

National Cancer Programme

BULLETIN

Issue 12 November 2010
Gateway reference 15188

This Month in Cancer

Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director

Dear Colleague

Further important policy documents have been published this month, particularly *A vision for adult social care: Capable communities and active citizens* and *Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper: Our strategy for public health in England*. The plans for social care reform are of course important for many cancer patients, as many have (often long-term) social care support needs. *Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper: Our strategy for public health in England* sets out the Government's approach to prevention, and also how responsibility for screening and earlier diagnosis will sit in the future.

This month has also seen a number of very important cancer-related publications – which are part of our drive to make sure that commissioners, providers, clinicians and patients have the information needed to drive service improvements. For example, the analysis on routes to diagnosis is important in terms of demonstrating the links between diagnosis via emergency presentation and poorer survival. And this will feed into our work to encourage earlier diagnosis via GP referral.

While we continue to assess all the comments and develop our thinking for the Cancer Reform Strategy refresh, we have also been working hard on the development of the planned campaigns to encourage earlier presentation by people with the symptoms of bowel, lung and breast cancer. Late in January we will be launching a major bowel symptom campaign (including on TV and radio) in the South West and the East of England. We are working hard to ensure that all commissioners and providers in those Regions are involved in the planning of this campaign, but anyone who would like more information should contact Jennifer.Benjamin@dh.gsi.gov.uk. Evaluation of this campaign will be very important in developing our future plans to tackle late diagnosis.

Best wishes

Professor Sir Mike Richards

Policy News

Plans for social care reform announced

A vision for adult social care: Capable communities and active citizens has been launched alongside *Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care - a consultation on a new strategic approach to quality and outcomes in adult social care*.

The vision for adult social care sets out how the Government wishes to see services delivered for people; a new direction for adult social care, putting personalised services and outcomes centre stage.

The consultation envisages an enabling framework which places outcomes at the heart of social care, improves quality in services, and empowers citizens to hold their councils to account for the services they provide. The next stage will be co-produced with partners, based on responses to this consultation.

For more information on the vision for adult social care visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121508

To participate in the consultation visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121509

Public Health White Paper

Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper: Our strategy for public health in England was published on 30 November. This sets out important plans in relation to cancer, particularly in relation to prevention, screening and earlier diagnosis.

To access the document, visit: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/healthypeople>

Laparoscopic Colorectal Cancer

The DH waiver for NICE technology appraisal guidance 105 on Laparoscopic Colorectal Cancer was lifted in October 2010 (<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA105>).

Laparoscopic (including laparoscopically assisted) resection is now recommended as an alternative to open surgery in people with colorectal cancer in whom both laparoscopic and open surgery are considered suitable. All colorectal MDTs will need to ensure that patients suitable for laparoscopic resection are given this choice of treatment. If laparoscopic surgery is not available, suitable onward referral arrangements will need to be in place. Peer

review measures on laparoscopic surgery have been added in the manual of cancer services.

For reference the letter circulated in November 2009 is available here:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleaguesletters/DH_108404

Implementation news

National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Pilot activity

The Department of Health has finalised the agency selection process for the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative's (NAEDI) early signs and symptoms campaign for bowel cancer in the East of England and the South West. M&C Saatchi will develop the creative elements of the campaign which is due to launch in early 2011.

For more information on NAEDI, visit:

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/spotcancerearly/naedi/>

Enhanced recovery master class webcast series

The Enhanced Recovery Partnership Programme (ERPP) is presenting a series of clinical and practical implementation webcasts. Hosted by experts from the ERPP clinical leadership team, the series will explore the principles of enhanced recovery, illustrate the benefits for patients and demonstrate how to overcome potential barriers.

