
West of Scotland Primary Care Cancer Network Regional Newsletter

Summer 2022 Edition

This network newsletter is intended to summarise current primary care cancer issues at national and regional levels. Previous editions are available on the [WoSCAN](http://www.woscan.scot.nhs.uk) website.

Cancer Action Plan

The regional network and health board's continue to work towards the Scottish Government's "[Recovery and redesign: cancer services – action plan](#)". This newsletter provides some regional updates on progress.

Cancer Prehabilitation

A new national cancer [prehab website](#) has been developed. This is designed to support access to universal prehabilitation. It is suitable for all those affected by cancer and people can be directed to the site as soon as possible to help them prepare for what lies ahead. The site also contains information for professionals to help them understand more about prehabilitation and to give easy access to recently produced [Key Principles for Implementing Cancer Prehabilitation in Scotland](#) and the [Psychological Therapies and Support Framework for People Affected by Cancer](#). The site is still under development. We are keen to hear feedback so we can continue to improve the resource and maximise its impact on cancer care in Scotland. Should you wish to provide feedback you can do so via [this form](#).

Cancer Management Framework

Each health board has submitted an action plan to implement this [framework](#) covering cancer pathway management processes, from beginning (referral) to end (treatment). Updates on relevant sections are:

Optimal Referral

Ensuring a patient is on the right pathway at the right time is essential to ensure those at higher risk of cancer are seen and treated as quickly as possible.

[Scottish referral guidelines](#) remain in place with exception of some local variations. There will also be some updates as below. Enhanced vetting and [Active Clinical Referral Triage](#) are used along with principles of realistic medicine. It is useful to include [PERFORMANCE STATUS](#) with referrals to help this.

Haematuria Guidance

The USC referral guidance has been updated and will read:

- Age 45 and over and have unexplained visible haematuria without UTI
- Visible haematuria that persists or recurs after successful treatment of UTI
- Age 60 or over with persistent non-visible haematuria in the absence of urinary infection
- Abdominal mass identified clinically or on imaging that is thought to arise from the urinary tract

National QFIT Guidance

National consensus for QFIT testing to minimise variation across the country [has been published](#). It states as an adjunct to clinical acumen, a numerical qFIT result should be available whenever possible, before a patient is

referred to secondary care for investigation or management of the bowel symptoms. Important exceptions are those with abdominal or rectal mass or if patients are unable to complete a qFIT test.

Early Cancer Diagnostic Centres

The pilot site in the West of Scotland is NHS Ayrshire and Arran. The next phase of roll out is progressing with “notes of interest” from other board areas. In addition, work to increase GP access to diagnostic testing and reduce variation nationally is progressing.

Primary Care Cancer Data

An audit of Primary Care referrals should be undertaken in collaboration with GP clusters is part of the framework. Details of this will be included in each board’s action plan. We are also looking to improve primary care cancer data availability for practices and clusters who wish to undertake QI work.

Cancer screening programmes

We encourage practices to restart any initiatives to optimise uptake of screening such as opportunistic reminders when speaking to defaulters.

Cervical Screening Audit – Incomplete hysterectomy

The next phase will be to restart screening patients excluded from SCCRS following incomplete hysterectomy. This will require some review of clinical notes. Details of audit and screening process will be communicated once approved by SGPC.

Targeted Lung Screening

The UK NSC proposes a quality assured, targeted screening programme for lung cancer in people aged 55 – 74

with a history of smoking in the UK. This is integrated with smoking cessation services. This is under consideration with pilot proposals in Scotland.

Treatment Summaries

Electronic data capture of the key elements of treatment summaries is being progressed by eHealth team. This is based on the MacMillan GP work summarised [here](#). These are intended to be written for patients with GP copied in. They provide a single document with relevant information for patients and professionals.

Malignant Spinal Cord Compression

The regional MSCC guidance is undergoing review. The current version is [available here](#). NHS Scotland Palliative Care has a [good webpage](#) summarising management including:

- Emergency referral (admission)
- Immediate steroids (dexamethasone 8mg bd)
- Consider transport as spinal injury if instability suspected

Beatson WoSCC website

The useful [website](#) for the Beatson has both patient and professional’s area. This includes details of cancer treatment helpline 0141 301 7990. The Beatson Cancer Charity also has a [website](#) with excellent support services.

CRUK Facilitators closure

The facilitator officially closed at the end of March 2022. The [CRUK website](#) has a very useful health professionals section and resources including advice about safety netting during the pandemic.

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