

MDMs and GP communication

Background:

Effective coordination of patient care is enhanced by timely and accurate communication between the various team members.

Providing the GP with a timely summary of the recommended treatment plan, generated by a cancer multidisciplinary team ensures that the GP knows the diagnosis and the next steps in the patient's care plan. It also provides the GP with contact details and direct links to the local cancer multidisciplinary teams. The CANMAP MDM software system is used to generate and send a templated letter.

GPs were consulted throughout the process: from establishing the information that would be most useful to them and when it should be received; development of the template; and on the quality, clarity and usefulness of the MDM letters received.

There are **currently 11 MDMs across the NEMICS health services** sending a one page summary of the MDM discussion to the patient's GP within 2-3 days of the meeting.

Health service	MDMs sending GP letters
Austin Health	Lung Lymphoma
Eastern Health	Early breast Colorectal Endocrine Lung Lymphoma Myeloma
Northern Health	Breast Colorectal
Regional	Melanoma

The following are the results of a recent review of the REGIONAL MELANOMA MDM

Regional Melanoma MDM	No of meetings reviewed	No of patients discussed	No of letters sent	Reasons why letters were NOT sent	% sent within 3 working days of meeting
	4 (16.7.15-27.8.15)	22	18 of 22 (82%)	2 – Private rooms 2 – No reason specified	72% sent within 3 working days

Completion of key fields to generate content in GP letters		
GP letter headings	Relevant CANMAP fields	% completion
Diagnosis	Primary tumour and more details	82%
Stage	Numbered stage	64%
Date of diagnosis	Date of diagnosis	41%
Summary of discussion	Summary of discussion	86%
Treatment intent	Treatment intent	14%
Recommended management plan	Recommended management plan	95%

Some of the common abbreviations the Melanoma MD team use that GPs may be less familiar with:
SBRTx; BRAF; FDG

Patients discussed in the reviewed meetings were from each of the participating health services:

Austin Health	Eastern Health	Northern Health
16	5	1