

30th November 2011

Gateway Number: 16797

Dear Colleague,

National Cancer Peer Review Programme Report 2010/2011

I am writing to let you know that the National Cancer Peer Review Programme Report 2010/2011 has been published today. A copy of the report can be found in the cancer section on the Department of Health web-site www.dh.gov.uk or the CQuINS web-site www.cquins.nhs.uk.

The National Cancer Peer Review Programme, which is led by the National Cancer Action Team and includes expert clinical and user representation, provides important information about the quality of cancer services across the country and supports the development of leadership, self regulation and governance.

This report provides an overview of the findings from the 2010/2011 round of peer review for cancer services in England, which was undertaken between April 2010 and March 2011. This was the second round using the current peer review methodology where the annual self-assessment is central to the programme, with the Chief Executive of the service provider endorsing their report.

The introduction of Clinical Lines of Enquiry, as a pilot for Breast and Lung services, is a first step to peer review becoming focused on clinical outcomes. An evaluation of this pilot is included in the report. Peer Review provides comprehensive information about cancer services and is now moving to provide information about the outcomes achieved by these services.

The report looks at the findings on the quality of cancer services for 1163 tumour multidisciplinary teams, and 241 tumour network groups with the accompanying Network Board measures, along with services for Radiotherapy, Children's, Cancer Research Networks, Rehabilitation and Complementary Therapy.

The findings outlined in this report confirm the progress which has been made since the 2004/2008 peer review round and since 2009/2010. This National Report complements the detailed network overview reports on individual services which are already in the public domain www.cquins.nhs.uk.

The national overview focuses on compliance with specific measures but also identifies key themes nationally and by tumour type. Reports for each tumour type are included and provide a benchmarked performance of each team/service.



The report shows that some teams and services continue to achieve very high levels of compliance with the measures. However, the 2010/2011 round of peer review has again highlighted some significant challenges. Some of these will already have been addressed at a local level following the relevant visits and report. Others will need to be addressed now.

In summary this report demonstrates that much has been done to improve cancer services in this country, but more remains to be done to achieve our goal of providing optimal diagnosis, treatment, care and outcomes for all cancer patients.

I should be grateful for your help in bringing the publication of the National Cancer Peer Review Programme Report 2010/2011 to the attention of all those in your organisation who are involved in the commissioning or provision of cancer services.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Parsons
Director
National Cancer Action Team

