

## NICaN E-Update

***Welcome to this edition of the NICaN E-Update!***

Launch of New Network Website [www.cancerni.net](http://www.cancerni.net)



[www.cancerni.net](http://www.cancerni.net) is an exciting regional development in cancer services. The website is a shared resource for us all. It is vital source of patient and professional information, offering over 700 pages of information about cancer, cancer types, tests and treatments, finances and support services available.

The Network & Services section contains information on and for the regional groups. Members of regional groups and Network projects will soon be issued with an automatically generated username and password.

The site includes some exciting features such as: a calendar of Network events and regional training opportunities; direct access to the patient signposting handbook launched earlier this year; UK and regional news stories and much , much more!

Colleagues in the NI Cancer Clinical Trials Unit and Macmillan/Citizens Advice Bureau Welfare Rights services are contributing content to the site and we are looking forward to working with colleagues in Radiotherapy in the Cancer Centre in the New Year.

HSC Trusts have been asked check the accuracy and comprehensiveness of their services' information. A template for supplying this information is available for download and completion at [www.cancerni.net/service-template](http://www.cancerni.net/service-template).

**visit [www.cancerni.net](http://www.cancerni.net) to find out more**

## Peer Review of Cancer MDTs - Update

As you know peer review of cancer MDTs is scheduled to begin next year. A peer review Reference Group has been established to oversee the planning and implementation of the programme. The Reference Group comprises representation from all of the Trust Cancer Lead Teams, DHSS&PS, Commissioners and RQIA. The first meeting of the group is scheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The groups first task will be agree the quality measures for the review.

## Advanced Communication Skills Training

The NICaN Board have endorsed the roll out of an Advanced Communication Skills Training programme for senior health professionals who attend MDMs, and are involved in breaking significant news to patients. A small project group has been formed to help with the preparation for and coordination of this programme. Facilitated Courses (10 participants per course) will be of three day duration, and involve actors engaging in role play. These courses have been well evaluated and have been shown to change behaviours. It is anticipated that the first course will take place in March 2009. For further information contact Liz Henderson, Network Nurse Director, [liz.henderson@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:liz.henderson@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

## Network Primary Care Director

Dr Eddie O'Neill has been appointed the Network's Primary Care Director. Eddie trained in medicine at the Queens University in Belfast and has worked as a GP since 1996, in provision of GMS and out of hours GP sessions. He has broad experience as a medical educator of both undergraduates and postgraduates, having worked as a Clinical Skills Teacher QUB, Postgraduate Tutor NIMDTA, GP Appraiser; and having served as Chair of the RCGP(NI) Education Committee. He holds a MMedSci (Medical Education) 2002. He has served in professional representative roles over many years, at both national and regional level, for the BMA, RCGP and NISDA. Eddie is also employed as a GP Medical Advisor in the EHSSB and as a Research Fellow at Queen's University of Belfast, where he is currently completing a PhD.

As Primary Care Director, Eddie will provide clinical leadership to the Primary Care Network with priority areas including work to support appropriate referral and the role of primary care within supportive and palliative care.

## Upper GI Workshop – Update

The Regional Upper-Gastrointestinal Network hosted a workshop on the 9th October. Over 70 delegates from across Northern Ireland attended, including patients, clinicians, Trust representatives, Commissioners and DHSSPS attended. The aim of the day was to progress the development of a new patient centred, integrated service model for oesophago-gastric cancer. The importance of taking a whole systems approach was acknowledged across the patient pathway, as was ensuring that the needs of all categories of patients (radical, palliative, end of life) were considered. Special thanks go to the Oesophageal Patient's Association who worked with members of the NICaN team to gain the views of 35 patients about their care pathway. The outcomes of the workshop have been used to inform the development of a series of recommendations for the development of the regional service. The report and its recommendations were endorsed by the NICaN Board at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## Bowel Cancer Screening

NICaN has been asked to support the planning and implementation of Bowel Cancer Screening in Northern Ireland by December 2009. A Project Management Structure has been agreed. The Project Board, Chaired by Mr Hugh Mullen, Director of Performance and Provider Development, DHSSPS (SDU) recently approved the project plan and work is now underway to produce 6 key deliverables:

1. Call/Recall Centre
2. IT System
3. Screening Laboratory
4. Screening Colonoscopy Service
5. Histopathology Service
6. Quality Assurance & Monitoring Structures
7. Public and Professional Information

The Project Team is chaired by Dr Tracy Owen, Consultant in Public Health; its members are responsible for ensuring that these products are delivered on time and within budget. The Project Team is supported by 5 Working Groups, the Chairs of each working group sit on the Project Team. A Regular Newsletter will keep all stakeholders informed about project developments. The first issue is expected at the beginning of December 2008.

Any queries should be directed in the first instance to Sarah Liddle, Programme Manager [sliddle@nican.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:sliddle@nican.n-i.nhs.uk) 028 90565860 or 07747 463 590.