For more information and joining instructions, please visit

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Electivecare/Enhancedrecovery/DH_118571

Grantmanship Gateway launched

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) recently launched a new Grantsmanship Gateway. The Grantsmanship Gateway aims to assist early career researchers to identify sources of research funding and signpost expert advice for successful grant application development. An outcome of the NCRI Rapid Review of research in survivorship after cancer and end of life care the Gateway directs to advice on topics such as finding out about upcoming grants, where to get advice on study design and how to involve consumers in the development of research studies. Visit the Gateway at www.ncri.org.uk/grantsmanship.

Automated Surveillance workshop

The National Cancer Survivorship Initiative have held a workshop on Automated Surveillance. The workshop, led by the NHS Improvement Adult Cancer Survivorship Team, focussed on the use and application of robust automated test surveillance systems for breast, colorectal and prostate cancer patients who are living with or beyond their cancer. The workshop will feed into the next phase of the survivorship programme which is prototyping transformed pathways of care with a small number of test communities around the country.

For more information on the workshop, visit: www.ncsi.org.uk

Pfizer Oncology Team of the Year 2010

Oncology teams working with NHS Improvement were nominated for the Pfizer Oncology Awards 2010 on Tuesday 9 November, where London's Whittington Hospital Acute Oncology Team run by Dr Pauline Leonard was named Oncology Team of the Year 2010.

The Glenfield Hospital (Leicester) team, led by Drs Jonathan Bennett and Mick Peake, was also highly commended by the judges. Dr Leonard and her team, who have been closely involved with the Transforming Inpatient Care programme, won the award for their work in piloting and implementing systems which have involved a less distressing early assessment of treatment for patients, and resulted in significant reductions in overall bed days and cost per patient for treatment.

NHS networks and trusts nationwide are now looking at adopting the systems as best practice for their own workstreams.

For more information on the Transforming Inpatient Care programme, visit <http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/cancer/TransformingInpatientCare/CancerInpatientsPublications/tabid/105/Default.aspx>

Low Rectal Cancer National Development Programme

The Low Rectal Cancer National Development Programme (LOREC) is a pilot programme being set up to improve cancer outcomes and quality of life for patients with low rectal cancers. The pilot is supported by the National Cancer Action Team. The aim is for 28 colorectal multi-disciplinary cancer teams (MDTs) to participate in the programme in order to develop understanding and skills for treating this complex cancer. For further information please visit <http://www.lorec.nhs.uk/> or contact andy.mcmeeking@ncat.nhs.uk

Publications this month

NHS Cancer Waiting Times statistics published

The latest quarterly national statistics on NHS cancer waiting times produced by the Department of Health have now been released.

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England during the period July to September 2010:

Two week wait:

- 95.0% of people seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer - (95.5% in Q1 2010-11)
- 94.2% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (94.3% in Q1 2010-11)

31-day wait:

- 98.4% of people treated within 31 days from diagnosis to first treatment for all cancers – (unchanged from Q1 2010-11)
- 99.3% of people treated within 31 days from diagnosis to first treatment for breast cancer - (99.0% in Q1 2010-11)

For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_122075

Top tips for delivering two week wait standard for breast symptoms

Nationally, the NHS is achieving the two week wait symptomatic breast standard but some organisations are continuing to find it challenging to meet or sustain performance in this area. NHS IMAS and NCAT have therefore produced some 'Top tips for delivering the two week wait standard for breast symptoms (where cancer is not initially suspected)'. This is based on good practice taking place within Trusts, PCTs and cancer networks across the NHS.

For more information visit: www.ncin.org.uk/Breast2ww/

How to Why to Guide on Intra-Operative Analysis of Sentinel Lymph Nodes

A 'How to Why to Guide' on the Intra-Operative Analysis of Sentinel Lymph Nodes, which has been produced by the NHS Technology Adoption Centre.

The guide has been created to support Trusts that do not yet offer this service, but where there would be clinical justification to introduce it into standard practice. It is a comprehensive resource of information for clinicians, healthcare professionals and managers that shows, step by step, how to set up and run an intra-operative breast surgery service. The guide also includes

a costing model and business case template which can be used to help secure funding.

