number 18539

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13 December 2012

To:  
NHS Trust Chief Executives  
NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executives  
Independent Providers of NHS cancer services

Dear Colleague

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANCER OUTCOMES AND SERVICES  
DATASET INFORMATION STANDARD**

High quality cancer intelligence is critical to improving outcomes for cancer and achieving the level of ambition set by this Government – to save 5,000 additional lives each year by 2014/15. Cancer intelligence is therefore essential in informing the planning, development, monitoring and improvement of cancer services to achieve this goal.

To ensure that the necessary information exists to support the provision of high quality cancer services, both locally and nationally, the National Cancer Intelligence Network have developed the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD) as a replacement for the existing National Cancer Dataset and Cancer Registration Dataset.

The COSD was issued as an Information Standard (ISB 1521, ROCR/OR/2142/FT6/001MAND) in July 2012. I am writing to remind you that this standard is due to be implemented from 01 January 2013 with the first monthly data extracts from providers of cancer services being transmitted to local cancer registries by 07 March 2013.

Under this standard, providers of cancer services are required to submit a monthly return to their local cancer registry covering all cancer patients diagnosed from 1st January 2013 using the published definitions ([http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-1521/amd-64-2010/index\\_html](http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-1521/amd-64-2010/index_html)).

To support implementation of this standard the National Cancer Intelligence Network and Cancer Registries, together with the Cancer Networks, have run a series of road shows around the country to provide further information and support to service providers. These have been well received and have identified general support for the benefits that this project will bring, particularly the introduction of standardised regular, timely and accurate feedback to services to help monitor and improve service delivery and outcomes.

Providers of cancer services are recommended to discuss these requirements locally to ensure that all appropriate preparatory work is well underway and that services are prepared to meet the requirements of this information standard by the published implementation date.

Further support and information is available from the regional registries and from the NCIN website on [http://www.ncin.org.uk/collecting\\_and\\_using\\_data/data\\_collection/cosd.aspx](http://www.ncin.org.uk/collecting_and_using_data/data_collection/cosd.aspx)

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Richards', written in a cursive style.

Mike Richards  
National Cancer Director