

National Cancer Programme

CANCER PROGRAMME BULLETIN

Issue 24, January 2012
Gateway reference 17213

Dear Colleague

There is a wealth of new policy developments and new publications covered in this month's bulletin. I would particularly like to draw your attention to two items which are particularly exciting in relation to future treatments for cancer.

First, there is last week's announcement about plans for new arrangements to commission and fund molecular tests for cancer. This issue was first flagged up in last year's cancer outcomes strategy and, with Andrew Lansley's announcement at the same time as the publication of the human genomics report, we are now ready to move forward on this.

Secondly, there is December's announcement in relation to proton beam therapy. Andrew Lansley has said that, subject to business case approval, the Government was ready to move forward with an investment of £150 million to enable the development of proton beam therapy services in this country.

I am also very pleased that, on Monday, we launched the first ever national bowel cancer symptom awareness campaign. But we must not forget the range of local symptom awareness campaigns that are also ongoing. In addition to those that have been funded locally, DH has funded a range of projects - which are just starting - to raise awareness of the symptom of "blood in urine" and of breast cancer symptoms in people over 70. Local campaigns in relation to oesophagogastric cancer are also being planned.

Finally, because of pressures on resources, we have decided to move to publishing this bulletin bi-monthly. The next edition will be published at the end of March 2012, and there will be approximately 5-6 editions per year.

Professor Sir Mike Richards
National Cancer Director

Policy News

£150 Million for Life Saving Cancer Treatment

On 13 December, Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley announced plans to invest in Proton Beam Radiotherapy at the Britain Against Cancer Conference subject to a business case. Approximately 1500 patients per year will benefit from the new National Proton Beam Therapy service. The new equipment will help children with cancer in particular and as the services develops it will help a wider range of cancer patient.

For more information visit: [Proton Beam Therapy Press Release](#)

National Bowel Cancer Symptom Awareness Campaign launched on 30 January

The first NHS national bowel cancer public awareness campaign in England will launch on 30 January and run for 9 weeks until the end of March 2012. This campaign forms part of the Department of Health's plans to tackle England's poor cancer survival rates compared with Western European countries.

The campaign advertisements are featuring on TV, radio and other national media. There will also be face to face events taking place across England to promote the campaign messages with the public. The key message is that 'loose poo' and 'blood in poo' for more than three weeks can be symptoms of bowel cancer. Real GPs feature in the campaigns and encourage anyone with these symptoms to see their doctor early.

Information and resources for Primary Care have been developed in advance of the campaign and are available [here](#).

For further information about the campaign contact Beth.Capper@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2011/12

The questionnaire for the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2011/12 is being sent out from the end of January. The survey will be sent to cancer patients receiving treatment between September 2011 and November 2011 in all acute and specialist NHS trusts in England that provide adult acute cancer services. Recently admitted adult patients with a primary diagnosis of cancer will be included and all cancer types will be included.

National and Trust level reports will be disseminated in June 2012. For more information about the Survey please contact Beth.Capper@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Launch of the Public Health Outcomes Framework

On 23 January 2012, Andrew Lansley launched the Public Health Outcomes Framework. This sets out the desired outcomes for public health and how they will be measured. It includes indicators to support earlier diagnosis of cancer, reduce cancer mortality and improve access to cancer screening. For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

NHS Outcomes Framework 2012/13 (Gateway 16886)

On 9 December the Department published the 2012/13 NHS Outcomes Framework. For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_131700

Overview of the new Public Health System

On 20 December 2011, the Department of Health published the overview of the new public health system and links to materials to support the implementation. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the changes will take place from 1 April 2013. For more information visit: [Public Health System](#) and to access Professor Dame Sally C Davies, Chief Medical Officer's letter regarding the new public health system [CMO's Letter](#)

Implementation news

Cancer Does Not Discriminate Launch

On Wednesday 7th December, the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) launched its 'Cancer Does Not Discriminate' campaign. The campaign brings together several of NCAT's projects on raising cancer awareness in Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities.

The launch was held at the House of Commons and was hosted by David Lammy, MP for Tottenham. Other speakers included Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Anjula Mutanda, celebrity psychologist, and Mike Richards.

The event was also attended by patient members of NCAT BME Cancer Voice, leading cancer charities representatives and some of project partners. For more information visit: [BME Cancer Voice](#)

National Cancer Action Team's Community Ambassadors on the Airwaves

As part of its 'Cancer Does Not Discriminate' campaign, NCAT is working in partnership with The Spectrum Radio Network to bring cancer awareness to certain BME communities via the radio.

