

AUTUMN 2007

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NEMICS ANNUAL FORUM

WED 20th JUNE
6:00pm

Further details
coming soon



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VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Consumer focused project gets off the ground!

The Health Issues Centre have been appointed to conduct our consumer focused project titled "**Pathways of Cancer Care that involve Public and Private Cancer Services: The Consumer Experience**". Based on ideas brought to us by consumers, the project will describe the common care pathways taken by consumers undergoing treatment for breast, lung, colorectal and prostate cancer. In particular we are hoping to better understand the impact that the crossing of the public and private sectors for cancer services may have on care coordination. The project will be completed in the latter part of 2007. For further information contact Lisa Broom, Project Officer, on 9496 3455.

The CanNET Program

NEMICS together with Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Service have been selected as the Victorian demonstration site for a federally funded program known as CanNET (Cancer Services Network National Demonstration Program). The aim of the program (which is complementary to what we are aiming to achieve in Victoria) is to improve outcomes and reduce disparities in outcomes for people affected by cancer. Each state will be allocated \$1M over two years to undertake the program.

This new initiative provides us with an opportunity to develop a formal clinical network between a regional and a metropolitan integrated cancer service. In this Hume/NEMICS project we would hope to take an innovative approach to addressing some key issues such as improving access to multidisciplinary care for all patients and support for the cancer workforce. We are currently undergoing a consultation period to develop a detailed project proposal to be presented to Cancer Australia in mid-May.

If you have any suggestions about ways that CanNET could improve the way that cancer services are supported or delivered, then please contact NEMICS on 9496 3322 or e-mail Chris Scott christine.scott@austin.org.au

Supportive Care Directory

In addition to receiving specialised hospital medical & nursing care, people affected by cancer often face a range of social, physical, material, financial, psychological and end-of-life issues. Having access to services to help meet these needs is crucial, because un-met supportive care needs can have a direct impact on the success of the care that is given.

NEMICS is developing a directory of supportive care services to assist clinicians locate services that may be of help to people with cancer and their families.

This piece of work is also assisting NEMICS to identify gaps in supportive care services, and to find opportunities for service development.



GRAEME INGLIS
SUPPORTIVE
CARE PROJECT
OFFICER

SMALL PROJECTS FOR TUMOUR GROUPS

*Each of the
tumour groups
have the opportunity to conduct a
small project
related to cancer
services improvement. Here are
some “snapshots”
of the
projects that are
underway*



Andrew Smith
Leader: H & N
Tumour Group

Improving patient flow Genito-urinary Tumour Group

Over-extended urology clinics have been the focus of the GU group in 2006-7 and a project is underway to improve the flow of cancer patients through these clinics. Linkages have been made between the work of this group and that being undertaken by the DHS Outpatient Flow Collaborative which is underway at Box Hill, Austin and Northern Hospitals. Incremental improvements to referral and discharge processes have been implemented at Box Hill and their methods are being shared across NEMICS. More primary care/acute care co-management of low-risk patients requiring long-term follow up after active treatment, is being explored. Leader: Vacant

Treatment plan booklet and GP Information Booklet CNS Tumour Group

The CNS group will develop a wallet-sized Treatment Plan Booklet for people diagnosed with a primary brain tumour. The aim is to improve communication between treating specialists and GPs, and to facilitate a collaborative approach to patients' management. The booklet will contain key summary information for communication including diagnosis, treatment plan, current medications, and appointments. A planned second phase will involve liaison with GP groups to develop a GP Information Booklet. Future web-based resources will also be considered.

Leader: Gavin Davis

First Steps in Demonstrating Best Practice Head and Neck Tumour Group

The group will undertake mapping of the head and neck services at Austin, Box Hill and Northern Hospitals. The aim is to determine the degree of alignment with the Patient Management Framework for larynx, pharynx and oral cancer at each facility, to identify existing patterns of patient flow and to highlight any gaps or barriers in service provision. This project will clarify current patterns of service provision, and highlight future improvement opportunities for the Head and Neck tumour stream.

