

National Cancer Programme

BULLETIN

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This Month in Cancer

Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director

Dear Colleague

We know that last year's Patient Experience Survey has stimulated action in many areas to improve services for patients. No organisation likes to know that they are in the bottom 20% in terms of indicators of patient experience, and I have been very impressed to learn of a range of work across the country to tackle issues that were identified from the Survey. I am very pleased that we are now planning to rerun the Survey, as a way of assessing whether progress has been made and to help organisations further with their planning of further improvements. I am also pleased to report that we are following up, with the people who said in the 2010 survey that they were happy for us to approach them further, to try to find out more information about the reasons for late diagnosis of some patients with cancer.

The Bulletin also mentions the pilot study of a PROMs survey of survivors. Again this has potential to be incredibly powerful as a means of identifying the issues that matter most to survivors in terms of their quality of life - at different stages of their lives living with and beyond cancer.

We have also been working hard this month on the plans for further campaigns to encourage early diagnosis of cancer - more details to follow in the September issue, as we will be taking a holiday break in August.

Professor Sir Mike Richards
National Cancer Director

Policy News

Launch of the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2011

Following the success of the 'National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2010', the Secretary of State has committed to repeating the survey in 2011. This will be conducted in all NHS trusts offering adult acute in-patient cancer services.

The survey will enable us to identify and build on progress that has already been made following the 2010 survey and help target efforts to continue to improve patients' experience of NHS cancer care.

For more information visit: [National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2011](#)

Survivorship PROMs survey pilot

The National Cancer Survivorship Initiative is piloting a 'Patient Reported Outcome Measures Survey' of cancer survivors in summer 2011 to understand the quality of life health outcomes reported by cancer patients.

The pilot survey is aimed at gaining a longitudinal picture of the impact of cancer and its treatment on quality of life for patients at various time points since diagnosis. A sample of adult patients with a primary diagnosis of breast, prostate, colorectal/lower gastro intestinal cancer and Non-Hodgkins lymphoma will be included, based on patient data identified in selected relevant trusts working with the Thames, East of England, and West Midlands Cancer registries.

For more information about PROMS surveys visit: [Quality-health.co.uk](#)

Implementation news

Melanoma and Endometrial Cancer Care Maps

The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) has recently accredited the 'Melanoma' and 'Endometrial cancer' care pathways maps on the Map of Medicine. There are now a total of eight oncology care maps which have been accredited by NCAT as follows:-

- Kidney cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Breast cancer
- Breast disease
- Endometrial cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Melanoma

A further eight maps are in the process of being updated and accredited by NCAT. These care maps are regularly updated to reflect the latest evidence, expert opinion and policy information. For more information on these maps visit: www.mapofmedicine.com/england.

Publications this month

Palliative Care Funding Review

The Government made a commitment to review payment systems to support end of life care, including exploring options for per-patient funding. Ministers set up an independent Palliative Care Funding Review which was asked to develop proposals for a funding mechanism that was fair to all providers of palliative care, and would support services for children and adults to receive the right care in the setting of their choice. The Review's final report was published on 1 July 2011.

For further information visit: [Palliative Care Funding Review](#)

Manual for Cancer Services: Teenagers and Young Adults Measures

The new teenager and young adults cancer measures were issued on 8 July 2011 for inclusion within the Manual for Cancer Services. The Manual supports the National Cancer Peer Review team's quality assurance programme for cancer services and enables quality improvements in clinical and patient outcomes.

For more information visit: [Manual for Cancer Services: TYA Measures](#)

Manual for Cancer Services: Brain and Central Nervous System (CNS) Measures

Following a three-month consultation, the new CNS measures were issued on 13 July 2011 for inclusion within the Manual for Cancer Services. The Manual supports the National Cancer Peer Review team's quality assurance programme for cancer services and enables quality improvements in clinical and patient outcomes.

For more information visit: [Manual for Cancer Services: Brain and CNS Measures](#)

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward

The Government has published a response to the Public Health White Paper consultation and NHS Listening Exercise. It reaffirms the Government's determination to create a more effective public health system and sets out progress to date. It covers the future of Cancer Registries, the National Cancer Intelligence Network and Cancer Screening; and it says that further consideration is being given to responsibility for early diagnosis of cancer.

For more information visit: [Healthy Lives, Healthy People](#)

Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control

On 19 July 2011, the Department of Health (DH) published the Government's response to comments received on extending patient choice of provider (any qualified provider) and guidance for the NHS on 'Extending Patient Choice of Provider'. In this guidance, the DH identified diagnostic tests closer to home to support primary assessment of presenting systems as potential services for priority implementation. Also, DH is developing a further list of services to consider for patient choice of 'Any Qualified Provider' implementation in 2013/14. This will be subject to further engagement with patients, professionals and providers but may include: community chemotherapy services, including home chemotherapy.

For more information visit: [Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control](#)

Cancer Registration in England 2009

On 20 July 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its latest statistical bulletin on the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for England in 2009, with age standardised incidence rates.

The key findings were that the number of cancer registrations has increased since 2008 by 5.1 per cent in males and 2.6 per cent in females. Although the age standardised incidence rates of cancer registrations had risen between 2008 and 2009, it has remained relatively stable over the last decade. The three most common cancers for men were prostate, lung and colorectal and for women, these were breast, lung and colorectal cancer.

For more information on the statistics visit: www.statistics.gov.uk

Commissioning Cancer Services

One of the commitments in 'Improving Outcomes - a Strategy for Cancer' (2011) was to develop further the 'Cancer Commissioning Guidance'. On 25 July 2011 the Department of Health published 'Commissioning Cancer Services' as a transitional update to the Cancer Commissioning Guidance to support the commissioning of cancer services across the NHS. This update should be read in conjunction with the NHS Cancer Commissioning toolkit.

For more information visit: [Commissioning Cancer Services](#) and for the cancer commissioning toolkit: [NHS Commissioning Toolkit](#)

What's On?

'Optimal management of GI symptoms during and after cancer treatments' Symposium

This symposium is being held on Monday, 21 November 2011 at 'The Point', Lancashire County Cricket Club, Manchester.

The symposium will launch 'Practice guidance on the management of acute and chronic GI problems arising as a result of treatment for cancer'. The guidance was recently approved by the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), the Royal College of Radiologists Faculty of Clinical Oncology, the Association of Upper GI Surgeons (AUGIS) and the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI). It is intended that the guidance will be published Autumn/Winter 2011, at which point it will be available to view online.

Places at the symposium are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register your interest as soon as possible and by 30 Sept 2011 at the latest with GIGuidanceEvent@macmillan.org.uk.

For more information about the event visit: [GI Guidance Launch](#)

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.

Please note the next edition of the bulletin will be published at the end of September 2011.

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