NCAT has appointed two Community Ambassadors to pilot this work: Misbah Jamal for the Bangladeshi Community and Mugabe Maase for the Ghanaian Community. The Ambassadors will work with NCAT to have two cancer awareness radio programmes each month, and also attend many community events to raise cancer awareness on a face to face basis.

For more information visit: www.spectrumradio.net/ncat or www.cancerinfo.nhs.uk

Testing pathways of care for those living with and beyond cancer

NHS Improvement is looking for teams to prototype stratified pathways and packages of care for prostate, colorectal and breast cancer patients following initial treatment for cancer. The aim is to test the transferability of stratified pathways and the accompanying packages of care that have been piloted in a number of pilot test sites. This testing work is supporting the National Cancer Survivorship initiative (NCSI), a partnership between the Department of Health, NHS Improvement and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Expressions of interest should be sent to NHS Improvement by 24 February 2012. For more information visit: <http://www.improvement.nhs.uk>

Plain English Awards 2011

In December 2011, the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme received a 'Plain English Award' from the 'Plain English Campaign' for its bowel screening test kit instructions. The Prostate Cancer Charity also scooped plain English awards for a number of its publications at the ceremony. For more information visit: [Plain English Awards](#)

NHS Evidence

NHS Evidence is a free service providing quick and easy access to quality health and social care information. It is aimed at everyone working in health and social care from students to specialists, clinicians, managers, commissioners and health providers. It provides access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It covers a wide range of specialties and disease topics including all the main cancers. For more information about NHS Evidence visit www.evidence.nhs.uk and to sign up for the monthly bulletin, Eyes on Evidence, visit: [Evidence Newsletter](#)

Framework agreement for NHS Commissioning Board Authority

On January 2012, the Department of Health and the NHS Commissioning Board Authority jointly signed a framework agreement that sets out the relationship between the two organisations. The agreement covers roles and responsibilities and lines of accountability, and describes how the Department and the Authority will work together.

For more information visit: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/cb-framework/>

Publications

Building on our Inheritance: Genomic Technology in Healthcare

On 25 January 2012, the Human Genomics Strategy Group published its report. In its report to Government, the Human Genomics Strategy Group, chaired by Professor Sir John Bell, highlights the UK's achievements in genetics research to date and proposes a strategic vision to realize the future benefit of genomics. It draws on expertise from across Government and research institutes and makes six recommendations to the Government.

The Government will respond to the recommendations in due course but, at the same time as the launch, Andrew Lansley announced that the NHS will take forward plans to improve the commissioning and funding arrangements for molecular tests for cancer patients. For more information on the report and its recommendation visit:

[Human Genomics Strategy Group Press Release](#)
[Human Genomics Strategy Group Report](#)

NICE Quality Standard: End of Life Care for Adults

NICE recently published a new quality standard for end of life care for adults. The quality standard provides 16 specific, concise quality statements, measures and audience descriptors to provide the public, health and social care professionals, commissioners and service providers with definitions of high-quality care. The statements are aspirational but achievable for adults nearing the end of life who are expected to die in the next 12 months. For more information visit:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qualitystandards/endoflifecare/home.jsp>

Cancer Survival by Cancer Network in England - Patients diagnosed 1996-2009 and followed up to 2010

On 13 December 2011, the Office for National Statistics released data for one and five year standardised cancer survival estimates for Cancer Networks. Key findings were that one-year and five-year survival rates for cancers of the oesophagus, stomach, colon, lung and breast(women) improved by 3 to 15 per cent in 2009 compared to 1996. Regional disparity between the networks was fairly stable over the same period despite the large overall improvements in survival. For more information visit:

[Cancer Survival by Cancer Network 1996-2009](#)

Index of Cancer Survival for Primary Care Trusts in England - Patients diagnosed 1996-2009 and followed up to 2010

On 13 December 2011, the Office for National Statistics released updated estimates of a cancer survival index at one year after diagnosis for all cancers combined in each of the 151 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England, for patients diagnosed during 1996–2009 and followed up to 31 December 2010.

