

# YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Breast Cancer Group

Minutes of the meeting held on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2005, 10.30am  
Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate

---

Present:	Mr A Nejim	Airedale NHS Trust
	Mr W Case (Chair) Mr J Price	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	Mrs V Allinson Dr J Dent Mr N Sharma	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Mr R Knox	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
	Ms T Cockrem Dr C Chu Dr D Dodwell Mr K Horgan Dr S Kumar Dr S Lane Mr M Lansdown Dr G Velikova	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mr D Ali Mr J Parmar	Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust
	Ms J Frazer Dr J Joseph Dr J Smales	York Hospitals NHS Trust
	Professor M Baker Mr P Melling Dr A O'Shaughnessy Mrs H Ryan Ms F Stephenson Mr B Tinkler	Yorkshire Cancer Network
	Mr C Button Ms R Patel	Yorkshire Cancer Research Network

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Dr J Adlard, Mr J Ajayi, Dr P Carder, Dr G Coast, Mr G Dyke, Mr I Hutchinson, Dr J Joffe, Dr A Jones, Dr J Liston, Mr B Mancey-Jones, Mr S Nicholson and Dr A Wason.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as being an accurate record.

### 3. Matters Arising

- **Chair of the Group**

Mr Horgan agreed to take over as Chair of the group after the November meeting, he would take on the role as Vice Chair with immediate effect.

- **Hodgkins Disease Recall**

Professor Baker confirmed that the primary recall process is complete. Patients have been referred back to local teams for surveillance.

Professor Baker asked for an update from local teams on the hodgkin's disease recall process. No problems with the continued surveillance were reported.

- **Sentinel Node Biopsy**

Mr Tinkler informed the group that West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation have agreed to make £48,000 available to support the training of up to 8 teams at £6,000 per team in the 2005/2006 financial year. Trusts are expected to apply for funding directly to the West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation.

It was noted that some Trusts are resistant to fund the service whether training has been received or not. Professor Baker agreed to write a letter to all the Trusts across the Network.

**Action: Ms Ryan to circulate the invoicing information and training programme to the group.**

**Professor Baker to write to Trusts regarding sentinel node biopsy service funding.**

- **Surgical Staffing Feedback**

It was noted that Ms Downey would be departing from Bradford shortly. The Leeds surgeon post was re-advertised; however there was no one appointable. Mid Yorkshire have still to appoint one surgeon. York has benefited from Ms L Phipp joining the Trust.

### 4. Family History Update

Dr Chu tabled a paper regarding NICE Guidelines for Screening in Family History. She explained that a Network policy for high risk women should be agreed by the Group. Following discussion it was agreed that high risk women should be screened from 35 years yearly until they are 50 and then 18 monthly.

**Action: Dr Chu to amend Network policy for high risk women.**

### 5. Peer Review Update

Ms Stephenson highlighted that in March 2005 the Network received formal notification of Peer Review. The deadline for uploading evidence onto CQuINS for self assessment is 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Trusts and MDTs will be formally reviewed during September 2005. The Network will be formally reviewed on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October.

- Terms of Reference

Draft terms of reference were circulated for discussion. They were agreed and accepted by the group.

- Membership

Ms Stephenson explained that clarity and agreement is required on some members of the group including a nominated person with a responsibility for service improvement and a person with responsibility for users' issues and patient information.

It was agreed that Ms Allinson would be responsible for users' issues and patient information and Mr Knox would be responsible for service improvement.

- User Involvement

It was agreed that there should be a formal process for obtaining user advice and involvement, by exchange of minutes and/or correspondence and direct discussion between the Chairs of the Network Groups and/or the NHS person responsible for the User Involvement and in the first instance, the Co-chairs of the User Partnership Group. This would be facilitated by the Network User Facilitator.

The group agreed to explore the possibility of having User representatives on the group.

- Guidelines Update

The group discussed the surgical guidelines that had been amended and circulated since the last meeting. The group agreed to adopt the guidelines for the Management of Symptomatic Breast Disease produced by BASO and published in the journal of Cancer Surgery EJSO (2005) 31, S1-S21.