## Modernising Endoscopy Services (MES) Project Update

The MES Project Team is now also operating as a working group in the Bowel Cancer Screening Project. Work is progressing on endoscopy service improvement and endoscopy training:

- All endoscopy units in the region are now equipped to use the endoscopy unit Global Rating Scale (GRS), a tool to support endoscopy service quality improvement in line with national standards.
- A Project Manager has been appointed to take forward the introduction of a unified endoscopy reporting system, in tandem with the Bowel Cancer Screening IT System.
- The Colonoscopy Practice Audit is expected to be produced within the next 2 weeks, followed by a schedule of Endoscopy Training.

The Project Team also is preparing three recommendation papers for the Bowel Cancer Screening Project Team and Board on the approval of colonoscopists, selection criteria for screening colonoscopy centres and the number of screening colonoscopy centres.

The NICaN Modernising Endoscopy Services Project Team is set to commence a series of visits to Trust Modernising Endoscopy Teams. These visits will be used to discuss arrangements for monitoring progress toward readiness for the introduction of bowel cancer screening.

Any queries should be directed in the first instance to Sarah Liddle, Programme Manager [sliddle@nican.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:sliddle@nican.n-i.nhs.uk) 028 90565860 or 07747 463 590.

## Regional Patient Information Pathways Update

### 1. Information Pathways – development and implementation

The **breast** cancer information pathway was signed off by the Regional Breast Cancer Network in September. It is available at [www.cancerni.net/infopathways/breast](http://www.cancerni.net/infopathways/breast).

It is anticipated that the Regional Lung Cancer Network will sign the **lung** pathway off at its December meeting. A copy of the pathway is available at [www.cancerni.net/infopathways/lung](http://www.cancerni.net/infopathways/lung). Belfast HSC Trust are leading on the development of a patient information pack to support the effective delivery of the lung cancer information pathway. The intention is to produce a design that can be used in any Trust and which could, in the future, be used for other cancer

information pathways. The regional lung information group who have worked on the information pathway are being involved in the pack's development.

**Colorectal** cancer information pathway work is now underway to include information for people affected by colon, rectal and anal cancers. Information is available at [www.cancerni.net/infopathways/colorectal](http://www.cancerni.net/infopathways/colorectal).

Work is also underway on developing an information pathway for **advanced cancer** including end of life. This is generic information for incorporating into each cancer type's information pathway. Information is available at [www.cancerni.net/infopathways/advancedcancer](http://www.cancerni.net/infopathways/advancedcancer).

Now that some of the pathways are complete, with others soon to follow, it is vital that colleagues in the service are able to work to implement the pathways within their local area. We are working through the NICaN Board and Patient Information Groups to ensure that local implementation by Trusts is coordinated, ensuring equity for patients across the region.

## 2. Regional audit

GAIN is funding a regional audit of patient information. The aim is to develop a model of audit that can be used by Trusts to monitor their performance against the standard for patient information in the Cancer Services Framework. This particular audit will focus on the information experiences of people with breast cancer and people with colorectal cancer who are 3-4 months 'post' diagnosis.

The Network's Patient and Public Involvement Audit Panel will be tasked with a second strand of the patient information audit. This will involve panel members auditing written information resources that have been produced by organisations in Northern Ireland.

Details of the audit are available at [www.cancerni.net/audit/patientinformation](http://www.cancerni.net/audit/patientinformation).

## New Patient Information Resources

- As a result of the merger between Macmillan and Cancerbackup, professionals no longer have to pay for the information resources they need. This includes Cancerbackup booklets, leaflets and the Factfile (now available on CD). You can log on to [www.be.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.be.macmillan.org.uk) to place an order or phone 0800 500 800. A useful item is

the catalogue of Macmillan and Cancerbackup resources (quote reference MAC5782\_1108 to order this).

- The signposting handbook, '**Cancer Services for patients, carers, families and friends**' has been distributed to all Trusts. Over a year's supply for every diagnosis of cancer within each Trust has been provided. These have been distributed via the Lead Nurses to those clinics where patients are given their diagnosis of cancer. The development of the handbook's 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is now underway.

### Supportive & Palliative Care Network update

This is an exciting time for the reform and modernisation of palliative and end of life care. In early August Stuart MacDonnell, and members of the steering group for Reform and Modernisation, presented The Phase 1 Report and the plans to progress Phase 2 to Dr Miriam McCarthy (Deputy Secretary for Health)

It was agreed that..

- Phase 2 will focus on End of Life Care (the last year of life)
- PfA targets are to be drawn up for inclusion in the next Priorities for Action 2009/2010 and 2010/2011
- Funding will be provided to enable the appointment of a Regional Service Improvement Manager for End of Life care

Consultation across the network and within the steering group is enabling the development of an appropriate and realistic Priorities for Action target for 2009-10 and 2010-11. For further information please contact Lorna Nevin at [l.nevin@nican.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:l.nevin@nican.n-i.nhs.uk)