

National Cancer Programme

CANCER PROGRAMME BULLETIN

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Dear Colleague

As you will know, the new structures for the Department of Health, the NHS Commissioning Board (CB) and Public Health England (PHE) are now being established. I have recently been appointed as head of Domain 1 within the NHS CB, responsible for leading work on tackling amenable mortality. Some of the functions of the current cancer programme will be within the CB (for example the National Cancer Action Team and NHS Improvement functions will move to the improvement body within the CB), other parts will be within DH or PHE (for example NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and the National Cancer Intelligence Network). We have therefore decided that this will be the last edition of the Cancer Programme Bulletin. But I can assure you that all the elements of the current programme will continue to work together, to improve services and outcomes for patients.

There are a lot of interesting things planned for the next few months and so, without the Bulletin to alert you to them, I thought I would flag up a couple of items so that you can keep an eye open for them. First of all, we will shortly be publishing the results from the 2011/12 Cancer Patient Experience Survey - again we will be breaking this down to Trust level and we will be highlighting significant changes between this year's Survey and the previous year's. Secondly, we hope shortly to publish the results from last year's pilots of a PROMs Survey of cancer survivors, which will provide very valuable insights into the quality of life of cancer survivors. The roll out of the programme is now underway.

Thank you all for your support and interest in the Bulletin over our 27 editions.

Professor Sir Mike Richards
National Cancer Director

Policy News

'Be Clear on Cancer' Campaigns - 2012/13 Update

This year's Be Clear on Cancer campaigns will build on the positive results of the earlier campaigns. The aim is also to test the impact of different marketing interventions and the effect of running a campaign over a longer period.

DH plan to run a "top-up" of the bowel cancer awareness campaign from the end of August for 4 weeks. This will be a "lower weight" campaign, for example less TV advertising. The national campaign will be extended in two regions of the country through to mid-March next year.

Regional pilot campaigns focusing on the symptom blood in urine (common to kidney and bladder cancers) and breast cancer in women over 70 will run from January to mid-March 2013. There will also be new local pilots at this time focussing on ovarian cancer. In addition, if we can get the messaging right, there will be pilots testing an awareness campaign around a range of symptoms.

Underpinning this work will be robust evaluation. DH has commissioned Cancer Research UK to coordinate this, along with project management support.

For more information on the campaigns visit:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/cancer-campaigns/>

Care and Support White Paper and End of Life Care

The Government published a white paper on 11 July 2012, which sets out its vision for a reformed care and support system, one which has wellbeing and independence at its core.

There is a section in the White Paper (page 61) which discusses the importance of integrated care at the end of life. It highlights the Palliative Care Funding Review and its proposal of providing free health and social care in a fully integrated service at the end of life. The paper announces a doubling of investment in the Palliative Care Funding Pilot Programme to ensure we have the information and data we need to consider if this policy option should be included in the new palliative care funding system which will be introduced in 2015.

For more information visit: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/care-and-support-reforms/>

Cancer Networks

The NHS Commissioning Board Authority has set out its plan for a small number of national networks to improve health services for specific patient groups or conditions. For more information, go to:

<http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/2012/07/26/strat-clin-networks/>

Implementation news;

Oral Cancer: Improving Early Detection - Recommended Topic for Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Dentists

On 17 May 2012, the General Dental Council (GDC) confirmed that Oral Cancer: Improving Early Detection is to be included as a 'recommended' topic in its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. They agreed to include the topic until new CPD rules and associated guidance come into force following the current CPD review. For more information visit the press release at:

[Press Release](#)

For the GDC & CPD Development work visit: [GDC-UK](#)

ISB Approval for the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD)

The Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD) has now received full stage approval from the Information Standards Board (ISB). The Standard ([ISB 1521](#)) will require providers to deliver a monthly return on all cancer patients diagnosed from 1 January 2013 using this dataset. The data will continue to be collated via the regional Cancer Registries, as currently takes place, with existing mechanisms for transmission being extended to carry the COSD. For more information visit:

[Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset \(COSD\)](#)

Significant Event Audit in Cancer Diagnosis for GPs Announced

The significant event audit (SEA) pilot project is a joint initiative between the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) and Macmillan Cancer Support. The aim of this audit is to encourage GPs within 13 cancer networks to learn and reflect on cancer diagnosis with the use of a peer review process for SEAs in primary care. For more information, visit:

[SEA in Cancer Diagnosis for GPs](#)

Developing Nursing Excellence for Inpatients with Cancer.

