**What are Victorian Tumour Summits (VTS)?**

VTS are clinician-led forums to identify unwarranted variations in tumour-based clinical practice and cancer outcomes that could be addressed through statewide action. This program facilitates statewide dialogue about the pathways of care and is one of the strategies to support consistent implementation of Optimal Care Pathways.

**Understanding Optimal Care Pathways**

The Optimal Care Pathways detail key principles and recommendations for optimal care at critical points in the cancer continuum, from prevention and identification through to survivorship or end-of-life care. The pathways describe current best practice, based on clinical guidelines, consensus statements, care pathways, standards and evidence to support optimal care at each stage.

**Who are the Head and Neck Cancers Summit?**

A clinical working party, chaired by Mr Stephen Tudge, has convened to guide the Summit planning, oversee data analysis and refine recommendations after the Summit. Clinical representatives from health services within each ICS are invited to attend. Organisations with a stake in improving head and neck cancer outcomes and experience of care will also be represented at the event.

**Which data will be presented?**

The working party has identified key points of enquiry for data analysis:

- **Outcomes** including incidence, mortality, and survival compared across Victoria.
- **Treatment patterns** for patients with head and neck cancer, including utilisation of treatment.
- **Hospital volumes of surgery** of head and neck procedures across Victoria.

**Why does this matter to you?**

Clinic participation in the Summit is critical. At the Summit, participants will have the opportunity to:

- **Review data** on multidisciplinary clinical practice and outcomes across the state.
- **Identify variations** in care that are unwarranted and important to address.
- **Agree on statewide priority areas** through facilitated group discussion.

**Where to after the Summit?**

The priorities from the Summit will be used to inform implementation of the Head and Neck Optimal Care Pathway overseen by DHHS - Cancer Strategy Development. This program supports Victorian public health services to provide consistent, high quality care as described in the Optimal Care Pathway. Ongoing clinical engagement in addressing priority variations under this program is supported by local Integrated Cancer Services. We have built a VTS online community of an e-newsletter, LinkedIn group and Twitter account to showcase improvement efforts and report post-Summit activities.

Have a question? Contact Luellen.Thek@austin.org.au or 9496 3322