



NCCP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING

Date: Monday 12th May 2025 @ 10.30am, MS Teams

Present: R. Ó Laoide (Chair), F. Bonas, C. Faul, T. Hanan, P. Heckmann, A. Hill, T. Holohan, M. Keane, T. McCarthy, D. O'Shea, L. Smyth

Apologies: None

Invited: R. Conway, T. Flattery, J. Gleeson and C. Mellett.
For Item A1: E. O'Toole

A. PRESENTATIONS		
A1	Overview of the draft HSE National Clinical GP guideline for the referral of patients with suspected lung cancer (E. O'Toole) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Executive noted the draft guideline is currently open for consultation and all were invited to provide feedback.	
B. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING		
B1	Minutes of the previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">The minutes of April 7th meeting were agreed subject to a minor amendment.	
B2	Matters Arising <p>None</p>	
C. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS		
C1	<p>Welcome to Dr. Liam Smyth, Joint Clinical Advisor for Haemato-oncology.</p> <p><u>Regions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work is continuing in relation to the NCCP's engagement with the health regions.The REOs have reviewed the draft MOU between the NCCP and the regions and detailed feedback is awaited.A meeting with the REO group has been scheduled for the end of Q2. <p><u>HSE Centre and Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The NCCP will be required to contribute to a new report to the Board's Performance Committee, which will provide a clinical commentary on relevant KPIs in the National Performance Report. <p><u>Strategic developments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work is ongoing in relation to the suite of inter-related strategic planning initiatives. This work will address areas such as performance, data and intelligence, designation and centralisation. <p><u>NCCP Clinical leads</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruitment for a urological cancer advisor is being finalised.	

	<p><u>Stakeholder events</u></p> <p>Recent events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th April – NCCP Haematopathology Annual Education Meeting <p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16th May – Launch of three national clinical guidelines 21st May - NCCP Hospital Pharmacist Annual meeting 23rd May - Irish Melanoma Forum 	
D. STANDING ITEMS		
D1	<p>EU Cancer Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCI4EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCI4EU is the EU project focused on developing cancer care infrastructure. The third and final deep dive meetings have been scheduled for September 1st and 2nd. DigiCan Train <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DigiCan Train is a project that focuses on digital skills for cancer nursing. The project is progressing and has passed the mid-term report. 	
D2	<p><u>National Service Plan 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning letters from the CEO are being finalised, setting out the allocations for each Health Region. 	
E1	Cancer Intelligence (T. Holohan/R. Conway)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing on the development of a performance framework. Update to follow at future meeting. 	
E2	Surgical Oncology Programme (F. Bonas/A. Hill)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast imaging in Dublin and North-East region – mitigation measures are being considered to address current capacity challenges. Action: A. Hill to follow up with the Chair of NCCP Breast Cancer Clinical Leads Group and revert to NCCP National Director. Recruitment is underway for a replacement Consultant General Surgeon with a special interest in breast surgery at Letterkenny University Hospital. Action: To be discussed with the Director of Cancer Managed Clinical Academic Network (MCAN) for HSE West and North-West. 	<p>A.Hill</p> <p>A.Hill/R.Ó. Laoide</p>
E3	Surgical Centralisation (A. Hill/T. Holohan/F. Bonas)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of centralisation plans is ongoing. RPLND – process is ongoing in relation to the designation of a national centre for RPLND surgery. Pelvic Exenteration – update awaited on new UK standards and guidelines which are expected to be published later this month. Skull base – work is ongoing with clinicians around structure of MDT meetings. Gynae-oncology – A joint MDT on NCIS has been set up between Galway and University Hospital Limerick. Head and neck – discussions are taking place regarding the Waterford service. 	

E4	Medical Oncology/ Haemato-oncology/Molecular (P. Heckmann/D. O'Shea/L. Smyth)	
	<p><u>Systemic Therapy Programme (STP)/Cancer Drug Management Programme (CDMP)/Molecular</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug approvals: three new indications for drugs were approved May 1st 2025 – Olaparib and Lipegfilgrastim • NCCP Pharmacist Competencies (Cancer Care) Working Group: 1st meeting took place at the end of April. • Molecular: Testing guidance for Medical Oncologists on testing to support prescribing of PARPi has been updated to include testing for new indications for olaparib in early Breast Cancer and metastatic pancreatic cancer. • Peripheral systemic anti-cancer treatment clinics: consideration to be given how best to support the delivery of care at these hospitals and transfer pathways in instances where acute medical or surgical care is required. <p>Action: To be discussed with HSE Chief Clinical Officer</p>	R. Ó Laoide
E5	National Cancer Information System (NCIS) – P. Heckmann	
	<p>Roll-out continuing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21 of 26 hospitals live - including 7 of the 9 cancer centres. - Wexford General Hospital and Tallaght University Hospital are progressing with implementation projects. - University Hospital Waterford go-live date is planned for the end of May. - Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore re-commenced use of NCIS in Pharmacy with support from NCIS Office. - PID for Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is under review. - Work on Orchestra (NCIS Communication Bus) has commenced. Project is expected to take 8-10 weeks. - Discussions on PAS to NCIS interface is in progress. - Portlincula Hospital is experiencing a challenge in resourcing the project. 	
E6	Radiation Oncology (F. Bonas/C. Faul)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPI performance has improved due to improved staffing levels and the introduction of hypofractionation protocols. • Cyberattack Preparedness - work on this project is nearing completion. • Artificial Intelligence (AI) group – the group has completed a national survey of all centres to identify where centres are in terms of AI developments. • Radioligand – the first meeting of the NCCP group has taken place. Data is currently being reviewed. • A rectal spacer pilot project has recently been completed and patient feedback is being collated. • Work is ongoing with Radiation Therapists and Physicists to agree a national definition of a closed linac. • SABRE SRS is now available to some extent in all three radiation centres (Cork, Dublin and Galway). Group to be formed to plan for future service development. • A project has commenced in collaboration with Urologists and Radiation Oncologists regarding informed patient choice. • Altnagelvin contract is currently under review. • UPMC contract – process has been completed. • Limerick – awaiting communication from the REO on next steps. 	

E7	Cancer Networks (F. Bonas/J. Gleeson)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The importance of cancer network meetings was highlighted, in particular their usefulness as a forum for the discussion of finance and performance issues relating to regions.NCCP to progress with scheduling of cancer review meetings pending the formalisation of the proposed MOU with Health Regions.	
E8	Community Oncology (T. McCarthy)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cancer risk population profiles are being developed for each health region on cancer prevention.	
E9	Cancer Nursing (T. Hanan)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acute haematology oncology nursing service (AHOS) will mark five years in operation at a conference in September.The AHOS will be profiled by the Irish Times in an upcoming article.NCCP nursing team and NI lead nurses meeting ongoing to determine collaborative nursing initiatives.Issue of dayward staffing across some sites—measures are being implemented to mitigate the issue.	
F	FOR INFORMATION	
	National Cancer Care Experience Survey (CCEs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The data extraction test has now commenced with three test sites, this will run until end of June. The questionnaire is being finalised by the HIQA.	
G	AOB	
	North/South Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Department of Health is currently identifying potential cross-border initiatives concerning cancer care. Action: All to provide feedback to R. Ó Laoide/F. Bonas Tumour Conference (Multi-disciplinary meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The requirement for Tumour Conference proforma, integrated, reporting to be on a tumour basis was raised. This is also required in pathology. Action: Issue to be discussed.	All F.Bonas/ P.Heckmann/M. Keane/D. O’Shea
DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
9 TH JUNE 2025 AT 10.30AM, NCCP OFFICE		