Some of the key findings were that, overall, the one-year cancer survival index for England has increased during the period 1996–2009, from 59.5 per cent for patients diagnosed in 1996 to 66.5 per cent in 2009. Geographic inequalities in cancer survival still persist but the clear North-South divide that existed in 1996 was

somewhat less marked in 2009. In 2009, the index of one-year net survival for all cancers combined remained on average 20% lower in elderly than in middle-aged patients. For more information visit: [Cancer Survival by PCT 1996 -2009](#)

National Cancer Peer Review Programme Report 2010-11

On 30 November 2011, the National Cancer Peer Review team published an overview of its findings from 2010/11. It focuses on compliance with specific measures included in the Manual for Cancer Services which supports quality assurance of cancer services and enables quality improvement and the implementation of NICE Improvement Outcomes Guidance. The report also identifies key themes nationally, and by tumour type, and confirms progress being made during 2009-2010 since the 2004 – 2008 peer review round. For more information visit:

[National Cancer Peer Review Report](#) or www.cquins.nhs.uk

Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer Annual Report 2011

On 13 December 2011 the first annual report on the *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer* (Jan 2011) was published. The annual report highlights the progress that has been made so far, including improved data collection and analyses and campaigns to improve the public's awareness of cancer symptoms. The report also notes that there are still many challenges in terms of achieving the quality of cancer services and outcomes that the Strategy set out to deliver, including moving forward on piloting flexible sigmoidoscopy, a national awareness campaign on bowel cancer, and improving diagnostic capacity and productivity. For more information visit:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/cancer-annual-report/>

National collection and analysis of cancer chemotherapy – NCIN Data Briefing

The NHS Information Standards Board (ISB) has now granted Full Stage approval to the Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Information Standard (ISB 1533) and an Information Standard Notice has been circulated to the NHS in England. This NCIN data briefing shows some more details and gives a timetable on the data collection.

http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/national_collection_and_analysis_of_cancer_chemotherapy.aspx

Rare Skin Cancers in England – NCIN Data Briefing

Rare skin cancers are a mixed group in terms of causation, pathogenesis and outcome. This NCIN data briefing describes their incidence and highlights the poor outcome for patients with Merkel cell carcinoma. For more information visit:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/rareskincancer.aspx

Urgent GP referral rates for suspected cancer - NCIN Data Briefing

Late stage diagnosis is a significant contributing factor to the United Kingdom's poorer cancer survival rates. For England, estimates published in *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer* suggested that if cancer patients were diagnosed

at the same early stage as in some other countries up to 10,000 deaths might be avoided annually.

This briefing provides updated information on the variation in the rates of urgent referrals for suspected cancer across England. These data can be used as a measure patient awareness, which may lead to an earlier diagnosis. For more information visit:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/gp_referral_rates.aspx

Gender differences in survival among Teenagers and Young Adults (TYA) with Cancer in England (December 2011)

This NCIN data briefing looks at a comparison of survival rates for males and females aged 15 to 24 years for cancers of particular relevance to TYA. For more information visit:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/gender_differences_in_survival_in_ctya.aspx

Improved Survival for Screen-Detected Breast Cancer (December 2011)

This NCIN data briefing looks at the overall 5-year and 15-year relative survival for women with screen-detected invasive breast cancer. For more information visit:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/improved_survival_for_screen_detected_breast_cancer.aspx

Right Care NHS Atlas of Variation

Right Care have published their 2011 Atlas of Variation, providing information on a wide range of healthcare indicators displayed at regional level. The report includes a selection of cancer indicators including data on GP urgent referrals and lung cancer patients receiving surgery. For more information visit:

<http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/index.php/2011/12/nhs-atlas-of-variation-2011-now-available/>

Quarterly update of the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit

In addition to the regular toolkit updates, the December release includes new Service Profiles for breast and colorectal, radiotherapy charts and the NRIg report. NHS users can view this data by accessing the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit at www.cancertoolkit.co.uk

Programme Budgeting Data for 2010/11

On 15 December 2011, the Department of Health published programme budgeting data for 2010/11. This Commissioner level programme budgeting data is published annually in the form of a benchmarking tool that enables commissioners to identify the following:

- how they spend their allocation over 23 disease categories and their respective subcategories;
- how their disease category level expenditure is split across 12 care settings (2010-11 only); and

- how their expenditure distribution pattern compares with other commissioners nationally, locally or with similar characteristics.