For more information visit: www.howtowhyto.nhs.uk

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma data briefing

In the UK mesothelioma is five times more common in men than in women. The incidence of mesothelioma is still increasing, and is expected to peak in about 15 years. Survival from mesothelioma is improving but remains very low and varies by area of diagnosis. The data briefing was prepared by Thames Cancer Registry, on behalf of the National Cancer Intelligence Network.

For more information visit: <http://ncin.org.uk/analysis/index.shtml>, or e-mail Nicky Coombes at nicky.coombes@ncin.org.uk

Routes to Diagnosis data briefing

Published as a data briefing, with accompanying technical report, this is the first time that analyses of this kind have been undertaken. The patient (rather than tumour) pathway was followed, for all patients diagnosed with cancer during 2007. The routes to diagnosis were then examined for different cancer types and by age, sex and deprivation, to highlight differences in relative one-year survival rates.

The initial results show wide variation across different cancer types in routes to diagnosis. Across all cancers, 25% of patients are being diagnosed through the Two Week Wait, whilst 23% are being diagnosed after emergency presentations. The results warrant further investigation, which will be undertaken by the National Cancer Intelligence Network.

For further information visit the NCIN website: <http://ncin.org.uk/analysis/index.shtml>, or e-mail Nicky Coombes at nicky.coombes@ncin.org.uk

Major Surgical Resection data briefing

There is a large reduction with age in the percentage of patients receiving a major resection, even for patients over 50. For patients aged 80 and over, less than 2% had a record of a major resection for six of the thirteen cancer sites analysed. The data briefing was prepared by the National Cancer Intelligence Network.

For more information visit the NCIN website: <http://ncin.org.uk/analysis/index.shtml>, or e-mail Nicky Coombes at nicky.coombes@ncin.org.uk

Oral cavity cancer data briefing

This briefing looks at the time trends in 1-year and 3-year relative survival for men and women in England diagnosed with oral cavity cancer between 1990-92 and 2005-07. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007) is used to examine how the survival rates vary in men and women diagnosed in the period 2004 to 2006 across areas with varied deprivation levels. The data briefing was prepared by Oxford Cancer Intelligence Unit, on behalf of the National Cancer Intelligence Network.

For more information visit the NCIN website:

<http://ncin.org.uk/analysis/index.shtml>, or e-mail Nicky Coombes at nicky.coombes@ncin.org.uk

Interventional radiology: guidance for service delivery - a report from the National Imaging Board

This report describes a framework for interventional radiology and will support providers and commissioners to plan appropriate provision of IR services for their patients. It provides information on the use of interventional radiology in cancer treatment and a summary of the evidence base for how comprehensive IR services can contribute to improved outcomes, safety and experience for patients who present with relevant emergency and planned care conditions.

For more information, visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121904

NHS Atlas of Variation

The NHS Atlas of Variation highlights the amount each Primary Care Trust (PCT) spends on clinical services and links this with the health outcomes patients see.

Taken from 2009 data already in the public domain, the Atlas assesses for the first time what 152 PCTs across England achieve with the money spent on services for their local population, as compared to other PCTs.

For more information, visit:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416724&SubjectId=2>

Draft version of chemotherapy measures for the Manual of Cancer Services

A draft version of the chemotherapy measures has been issued for a three month consultation. The Manual of Cancer Services is an integral part of the NHS Cancer Reform Strategy (2007). It supports the quality assurance of cancer services and acts as a driver for quality improvement in the commissioning and delivery of cancer services.

To participate in the consultation visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121943

Need help?

Subscribe/Change in details

If you would like to subscribe to this bulletin or if your details have changed, please email NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk including your name and full contact details.

Technical Difficulties

If you have trouble opening the attachment or accessing links please email NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk

General Comments

If you would like to make general comments, or suggest news stories for the NCP Bulletin, please email the editor on NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Or write to:

The Editor
National Cancer Programme Communications,
Room 403,
Wellington House,
Department of Health,
135–155 Waterloo Road,
London SE1 8UG

[ENDS]