National Cancer Action Team Quality in Nursing has launched a quality improvement toolkit which aims to improve the inpatient experience of patients undergoing treatment for cancer in England and to address specific issues about the experience of nursing care. The toolkit was developed through identifying the 'Top Ten' trusts who scored most highly against 7 questions from the cancer patient experience survey and working with staff members from these Trusts to identify innovative cases studies and areas of best practice based on the delivery of inpatient care. For more information on the case studies please visit: <http://candocancercare.org>

Unavailability of Intravesical BCG for Treatment of Bladder Cancer

On 6 July 2012 Professor Sir Mike Richards, the National Clinical Director for Cancer wrote to the NHS highlighting the global shortage of products to treat patients with bladder cancer.

In his letter, he sets out the background to the issue and outlines the advice already available to ensure that supplies, where available, are directed to those patients with the greatest potential gain and outlining what is also being done at a national level to address the shortage.

The British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) have also issued information for patients and clinical guidance for urologists. For more information visit:

National Clinical Director for Cancer Letter

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/bladder-cancer/>

BAUS clinical guidance for urologists and information for patients

<http://www.baus.org.uk/>

Publications

Cancer Waiting Times Annual Report, 2011-12

The third annual report of the national statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients in the English NHS produced by the Department of Health was released on 20 July 2012.

For more information visit: <http://transparency.dh.gov.uk/2012/07/20/cwt-annual-report-2011-12/>

National VOICES Survey of Bereaved People

The findings from the first national survey of bereaved people were published on 3 July. The survey adopted the well established VOICES (Views of Informal Carers for the Evaluation of Services) approach, seeking the views of bereaved people on the care that their loved ones, and they themselves, experienced in the last 3 months of life.

Patients with cancer and those under 65 were most likely to receive care rated as outstanding or excellent. The full findings and a summary report have been published by the Office for National Statistics and DH respectively. For more information visit:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/subnational-health1/national-bereavement-survey--voices-/2011/index.html>

or

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/voices/>

GP Practice Profiles for Cancer

The GP practice profiles for cancer were produced in support of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. They bring together a range of outcomes and process information relevant to cancer in primary care and present it by general practice. These profiles have been available for the past 18 months to GPs and NHS staff through the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit.

As part of the Government's commitment to open data, the National Cancer Information Network (NCIN) is now making the profiles publicly available from 31 July 2012. The version of the profiles released will suppress small numbers where this is required to protect patient confidentiality but will otherwise be identical to the profiles available to the NHS.

Further information, including details of the source and calculation of each measure, are available from the NCIN website:

http://www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_information_tools/default.aspx

NCIN Data briefings published during June and July 2012

Mortality, incidence and gender - malignant melanoma (July 2012)

Mortality rates from malignant melanoma in England are increasing especially in older men: these rates are influenced by the increasing incidence of cases over the years. This study also shows that males present with thicker tumours that could explain at least in part their higher mortality rate. For more information visit: [Mortality Incidence and Gender Malignant Melanoma](#)

Rare bladder cancers (July 2012)

The majority of bladder cancers are transitional cell carcinomas (TCC). About 1 in 6 are not TCCs and include squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma and small cell carcinoma. The outcomes are much worse, with relative survival less than half the average for all bladder cancers. Their treatments also appear to be different, with a much lower rate of surgical intervention in particular. For more information visit: [Rare Bladder Cancers](#)

Cancer of unknown primary (June 2012)

CUP accounts for 3.3% of all newly diagnosed cancers in the UK, and 7.1% in those aged 85+. Incidence rates have fallen by around 40% since the mid 1990s due to improved registration practice and advances in diagnostic methods. Further analyses are needed to improve diagnosis and treatment for these patients. For more information visit: [Cancer of Unknown Primary](#)

