

Greetings

Another busy month has flown by as we continue to make contact with the many great people across the South Island who are actively working to improve the experience for the cancer patient and their family/whanau.

We hope you enjoy reading about the interesting and varied activities that are happening across the region and would love to hear from you if you would like to share with the sector what you are doing.

Scanning the Horizon

Government Fast Tracks Bowel (Colorectal) Screening

The Government has decided to fast track the creation of a national colorectal cancer screening programme. The Minister of Health, David Cunliffe and the Associate Minister of Health, Damien O'Connor have said that they were committed to acting as quickly as possible to set up a test for Colorectal cancer which is our second biggest killer cancer.

Around 2,700 New Zealanders develop colorectal or bowel cancer every year and about 1,200 die from it. Colorectal cancer affects both genders and while it is not as prevalent in Maori and Pacific populations, there is a higher mortality rate amongst Maori. Colorectal cancer is amenable to early detection because in many cases it is slow to spread and very treatable.

To coincide with the development of a national Colorectal cancer screening programme, the Ministry of Health has been asked to continue their work to build a strong workforce. It is anticipated that at least 20 extra clinicians will be needed to perform colonoscopies for the national programme.

Source: Summary of New Zealand Government Press Release: Friday, 30 May 2008

Mapping the Cancer Patient Journey

The Southern Cancer Network is about to launch a project to map the lung cancer patient journey in Canterbury. With the endorsement of Dr Roland Meyer, Clinical Director, Respiratory Services Department and Dr Bernie Fitzharris, Clinical Director, Oncology Department at Christchurch Hospital, there is interest in looking at the continuity of the service and how well the patient moves across the continuum from diagnosis through to survivorship or end of life care.



The purpose of this process is to:

- capture and understand the patient's whole current journey
- establish what, how and where services are delivered and who provides the services
- identify key issues for the patient and the service providers across the continuum
- identify gaps in service delivery
- measure system performance
- identify opportunities for service improvements

On completion of this project, further mapping projects will be conducted in other districts looking at other tumour groups.

West Coast Navigator Pilot Project

- by Danielle Smith, West Coast PHO



Photo: West Coast Navigators Adam Gilshnan, Megan Cumming and Nancy McNoe with Danielle Smith, Navigator Project Co-ordinator

The West Coast PHO recently commenced a Ministry of Health funded pilot project, which focuses on navigational and support services for West Coast people with cancer and their families. The three year project is co-ordinated by Danielle Smith, formally manager of the West Coast branch of Cancer Society. The team also comprises three 'Patient Navigators' who are "lay people" with a wealth of life experience and skills who act almost like a "professional best friend" supporting the client through their journey and adding value to the work done by clinical staff.

The Navigators work in the community covering Hokitika, South Westland and the Buller, as well as a designated Maori Navigator (Kaihutu). The Navigator role is to assist the client and their family/whanau with many of the challenges associated with the cancer journey. Things like finding relevant and credible information, finding their way around social support and appropriate benefit entitlements, as well as access to health services and finding their way through the service. Navigators can visit clients in their home and on a case-by-case basis to ensure the support provided is tailored to the needs of the individual. Advocacy is another component of the service and access to other support services relevant to clients with cancer and their whanau, e.g. Cancer Society, Work and Income.

The team works closely with other organisations such as the Cancer Society and West Coast District Health Board, which were an integral part of the initial concept for the programme. This navigation and support service is at no cost to the client or family.

The team receives their referrals from health professionals, patients, family and other community providers. There are three pilots operating in New Zealand - one in Tamaki, one in Rotorua and the West Coast pilot. The pilot project will be independently evaluated for the Ministry of Health by Health Outcomes International. If you would like to know more about the Navigator programme, contact Danielle Smith danielle.smith@westcoastpho.org.nz

SCN Regional Visits

SCN has been active during the month of June with visits to the West Coast and Nelson/Marlborough. Meetings were held with key stakeholders involved in cancer control with the purpose of gaining a regional overview of what's happening at a local level. The Local Cancer Network groups on the West Coast and in Nelson/Marlborough are at different stages, with the West Coast group already active and the Nelson and Marlborough groups soon to be established.