Leader: Andrew Smith

Multidisciplinary audit Upper G. I. Tumour Group

The project aims to audit UGI multi-disciplinary team meetings with a focus on both the proportion of total UGI cancer patients referred for discussion at these meetings, and the quality of data made available to inform the discussion. Aspects of the meetings that may require improvement will then be strategically targeted. Leader: Ahmad Aly

Mapping the patient journey after a lung cancer diagnosis

Lung Tumour Group

The lung project is investigating the different care pathways for patients diagnosed with lung cancer. A chart review of 100 patients who underwent treatment in 2006 at Eastern, Austin and Northern Health will be undertaken. The aim of this study is to identify areas where variations in care pathways are causing delay. This information will form the basis of future service redesign and improvement projects to be led by the Lung Tumour Stream group.

Leader: Paul Fogarty

Model for management of advanced breast cancer

Breast Tumour Group

The group quickly identified that the patient management framework (breast) provides little information on the preferred pathway of care for people with advanced breast cancer. The project aims to use current evidence to inform the development of a model of care for advanced disease. The model (or components of a model) will be piloted within NEMICS health services.

Leader: Jacquie Chirgwin



Jacquie Chirgwin

Leader: Breast
Tumour Group

Psychosocial needs of women with ovarian cancer

Gynaecology Tumour Group

With concerns about the ability to respond comprehensively to the psychosocial needs of women with ovarian cancer, this group aims to survey women at completion of treatment, to identify any unmet needs or gaps in this aspect of their care.

Leader: Tom Manolitsas



Gavin Davis

Leader: CNS
Tumour Group

Minimising delays in diagnosis and initiation of treatment of lymphoma

Haematology Tumour Group

This project aims to improve the timely referrals of suspicious lymphadenopathy to specialist haematology clinics for assessment. The current referral pathway for patients who are ultimately diagnosed with lymphoma is being mapped, with an emphasis on where delays can occur. A brief "index of suspicion" guide for enlarged lymph nodes is also being developed to appropriately guide referrals.

Leader: Carole Smith



Ahmad Aly

Leader: UGI
Tumour Group

LATEST RELEASES / INFORMATION

2007

Tumour Group Meetings

Breast: 6pm - 7:30pm

5/9, 28/11

Haematology: 6pm - 7:30pm

21/5, 27/8, 19/11

Gynaecology: 6pm - 7:30pm

31/7, 30/10

Colorectal: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

28/5, 13/8, 26/11

Lung: 6pm - 7:30pm

6/6, 29/8, 7/11

UGI: 6pm - 7:30pm

12/6, TBC, TBC

GU -TBC

CNS: Various times

28/5, 3/8, TBC

Head & Neck: 6pm - 7:30pm

28/5, 6/8, 5/11

NEMICS WEBSITE

www.nemics.org.au

is under construction!



The work has been tendered, the domain name secured...now onto the construction! Thank-you to everyone who provided comments regarding 'user requirements' for the NEMICS website in a recent survey, and via attendance at a workshop with website developers. Views from consumers and a range of professionals from all of the NEMICS health networks were represented. The website is now being developed. For further information contact Lisa Broom, Project Officer, (03) 9496 3455.

New Adolescent and Young Adult Support Groups—onTrac@PeterMac is a new support group specifically for young patients between the ages of 15 and 25 who are being treated in adult hospitals.

For further information contact Susan Palmer, Senior Psychologist, Peter Mac-Callum Cancer Centre, 9656-1755.

VIDEOCONFERENCING

has arrived....

Installation of the videoconferencing facilities is now completed at Angliss, Maroondah, Austin, Northern, Mercy Hospital for Women and Heidelberg Repat. Work will commence shortly at Box Hill.

Training of key staff at each site should soon be completed. Cancer services staff are encouraged to make use of the new facilities to support multidisciplinary case conferencing and educational activities. Any queries?

Call Deb Richardson at NEMICS on (03) 9496 3459.

There is a new Postgraduate Certificate course in "Cancer Care for Teenagers/Adolescents and Young Adults". It is being provided by Coventry University in the United Kingdom, but is 100% virtual so no attendance is required.

The course has been developed by an international group of health professionals involved in the care of teenagers and young adults with cancer and in the education of health care professionals in this field. For further information please visit:

www.coventry.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-part-time-a-z/a/2227

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What is NEMICS?

The North Eastern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Service (NEMICS) has been established to support improvements in the integration and coordination of cancer services for people living in Northern and Eastern Melbourne.

The following Health Services are involved in NEMICS:

**Eastern Health
Northern Health
Mercy Hospital For Women
Austin Health**