Identification and handling of outlier institutions (June 2012)

The publication of material involving comparative data where 'outliers' are identified can be a challenging situation. This briefing aims to assist those involved in preparing such outputs and to ensure a common approach across the National Cancer Intelligence Network. This data briefing is supplemented by additional information on the Handling Outliers section of the NCIN website. For more information visit: [Outliers](#)

Lung cancer incidence and survival in England: an analysis by socioeconomic deprivation and urbanisation (June 2012)

The difference in lung cancer incidence and survival between urban and rural areas can largely be explained by differences in socioeconomic deprivation, which is most likely to be related to tobacco smoking. For more information visit: [Lung Cancer Incidence and Survival in England](#)

Trends in incidence of small cell lung cancer and all lung cancers (June 2012)

SCLC incidence trends are similar to those in all lung cancer. However, the decrease in the incidence of SCLC is slightly more pronounced. This decline

probably reflects the reduction in smoking rates over the study period. For more information visit:

[Trends in Incidence of Small Cell Lung Cancer and all Lung Cancers](#)

Variation in surgical resection for lung cancer in relation to survival: population based study in England 2004-2006 (June 2012)

Lung cancer resection rates in England are low and vary across the country. Increasing the resection rate would be expected to lead to an increase of overall improvement in lung cancer survival. For more information visit:

[Variation in Surgical Resection for Lung Cancer in Relation to Survival](#)

What's On?

Consultation on the Draft Mandate for the NHS Commissioning Board

On the 4 July the Department of Health invited on line comments on the draft mandate for the NHS Commissioning Board. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Government must set objectives for the Board in a "mandate", which must be updated every year, following consultation. In order to provide stability for the NHS, the mandate can only be changed mid-year in limited circumstances. Following the consultation, it is anticipated, the final mandate will be published in the autumn 2012, ready to come into force from April 2013.

The public on line consultation runs from 4 July to 26 September 2012. For more information about the consultation and how you can participate visit: <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/nhs-commissioning-unit/mandate>

Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products

On 16 April 2012 the Department of Health launched a consultation to seek feedback on whether there might be public health benefits from the introduction of standardised tobacco packaging and to understand what other effects there may be should standardised tobacco packaging be introduced.

The Government has been asked to provide more time for people to respond to the consultation. Therefore the consultation period has been extended until Friday 10 August 2012. To find out more information on the consultation and to participate visit:

http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/tobacco/standardised-packaging-of-tobacco-products/consult_view

Draft Care and Support Bill open for online comments

On 11 July 2012 the Care and Support White Paper and the draft Care and Support Bill were published. These set out how social care will be transformed, from a service that reacts to crises, to one that is built around people's needs and focuses on wellbeing and prevention.

The Department of Health is inviting online comments on the draft Care and Support Bill. You can comment on each clause of the Bill and answer questions. Your views will feed directly into the process of parliamentary scrutiny and will be used to assist and challenge the government in considering how to improve the proposals in the draft Bill. You can post comments until 19 October 2012. For more information visit:

<http://careandsupportbill.dh.gov.uk/home/>

National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) 2012: Horizon Planning Conference

On 14 November 2012 the National Cancer Action Team are hosting the NRAG 2012 Horizon Planning Conference. The conference will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole (NEC). To find out more information about registering for this conference visit:

[NRAG 2012 Horizon Planning Conference Registration](#)

Radiotherapy Conference for the Lay Representative

The Radiotherapy Conference for the Lay Representative will be held on 5 October 2012 at the Hotel Russell Bloomsbury, London. The conference will provide an opportunity to provide a wider understanding of radiotherapy and the role it plays so that lay members can be more effective as lay representatives on groups or discussions. To find out more information and register for the event visit:

[NCAT Radiotherapy Conference - Lay Representatives](#)

Need help?

Technical Difficulties

If you have trouble opening the attachment or accessing links please email [**NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

General Comments

If you would like to make general comments, please email the editor on [**NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:NCPbulletin@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

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