Over the next two months the SCN plans to facilitate and support the establishment, or re-establishment of Local Cancer Network groups in Canterbury, South Canterbury, Otago and Southland with a view to support the DHBs to develop, implement or review their local cancer plans.

The Power of a Network



Through the SCN, we seek to facilitate communication across the South Island cancer continuum of care so that we can collectively plan, fund and deliver cancer services to maximise resources and improve the patient journey.

Bringing people together across the cancer continuum of care...

- PREVENTION
- SCREENING AND DETECTION
- DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT
- PALLIATIVE CARE
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- RESEARCH
- PLANNING AND FUNDING



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) update



From 1 September 2008 the HPV vaccine will be offered to girls born in 1990 and 1991 by their family doctor, practice nurse or health clinics and other youth venues and sites for delivery. From 2009 the HPV vaccine will be offered to girls in school year 8. The vaccination will primarily occur through school-based delivery, and will also involve delivery in other settings, such as primary care. HPV vaccine offered to girls 13 to 18 years will be phased over 2009 and 2010.

Primary health providers and other community based services have a key role in the delivery of this programme, particularly for young women aged 17 to 18 years, those not attending school, and for individuals who prefer immunisation in primary care. DHBs will identify the range of primary care providers (including youth specific services, family planning clinics, and sexual health clinics) who may actively promote and/or deliver HPV immunisation. Primary health care providers will build on local and national awareness-raising campaigns and activities by proactively offering the vaccine. Processes for follow-up will be required using recall systems and individual contact.

DHBs will develop specific strategies to ensure that the immunisation programme reaches young Maori women not attending school. This is important in order to achieve equitable delivery, as Māori are over-represented in the young women not attending school. Young women out of school settings may be the most challenging to reach and may be in alternative education, employment, and tertiary education and training settings. Targeted communication strategies will be crucial to reaching this audience.

Source: Sector Capability & Innovation Directorate. Ministry of Health

New Service Specs

- Adolescent/Young Adult Oncology and Haematology Service Specifications



The Ministry of Health is preparing to launch the new service specifications for the Adolescents and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology and Haematology Service.

The AYA Service Specifications describe the services required to optimise care directed to the specific needs of adolescents and young adult cancer patients. The specifications cover service users, access (entry and exit criteria), service components (facilities and support services), service links and quality requirements.

The service specifications have been developed with input from DHBs and a range of sector organisations and are subject to review. They specify the services that should be provided by a particular service and cover definitions, objectives, service components, access, quality and reporting.

Keep in Touch

The Southern Cancer network is hosted by SISSAL (South Island Shared Services Agency Limited) based in Christchurch.

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Visit the SCN webpages at www.sissal.govt.nz



Southern Cancer Network

Key Stakeholders

An indicative list of the Southern Cancer Network's key stakeholders from across the South Island cancer continuum of care, along with other national organisations and groups who are working in support of improving the patient journey.

Consumers

Consumer Organisations

Cancer Control Council

Ministry of Health

Regional Cancer Networks

Canteen

Child Cancer Society

Cancer Society

Non-Government Organisations

Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Canterbury District Health Board

South Canterbury District Health Board

Otago District Health Board

Southland District Health Board

West Coast District Health Board

DHB Planning and Funding Arms

DHB Provider Arms

Christchurch Regional Cancer Centre

Southern Blood and Cancer Service

Adolescents/Young Adults Oncology Services

Women's Gynaecology Oncology Services

Diagnostic Services (Radiology, Laboratory)

Primary Health Organisations

General Practitioners

Community Nurses

Public Health Units

Healthy Eating Healthy Action Networks

Smokefree Support Services

National Screening Unit

Breast Screen Aotearoa

National Cervical Screening Programme

Maori Health Services

Pacific Island Health Services

Residential Care and Support Services

Palliative Care Providers

South Island Hospices

Research Institutions

Professional Groups



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Working Collaboratively together to

REDUCE THE IMPACT AND INCIDENCE OF CANCER

REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITH RESPECT TO CANCER

IMPROVE THE PATIENT JOURNEY



Nelson Marlborough, West Coast, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Otago, Southland