For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743

Delivering Major Breast Surgery Safely as a Day Case or One Night Stay (Excluding Reconstruction)

On the 12 December 2011, the NHS Improvement team published its suggested improvements in the breast cancer care pathway to help reduce the length of stay for patients following major breast surgery and improve the patient experience. For more information visit:

<http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/documents/DayCaseBreastSurgery.pdf>

Local Tobacco Control Profiles

On the 24 January 2012, the final version of the Local Tobacco Profiles for England were published. The work was led by the London Health Observatory (LHO) on behalf of the Public Health Observatories in England.

The tool brings together a set of indicators at both local authority and primary care trust level that are relevant to the major modern challenges of tobacco control in England. The tool gives local commissioners/services up-to-date information as well as indicator trends over time, where possible. This final release takes account of the user feedback received from the recent test version. In particular, the indicators relating to quitting smoking have been revised to reflect quitting as a proportion of the *smoking* population, rather than the total population. For more information on the profiles visit:

www.tobaccocontrolprofiles.info

What's On?

NICE Clinical Guideline Consultation

The NICE clinical guideline on neutropenic sepsis will be out for consultation from 16 February until 29 March 2012. Comments can be submitted via stakeholder organisations. For more information visit: [NICE Clinical Guidelines](#)

NICE Commissioning Outcomes Framework (COF)

As part of the process to develop a Commissioning Outcomes Framework that measures the health outcomes and quality of care achieved by clinical commissioning groups, stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on potential new indicators recommended by the COF Advisory Committee as well as a number based on the NHS Outcomes Framework and some identified by NHS Information Centre.

The consultations for the 2013/14 COF indicators runs from 1 -29 Feb 2012. Comments can be submitted via stakeholder organisations. Comments should be made using the proforma available on the NICE website and returned to Liane March at cof@nice.org

For more information about the COF visit: www.nice.org.uk

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme: Piloting Flexible Sigmoidoscopy (Gateway 17127)

Flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) is a complementary bowel screening methodology to the current faecal occult blood (FOB) test and could prevent around 3,000 cancers every year. Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer sets out how FS will be incorporated into the current bowel screening programme, with 60% coverage across England by the end of 2014-15. SHA clusters are invited to nominate FS pilot sites. Expressions of interest are required by 29 February 2012 and full bids by 30 March 2012.

For more information visit: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/advice-and-bidding-documentation-published-for-the-flexible-sigmoidoscopy-pilot/ or www.bcsp.nhs.uk/ The site is password protected and requires registration.

Improving the Work Capability Assessment for Cancer Patients Consultation

DWP have launched a consultation on reforming the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) to ensure that cancer patients receive the support they need. The consultation is seeking views from interested stakeholders, particularly from individuals who have been or are being affected by cancer, their families and carers, healthcare practitioners and cancer specialists, and employers.

It aims to gather evidence about the effects of different cancer treatments and the range of debilitating effects they can cause. In addition, it seeks views and experiences about the importance and appropriateness of work for individuals who are being treated for or recovering from cancer.

The consultation will run until the 9th March. The consultation document and supporting evidence can be found on the DWP website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/wca-assessment.shtml> and comments can be submitted to WCA.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Brain Tumour Consortium - London Summit to Launch Brain Tumour Awareness Month (March 2012)

Campaigners, clinicians, patients and politicians are invited to mark the start of Brain Tumour Awareness Month at a summit in London on Wednesday 29 February at the Abbey Centre from 14.00.

It will include presentations on issues such as the importance of NICE's improving outcomes guidance, early diagnosis and the Headsmart Campaign and research funding for brain and CNS tumours For more information visit:

<http://www.braintumourconsortium.org.uk> or to register for a free place <mailto:btc@luther.co.uk>

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

On the 7 February 2012 in Brussels, Mrs. Glenis Willmott, a Member of the European Parliament, will join a multi-stakeholder audience to raise awareness at EU level of the many challenges of these rare cancers and jointly identify a political pathway to instigate change. Discussions will centre around providing solutions for optimal clinical research through the revision of the EU Clinical Trials Directive, combating differences in outcome across Europe and improved diagnosis at an early stage, particularly for brain tumours. There are a limited number of places available. Anyone interested in attending should contact office@siope.eu for a registration form and further details.

Cancer Outcomes Conference 2012

The NCIN conference will be held on the 14-15th June 2012 at the Hilton Birmingham Metrople. It is an opportunity to show new and existing information and intelligence and how it can be used to improve outcomes. For information about the conference or submitting extracts and exhibiting at the conference visit: [NCIN Conference](#)

Abstracts and registrations for a stand need to be submitted by 31 March 2012.

Editor's Notes

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's sole provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk.

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