

SINGLE CANCER DRUGS EXPERT PANEL

The Board received an update on the introduction of the single process for considering new drugs pre-NICE Guidance. Rob Webster, Chair YCN Management Board will be Lead Chief Executive for the introduction of this new process. Draft Terms of Reference are due to be signed off at the next SCG. Once established, this will replace each Network's Gateway Group approach.

GEFITINIB

The Board was informed that SCG supported the recommendation from the YCN Gateway Group for the use of gefitinib for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with activating mutations of EGFR-TK on a prior approval basis.

PEER REVIEW

An interim update following the external visits in March was provided. It outlined a number of immediate risks (IRs) and serious concerns (SCs). Outstanding formal notification of IRs & SCs for LTHT and the Network are imminent. The Board noted the outcomes and acknowledged the process in place to respond to the IRs & SCs and the timescale required in formulating remedial action plans. The handling of non-compliance with measures was discussed and an assessment of the Network's non-compliance with risk rating will be undertaken.

A common theme emerging from the peer review process was CNS workforce issues. The Board were informed of current work being undertaken using a CNS modelling tool (PANDORA) across the Network to baseline current capacity and work practices to help inform CNS workforce development.

The 2010-2011 peer review schedule was provided.

QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGE AND CANCER

The Board discussed the potential strength of the Network in supporting the quality and productivity challenge facing the NHS. The Board endorsed the Network wide implementation of pilot activity that has a proven evidence base in order to gain both in terms of quality and efficiency. A broad discussion on the prioritisation of activity focused on areas where the greatest gains could be achieved. A review of current locality priorities will also be undertaken to establish common ground.

Further work by the lead team will continue on identifying priority areas of work.