

National Cancer Programme

BULLETIN

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This Month in Cancer

Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director

Dear Colleague

While the particular focus of the Cancer Programme this month has been the launch of *Improving Outcomes – a Strategy for Cancer*, the introduction into Parliament of the Health and Social Care Bill needs also to be highlighted. The Bill takes forward the legislative changes needed to deliver the Government's reforms to health and social services.

Improving Outcomes – a Strategy for Cancer translates the underpinning principles of the Government's reforms for health and social services into the steps that need to be taken to improve cancer outcomes. Although it covers a range of outcomes, a major focus is on improving England's cancer survival rates. The commitment is made that, by 2014/15, an extra 5,000 lives will be saved every year, which would bring England in line with the European average. The Strategy is supported with more than £750 million over four years and sets out a range of actions to improve cancer outcomes, including actions to diagnose cancer earlier.

We are now embarking on the implementation of the new Strategy, and I will keep you up to date with progress on this via this bulletin. If you have any comments or questions about either the Strategy or its implementation, please do email me.

I am very pleased to say that Today sees the launch of regional pilots of a national bowel cancer symptom awareness campaign. The 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign will encourage people with specified symptoms to go and see their GP. It is being piloted in the East of England and the South West. The campaign will be fully evaluated and, on the basis of that evaluation, we will decide next steps. We know that we cannot match cancer survival rates in comparable countries unless we diagnose cancer earlier, and we see this campaign as an important step in tackling the issue.

Best wishes

Professor Sir Mike Richards
National Cancer Director

Policy News

Health and Social Care Bill 2011

The Health and Social Care Bill was introduced into Parliament on 19 January 2011. The Bill is a crucial part of the Government's vision to modernise the NHS so that it is built around patients, led by health professionals and focused on delivering world-class healthcare outcomes.

The Bill contains provisions covering five themes:

- strengthening commissioning of NHS services
- increasing democratic accountability and public voice
- liberating provision of NHS services
- strengthening public health services
- reforming health and care arm's-length bodies.

For more information on the Bill click [here](#)

Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer

This Outcomes Strategy sets out how – in cancer care – we will bring the approach we have set out for the health and care services to bear in order to improve outcomes for all cancer patients and achieve the specific aim of improving cancer survival rates. Through earlier diagnosis and improved treatment, the Strategy sets out to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014/15, aiming to narrow the inequalities gap at the same time.

To view the strategy click [here](#)

Be clear on Cancer

The new 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign to raise awareness of the key signs and symptoms of cancer and to prompt those with the relevant symptoms to visit their GP has been launched.

A range of campaign material - advertising, templates for leaflets and posters together with an advertising support pack - are available for local PCT use.

For more information on the campaign click [here](#)

Draft Teenagers and Young Adults Cancer Measures Consultation

A draft version of the Teenagers and Young Adults Cancer Measures for inclusion in the Manual for Cancer Services was issued for consultation on 11th January 2011. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that the measures are comprehensive and clear. The consultation is active until 5 April 2011.

To participate in the consultation click [here](#)

Launch of the Year of Radiotherapy

The National Radiotherapy Awareness Initiative has launched the Year of Radiotherapy. This initiative recognises and celebrates the role of radiotherapy in the cure and treatment of many cancer patients. It will highlight the many clinical, technical and patient centred developments in this key speciality.

In conjunction with this a TV programme on radiotherapy has been released on NHS TV, and can be seen on line by clicking [here](#)

For further details contact Tim Cooper on timcooper@nhs.net

Ambulatory breast surgical care: day case/23 hour breast care now published

The NHS Improvement submission to the Establishing the Evidence project has been published on NHS Evidence. “Ambulatory breast surgical care: day case/23 hour breast care” focuses on shifting inpatient care for breast cancer surgery to a day case/23-hour pathway. The initiative was organised in three phases over two years to test and pilot how to change clinical practice, streamline pathways and improve patient experience.

To view the study click [here](#)

Results of the Spread Survey 2010 – The spread and coverage of the Four Quality Winning Principles

The NHS Improvement “Spreading the Four Quality Winning Principles” Survey was recently completed and captured some valuable information. All 10 Strategic Health Authorities can demonstrate spread of the Quality Winning Principles within their region across a number of acute trusts. This equates to 80% of trusts now implementing one or more of the four Quality Winning Principles, reductions in overall bed days and reduced cost per patient for treatment.

For more information click [here](#)

Draft Chemotherapy Measures for the Manual for Cancer Services

The draft chemotherapy measures for the manual for cancer services consultation will close on February 10, 2011.

The purpose of this consultation is not to reopen the extensive consultation on the guidance, but to comment on the contents of the draft measures, for example:

- Is the wording of each quality measure sufficiently clear? Are there instances where there is some ambiguity as to what is required?
- What additional, if any, supplementary guidance on the quality measures is required?
- Are there any important gaps?

To participate in the consultation click [here](#)

Draft brain and CNS measures now open for consultation

The draft Brain and CNS measures reflect the recommendations of the NICE Improving Outcomes Guidance for Brain and other CNS tumours. A consultation on these measures was opened on 7 January for three months.

To participate in the consultation click [here](#)

Implementation news

NHS Innovation Challenge Prize

The NHS Innovation Challenge Prizes have been created to recognise and reward ideas that tackle some of the most challenging areas of healthcare. A challenge has been set to achieve a step change in the proportion of patients diagnosed with cancer at stages 1 and 2 rather than at the later stages (3 and 4).

