

## NCCP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 @ 10.30am, NCCP Office.</b>
<b>Present:</b>	R. Ó Laoide (Chair), F. Bonas, P. Cafferty, R. Conway, C. Faul, T. Hanan, P. Heckmann, A. Hill, M. Keane, and T. McCarthy
<b>Apologies:</b>	None
<b>Invited:</b>	H. Greally (Item A1), N. Mateeva (Item A1), E. O'Toole (Item A2), L. Murphy (Item A2), Marie Cox, T. Flattery and C. Mellett

A. PRESENTATIONS		
A1	Update on psycho-oncology programme was provided by Dr. H Greally, National Clinical Programme Lead Psycho-oncology and Niya Mateeva, Project Manager, Psycho-oncology programme.	
A2	Overview given of Palliative Care Interim Recommendations Group Statement by Dr. E. O'Toole, Head of Evidence & Quality Hub NCCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive endorsed the statement, subject to feedback being sought from the National Clinical Lead for Trauma Services in relation to the spinal metastases element.</li> </ul>	E. O'Toole
B. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING		
B1	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	
	The minutes of October 9 <sup>th</sup> and November 6 <sup>th</sup> meetings were agreed.	
B2	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify patient representation on HSE EMT (R. Ó Laoide)</li> </ul>	
C. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS		
C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>National Service Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Letter of Determination received from Minister at the end of November.</li> <li>○ National Service Plan due to be submitted to the Minister before Christmas.</li> <li>○ Includes €3m for community cancer supports, which will be distributed by the NCCP through the Alliance of Community Cancer Centres.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Recruitment pause</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The HSE CEO's further instructions in relation to recruitment were noted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Health Regions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implementation work is proceeding, led by Liam Woods.</li> <li>○ Currently working on the governance and management structures for the regions and integrated services within regions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Clinical Lead for Geriatric Oncology</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interviews scheduled.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Academic and clinical networking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestion to consider the impact of developments in Europe on academic and clinical networking in Ireland was noted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Surgical centralisation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SVUH has previously been designated as the national centre for primary liver cancer. Discussion to take place with Hepatology lead in HSE regarding national pathways.</li> <li>○ Work ongoing in relation to pelvic exenteration – suggested approach to be circulated to Executive.</li> <li>○ Work ongoing in relation to retroperitoneal lymph node dissection for testicular cancer.</li> <li>○ Rectal cancer – update to be sought from Saolta Hospital Group.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Stakeholder events</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NCCP Urological Cancer Quality and Audit Forum meeting - November 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Neuroendocrine Patient Network meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Visit to Barretstown - December 15<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ CTI Strategy Day - January 26<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>D. STANDING ITEMS</b>		
<b>D1</b>	<b>EU Cancer Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joint Action on network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (JA CrANE).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request from the leaders of the Joint Action CrANE 2 Work Package 9 for a network in Ireland to consider participating as a pilot which will support the implementation of CCCNs to ensure comprehensive, high-quality cancer care.</li> <li>- All the adult designated cancer centres have been contacted about interest in participating in the pilot..</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>E1</b>	<b>Evidence and Quality (F. Bonas)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal meeting to be arranged to discuss chapter 11 – Quality and Safety, National Cancer Strategy</li> </ul>	
<b>E2</b>	<b>Cancer Intelligence (R. Conroy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format of KPI update was approved.</li> <li>• KPI performance was discussed.</li> <li>• Ongoing engagement with National Health Intelligence Unit re design of Health Atlas module, to include cancer incidence projections.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b>  <b>Further engagement required with cancer centres regarding activity levels in breast services.</b></p>	<b>R. Conway</b>
<b>E3</b>	<b>Public Health, Community Oncology and Prevention/Early Detection (T. McCarthy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCRI annual report was published recently.</li> <li>• Increase in hospitalisations due to respiratory illness noted; Covid hospitalisation rate is static.</li> <li>• Hereditary cancer steering group meeting scheduled.</li> </ul>	
<b>E4</b>	<b>Cancer Nursing (T Hanan)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current focus on reviewing Acute Oncology Nursing KPIs and challenges across hospital network for acute oncology nursing service. Volume of calls received has been increasing.</li> <li>• Nursing Leads Forum meeting focusing on strategic issues will take place in March 2024.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming meeting with Movember to discuss key men's health initiatives.</li> </ul>	
<b>E5</b>	<b>Surgical Programme (A. Hill)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An AI research project is underway to develop an algorithm to triage breast referrals that could result in time savings. Update will be provided at future meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>E6</b>	<b>Radiation Oncology (C. Faul/F. Bonas)</b>	
	<p><b>1) Proton Beam Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical imperative for Proton Beam Therapy confirmed. Waiting for confirmation from National Procurement Team on the next steps for the commissioning of a service. Radiation Oncology Consultation meeting will take place in April 2024, including prioritisation of new developments. Further clinical advice will be provided after this.</li> </ul> <p><b>2) National Review of Radiation Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update awaited from the Review Chair of the status of the draft report of National Review of Radiation Therapy.</li> <li>Recruitment of Radiation Therapists remains an issue and has been further impacted by the recruitment pause. This is impacting on KPIs.</li> </ul> <p><b>2)Action:</b>  <b>Derogation for Radiation Therapists from the current recruitment embargo to be raised with CCO.</b></p> <p><b>3) Equipment Replacement Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on specific targets and timeline for equipment replacement programme is due to be provided by National Director Capital &amp; Estates December 2023.</li> <li>It was noted the equipment replacement programme and Phase II for Beaumont are two distinct critical projects and need to be reviewed separately.</li> </ul> <p>4) Incentivised overtime and outsourcing are being used to mitigate impact on KPIs.</p> <p>5) Launch of AI auto contouring software November 14<sup>th</sup> in SLRON</p> <p>6) SABR programme has recently commenced in Cork and is scheduled to commence in Galway in 2024.</p> <p>7) Upcoming meeting with CORU to discuss registration issues.</p> <p>8) Ongoing engagement with national procurement to discuss new private contracts.</p>	<b>2) F. Bonas / R. Ó Laoide</b>
<b>E7</b>	<b>Systemic Therapy Programme [Medical Oncology/Haemato-oncology] (P. Heckmann)</b>	
	<p><b>SACT KPIs</b></p> <p><b><u>Information on KPIs – October 2023 – data not complete</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both CUH and SVUH have had significant improvements in their KPIs.</li> <li>A number of other hospitals have had dips in their KPI but there is a lot of data missing due to the on-going industrial action which has impacted the returns of KPI data.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Systemic Therapy Programme</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two new drugs approved for reimbursement from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - Oral Azacitidine and Enfortumab vedotin.</li> <li>Concern was raised in relation to access to new treatments given the lack of funding for new drugs.</li> </ul>	

**Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES)**

- Expected 6 month delay to timelines due to internal HIQA resource challenges.

**Pharmacist Non-Medical Prescribing**

- The NCCP has commissioned research on the subject of Pharmacist Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP). This is being undertaken jointly by RCSI / TCD following the award of a successful tender.
- RCSI / TCD have synthesised the available evidence base for pharmacist prescribing and will use their learnings from the literature and the feedback from key stakeholders, to develop a roadmap for pharmacist prescribing in Ireland. A symposium to garner this feedback was held in the NCCP on 23rd October.
- Separately, in July 2023, the Minister for Health established an Expert Taskforce to Support Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy. The chair of that task force has been in contact with regard to the NCCP commissioned research on pharmacist NMP.
- NCCP Executive endorsed the proposed Pharmacy Taskforce submission.

**SACT services TOR**

- SACT services teams TOR template was noted.

**Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation**

Dec 2023 – NCCP submitted

- A list of NCCP guidelines published since January 2019 with a list of the relevant recommendations
- A list of NCCP clinical questions currently in development as of August 2023

HIQA confirmed that based on the information provided that that the practices referred to in these documents are considered existing practices and an application for generic justification is not required. It is proposed that information on the status of the generic justification be included on the guidelines going forward.

**Molecular**

- Governance of the test directory agreed. Work will start on individual tumour now on an incremental basis
- Lung Pathology Molecular Testing Working Group ( sub-group of Molecular Group) have met to make recommendations on testing pathways for new neoadjuvant and adjuvant indications in NSCLC currently being assessed for reimbursement by the HSE.

**Other**

- The NCCP Hospital Pharmacist Leads group held their last meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November, the NCCP SACT Resilience group will now be retired. It was also agreed to establish a subgroup to look at the topic of parenteral SACT supply business continuity and to share learnings between sites.
- Report on Baxter capacity issues finalised.
- IIOOP webinar on Early detection – December 13<sup>th</sup>

	<p>Roll out continuing –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 hospitals live, including five out of nine Cancer Centres</li> <li>• SVUH went live November 9<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• St Luke’s Kilkenny went live on December 4<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• University Hospital Kerry started their first Tumour Conference using NCIS.</li> </ul>	
<b>E9</b>	<b>Cancer Networks (F Bonas/P. Cafferty)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in activity has been noted across cancer networks.</li> <li>• Recruitment moratorium is having an impact on services.</li> </ul>	
<b>E10</b>	<b>Risk Register (P. Cafferty)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No notable changes since last discussion.</li> <li>• Changes to risk register format due January 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Clinical Advisors to discuss any clinical risks with the relevant NCCP ANDs, for consideration and possible inclusion on risk register, as appropriate.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>F</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	
	n/a	
<b>G</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	n/a	
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 10.30am</b>		