

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK

Breast Cancer Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 23rd November 2005, 10.30am
The Queens Suite, Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

Present:	Dr P Carder Mr W Case (Chair) Mr J Price Prof C Twelves Dr A-M Wason	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	Mrs V Allinson Mrs S Iqbal	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Mr G Dyke	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
	Ms B Archer Dr D Dodwell Mr K Horgan Dr S Lane Mr M Lansdown Dr J Liston Dr A Shaaban	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mr D Ali	Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust
	Ms J Frazer Dr J Joseph Ms L Moffat Mr S Nicholson Dr J Smales	York Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mr S Duffy Mr P Melling Mrs H Ryan Mr B Tinkler	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr I Hutchinson, Mr B Mancey-Jones, Mr VK Modgill, Mr A Nejim, Mr J Parmar, Miss L Phipp,

A breast cancer oncology meeting was held concurrently to the Network Group meeting therefore apologies from the Network breast cancer oncologists were noted. Dr Dodwell did brief the group with an update on recent events.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

- **Exchange of Chairs and Nominations for Vice Chair**

Mr Case confirmed that Mr Horgan would take over as Chair of the YCN Breast Cancer Group at the next meeting. A vice chair for the group is required.

Action: Ms Ryan to write to the group asking for nominations for Vice Chair.

4. Peer Review Feedback

Mr Tinkler informed the group of the verbal feedback received by the Network Lead Team following the Network Peer Review Visit on 20th and 21st October.

The draft Peer Review report for the YCN was received on 7th November. Relevant sections of the draft report have been circulated for factual accuracy to those involved in the Network Peer Review visit. A final report will be published in April. The Network will be required to produce an action plan for areas that require improvements and further developments.

Mr Tinkler referred to the good practice examples outlined in the report which included educational events, Aromatase Inhibitor policy, follow-up study, pregnancy related breast cancer care and strong nurses group.

Mr Tinkler explained that there is concern that [1] twice yearly meetings are not frequent enough to meet the needs for decision making relating to issues arising between meetings and [2] the acceptance of the importance of involving users throughout the work of the NSSG. Mr Horgan agreed to look at the frequency of the meetings and to produce a proposal to go to the YCN User Partnership Group.

Mr Horgan highlighted that there is no transparent process for suggested and agreed issues made by the Network Breast Cancer Group to the Network Management Board and there is no clarity of communication. Mr Tinkler explained that as a Network Board member he was the link for the group.

Action: Network Lead Team to meet with Mr Horgan to discuss the issues identified above.

5. Cancer Waiting Times

Mr Melling presented to the group breast cancer waiting times for urgent referral to first seen, decision to treat to treatment, and urgent referral to treatment for Q4 of 2004/2005, 2004/2005, Q1 2005/2006 and Q2 2005/2006. A discussion followed.

6. NICE Guidelines for Early and Advanced Breast Cancer – Questionnaire

A questionnaire from the National Collaborating Centre for Cancer was circulated to the group for completion. The questionnaire was produced to help prioritise the topics to be addressed during the development of NICE Guideline on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Patients with Breast Cancer.

It was agreed that individuals would complete the sections relevant to their speciality outside the meeting and return to Ms Ryan by 9th December.

Action: All to return questionnaire to Ms Ryan by 9th December.

Ms Ryan to collate and return completed questionnaire to National Collaborating Centre for Cancer by 14th December.

7. Update on Sentinel Node Biopsy

The group received an update on Sentinel Node Biopsy (SNB):

Airedale	Training complete.
Bradford	Purchasing probe. Will start training shortly.
Harrogate	Applying for licence.
Mid Yorkshire	Not started.
York	First training day – 29 th November 2005

Mr Case reminded the group that sufficient funding was made available to the Network by West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation for training. Mr Tinkler highlighted that the West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation have not received many invoices to date.

An invoice for SNB should be marked 'Sentinel Node Biopsy Training', FAO Kath Hinchliff, Director of Education Commissioning, WYWDC, Q12 payables, 4225 at Phoenix House, Topcliffe Lane, Wakefield, WF3 1WE.

8. Report on Staffing Levels

Mr Case highlighted that there are breast surgeon consultant posts which remain unfilled throughout the Network. Mr Case has been in contact with Mr John McFie who confirmed that there are currently 7 trainees across the Network at various stages in their SpR course showing an interest in breast surgery. Mr McFie also confirmed that all trainees wanted to do breast surgery without general surgery when finally appointed.

Mr Case explained that Mr McFie would be happy to attend a meeting to discuss allocation of trainees to breast units and general surgical training if this would be helpful.