For more information click [here](#)

CQUIN Exemplars

DH published a final set of CQUIN exemplar goals for 2011/12 in November 2010. The list includes four exemplars relating to cancer services; two on managing the complications of chemotherapy, one on Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy and one on patient experience. There are also exemplars addressing enhanced recovery.

These were sent to SHAs via their CQUIN leads and are available on the NHS Institute website, alongside a range of other resources to support use of the CQUIN framework.

To view the CQUIN exemplar goals click [here](#)

National Cancer Survivorship Initiative enters prototyping phase:

As part of the National Cancer Survivorship Initiatives (NCSI), NHS Improvement are leading and supporting the testing of new risk stratified pathways of care for those living with and beyond cancer. There is a dedicated programme of work for children and young people and another for adults.

In 2011, the NCSI will begin to test risk stratified pathways within a three level model of care and support. This will be achieved through seven National Prototype sites aligned to one or more of four tumour specific work streams. Two enabling projects, remote monitoring and care coordination, are seen as essential to testing the risk stratified pathways, as is access and availability of information prescriptions and patient support services.

For more information on the pathways for:

Lung, click [here](#)

Breast, click [here](#)

Colorectal, click [here](#)

Prostate, click [here](#)

Treatment Summary Tool

The NCSI Assessment & Care Planning project group have completed testing and evaluation of a Treatment Summary - a summary/letter detailing the cancer patient's treatment - intended to improve communications between clinicians, GPs, patients and wider primary care teams. The format is modifiable to encourage the widest use of the tool to facilitate better assessment and care planning for cancer patients.

The tool received positive feedback in its testing phase. To use the tool click [here](#)

Lung cancer workshop

A workshop for local projects raising awareness of lung cancer as part of DH/NCAT 2010/11 activity was held in London on December 15th 2010. The event was organised to bring together representatives of local projects, to share opportunities and challenges and discuss the metrics projects are to collect data on for awareness and early diagnosis activity.

To view presentations and highlights from the event click [here](#)

Publications this month

Review of Waiting Times Standards

As part of the review of the Cancer Reform Strategy, the cancer waiting time standards were reviewed to ensure they retain clinical justification and remain appropriate. This was in line with the Coalition Government's commitment to focus on outcomes rather than process targets, except where the latter are clinically justified.

To download a copy of the Review of Waiting Times Standards click [here](#)

The likely impact of earlier diagnosis of cancer on costs and benefits to the NHS

In partnership with Frontier Economics, DH has published the results of an economic modelling project on the cost benefit impact of earlier diagnosis of cancer. The specific questions addressed by this piece of work are:

- How would the costs to the NHS change if certain cancers were detected and diagnosed appreciably earlier than is currently the norm (ie according to current survival curves)?
- How would the benefits to individuals change if certain cancers were detected and diagnosed appreciably earlier than is currently the norm?

The work has focussed on five cancers: breast, colo-rectal, lung, prostate and skin (melanoma).

To view the results of the project click [here](#)

Spiritual care at the end of life: a systematic review of the literature

This report sets out the findings of a literature review on spiritual care at the end of life conducted by the Universities of Hull, Staffordshire and Aberdeen. The review was commissioned to inform future work on spiritual care at the end of life, as part of the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy.

To view the report click [here](#)

Pancreatic Data Briefing

There was a concern that the incidence of pancreatic cancer in patients under 50 might be increasing. As these groups are often considered at low risk of pancreatic cancer the concern was that a cohort of adults might be at higher risk and that they might be receiving a late diagnosis and therefore not receiving timely treatment. This data briefing investigated whether the incidence of pancreatic cancer is increasing in the younger age groups. It

concluded that there was no definite increase in the incidence of pancreatic cancer in patients aged under 50 years diagnosed in England between 1998 and 2006.

For further information visit the NCIN website [here](#) or e-mail Nicky Coombes: nicky.coombes@ncin.org.uk.

Bereavement care services: a synthesis of the literature

This report sets out the findings of a literature review on bereavement services conducted by the University of Nottingham. The review was commissioned to inform future work on bereavement care, as part of the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy.

For more information click [here](#)

Bowel Cancer Resource Pack

A new resource pack has been developed by Bowel Cancer UK and the Royal College of General Practitioners to provide additional support to GPs during the 'Be Clear on Cancer Campaign'. It includes general information about bowel cancer as well as information specific to the East of England and the South West. The pack also includes information about urgent and non-urgent referral and the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.

For an electronic copy of the pack click [here](#)

Surveys of patient experience: Trust level survey reports.

The national patient experience survey report provided insights into the care experienced by cancer patients across England who were treated as day cases or inpatients during the first three months of 2010. Each of the 158 NHS Trusts taking part in the survey have now been provided with a bespoke report which enables them to compare their provision of cancer patient experience with other Trusts, and to drive quality improvements and better outcomes locally.

To view the Trust level reports click [here](#)

What's On?

Enhanced recovery master class webcast series 2, February - March 2011

Following a successful webcast series in 2010/11, the Enhanced Recovery Partnership Programme will be running another series of four webex master class presentations:

- **Anaesthetics in ER - Thursday 3 February 2011, 13.00 to 14.00**
- **Spread and sustainability of ER - Tuesday 8 February, 13.00-14.00**
- **The enhanced recovery pathway - Monday 28 February - 13.00-14.00**
- **Sharing the learning from the national programme - Monday 14 March - 15.30-16.30**

The joining instructions and past presentations are available to view by following the links on the events page of the enhanced recovery website.

For more information click [here](#)

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General Comments

If you would like to make general comments, or suggest news stories for the NCP Bulletin, or respond to Mike Richards' comments in his covering letter, please email the editor on NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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