Non-Surgical and Advanced Breast Cancer Guidelines were also discussed by the group and signed off subject to minor alterations.

- Audit and Dataset

Mr Melling circulated for agreement the network-wide MDS to the group. Mr Horgan highlighted that as part of the breast MDS recurrence data should be collected and audited regularly and presented to the YCN Breast Cancer Group. With this amendment the group agreed and accepted the MDS.

Mr Melling informed members of a new project that is a collaboration between NYCRIS and local cancer information teams. This is a detailed case matching exercise between cancer registry and cancer waiting times data to help improve data completeness and quality. First results were presented and areas of concern were highlighted. Unmatched patients and tumours have been returned to local teams for more detailed case note investigation. This work is continuing and the group will be kept informed on future developments.

- Clinical Trials

Mr Button explained that an agreed list of clinical trials is required for the Network and local MDT Quality Measures for Peer Review (1C-115, 2B-153 and 2E-249).

A list of NCRN breast cancer trials was tabled. It was noted that non-NCRN academic trials and commercial industry studies need to be added to the list to make it as comprehensive as possible.

Mr Button explained that Ms Patel will be working with the local research nurses and data managers to discuss and agree the list with their local MDTs.

Dr Dodwell highlighted concerns about the current research governance arrangements for clinical trials.

- Work Programme

Ms Stephenson explained that a work programme has been drafted for the group and discussed with Mr Case. This would be circulated to the group.

**Action: Ms Stephenson to send work programme to Mr Case and Mr Horgan for discussion at the next meeting in November.**

## 6. Aromatase Inhibitors

Dr Dodwell informed members that numerous discussions and meetings have taken place at different levels regarding the use of Aromatase Inhibitors in post-menopausal women with early breast cancer. A paper was submitted to the YCN Management Board, a difficult debate followed which resulted in an agreed YCN policy for the use of aromatase inhibitors in early breast cancer.

Professor Baker confirmed that PCTs have been advised of the policy agreed by the Network Board.

#### **7. Taxanes in Early Breast Cancer**

Dr Dodwell explained that there is general agreement and sufficient evidence to support that adjuvant taxanes should be used for high risk patients. Dr Dodwell will take this forward through oncologist colleagues.

#### **8. Audit- First Priority Outcomes**

A document listing individual data items for the breast cancer priority audit outputs (2004/05) was circulated with the agenda. A discussion followed regarding the definition of the overall denominator for the audit.

It was agreed that each MDT would submit data to Mr Melling by the end of September for him to analyse and present at the November meeting.

**Action: Each MDT to submit local data to Mr Melling by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Mr Melling to analyse and present data at next meeting.**

#### **9. Radiotherapy Delays**

Dr Dodwell confirmed that radiotherapy waiting times for routine post operative breast irradiation is currently 14-18 weeks. The problem is related to lack of therapy radiographers and radiotherapy capacity.

It was noted that there will be recruitment of radiographers during the autumn and two new linacs will be commissioned in September 2005.

A group discussion followed regarding concerns associated with radiotherapy delays.

#### **10. Cancer Waiting Times**

Mr Melling circulated the latest cancer waiting times information to the group with the agenda. The data included cancer waiting times for urgent referral to first seen, decision to treat to treatment, urgent referral to treatment and referral to treatment for the first three quarters of 2004/ 05. Mr Melling explained the data to the group.

#### **11. Standards of Care for Younger Women with Breast Cancer**

A letter and supporting information from Breast Cancer Care regarding standards of care for younger women with breast cancer was circulated with the agenda. Professor Baker explained that the information is for local consideration.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

- **NICE Guidance**

Professor Baker confirmed that NICE has been commissioned to write clinical guidelines on breast cancer with a completion date of around December 2007. The guidelines process will begin in July.

#### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, 10.30am  
Nidd Room, Pavilions of Harrogate.**