Mr Nicholson informed the group of the discussions from the National Association of Breast Surgeons (ABS) Committee. The ABS is exploring the future of training of a new kind of breast surgeon with oncoplastic skills but very limited general surgery; a curriculum committee will be established shortly to look at this.

Mr Ali confirmed that a fourth breast surgeon for Mid Yorkshire was advertised with no success. The job was re-advertised with a general surgical component, an appointment was made from outside the UK.

Mr Case suggested inviting a breast surgical trainee to become a member of the group. The group discussed widening this to trainees from other disciplines, e.g. pathology or radiology. It was agreed to invite a surgical trainee in the first instance.

Action: Mr Horgan/ Mr Case to invite breast surgical trainee to join the group.

9. Strategy for Herceptin

Mr Tinkler informed the group of the current position of the YCN and the advice given to PCT commissioners across the YCN. PCT's should consider Herceptin who have had surgery and adjuvant treatment in HER2 positive breast cancer patients on a case by case basis following a request by the patient's doctor which should be made by the relevant PCT. This is on the understanding that the consultant has explained to the patient the potential risks of using an unlicensed product, its potential adverse effects and the patient has consented with that knowledge.

Mr Tinkler highlighted that a paper was submitted to the YCN Management Board giving the background and suggested policy for Herceptin. The PCT commissioners have asked the YCN for clarification on [1] eligibility for Herceptin [2] that a clear record is kept of the consenting process and [3] it is the responsibility of the consultant to prescribe the treatment.

Dr Dodwell highlighted that the Network breast oncologists have agreed that all patients should be HER2 tested, that the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the HERA study should be used as a guide for eligibility, and that eligible patients who received their final treatment with chemo- or radiotherapy less than 6 months previously should be offered the agent. It was noted that high risk patients would be considered on an ad-hoc basis.

Dr Lane announced that from today HER2 testing would be carried out prospectively; the service is fully funded by the Network.

Mr Lansdown suggested developing a Network consent template using the template from the HERA study.

Action: Dr Dodwell to liaise with Mr Thomson regarding a Network consent form.

10. Cancer Network Event Server

A paper describing the Yorkshire Cancer Network Cancer Event Server was circulated with the agenda for information. Mr Melling demonstrated the server to the group.

It is anticipated that the Network Event Server Event will be launched at the end of January. Local events will take place to launch the server.

Mr Case referred to the "Do Once and Share Project" conducted by Fergus Neilson and explained that Mr Neilson has written around the Network requesting suggestions for I.T. data items used for patients to make part of a national project. Mr Melling explained that the event server will feed into the project.

Action: Mr Melling to liaise with Mr Neilson

11. "Do Once and Share Project"

Refer to agenda item 10.

12. Any Other Business

- **Audit**

Mr Melling thanked all units for supplying the data for the agreed network-wide breast cancer MDS, Mid Yorkshire were currently unable to participate due to staff shortages.

Mr Melling presented the data to the group (presentation is attached with the minutes) and a discussion followed.

Mr Melling confirmed that this would be the first of an annual audit.

- **BCOM Project**

Mr Nicholson referred to the BCOM Project and encouraged members to return the signed consent forms directly to Lucy Davies at the ABS.

- **Choose and Book**

Mr Lansdown queried the Network policy for choose and book for cancer patients.

Mr Tinkler explained that the YCN adhere to national policy which states that urgent two week referrals are not included within choose and book. Timescale for implementation is as agreed by individual organisations.

Mr Tinkler has circulated current information to Trust Cancer Lead Managers on choose and book as described above.

- **NYCRIS Database and Governance Issues**

Mr Case explained that he is the clinical governance lead for breast cancer in Bradford and at a recent clinical governance meeting he was asked to raise the issue about the use and misuse of cancer registry data. Mr Lansdown explained that Prof. Bob Haward would be happy to come to the group to present the NYCRIS database and governance issues.

- **Radiotherapy Waiting Times**

Dr Dodwell highlighted that at present routine breast cancer radiotherapy waiting times is 15 weeks from the time of the oncologist seeing the patient. Over the next four-six months there is scope that waiting times will significantly improve.

Dr Dodwell expressed concern that there are a small number of patients being referred to other Radiotherapy Centres outside YCN for their treatment.

It was noted that Mrs Catherine Beardshaw at LTHT has responsibility to focus on radiotherapy waiting times. Leeds are producing a radiotherapy waiting times action plan, given the increases in radiotherapy capacity, which outlines what waiting times will be achieved and when. The plan will be received by the YCN Management Board in January.

- **Breast MRI**

Dr Wason asked for the NSSG to develop and endorse the role of MRI scans in the management of breast cancer.

- **YCN Medical Director**

Mr Sean Duffy introduced himself as newly appointed YCN Medical Director.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 16th March 2006, 10.30am at Pavilions of Harrogate