

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Chemotherapy Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 18th August 2005, 2.30 - 4.30pm
Room 1, YCRN Conference Suite, Cookridge Hospital

Present:	Professor P Taylor	Airedale NHS Trust
	Dr S Cheeseman	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mrs P Daynes Dr J Joffe	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Ms C Spencer	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
	Ms K Collins Professor L Kay (Chair) Ms J Mansell Prof M Seymour	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Ms M Coleman Ms K Norton	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mrs C Miller	York Hospitals NHS Trust
	Miss L Carroll Mr D Thomson	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr A Alldred, Mr L Bond, Dr M Crawford, Mr P Howard, Dr D Jackson and Mr B Tinkler.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Were agreed as being an accurate record.

The aromatase inhibitor paper has been submitted to the 'West Yorkshire Commissioning Group for Medicines' for further discussion.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Dr Joffe declared the personal conflict of interest that he has been on an advisory panel for Herceptin.

Miss Carroll agreed to see if there are any declarations of conflict of interest outstanding for new members.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to see if there are any other declarations of conflicts of interest to report

3.2 Membership

Miss Carroll said she would ask Ms Ryan to email members regarding reviewing the day and time of future chemotherapy group meetings and suggest rescheduling the next meeting to Wednesday 9th November 2005, 2.30pm.

At the YCN Management Board meeting that took place on Monday 18th July 2005 Mr Tinkler tabled a paper outlining independent sector involvement in the YCN site specific and service strategy groups. The Board has agreed to hold an exploratory meeting with all independent sector providers of acute hospital services to explore the relationship they wish to develop. The Chemotherapy group felt it is important that Health Care at Home are involved in these discussions.

Ms Norton agreed to email Prof Kay the name and contact details of the medical colleague willing to represent Mid Yorkshire at the group meetings.

Mr Thomson agreed to produce a discussion paper on the membership of the group and how they can improve links with local chemotherapy and drug & therapeutic groups. Prof Kay felt it would be beneficial to revisit the diagram (produced when the group first formed) on how the group interrelates.

ACTION: Ms Norton to email Prof Kay the name of the medical representative from Mid Yorkshire

Mr Thomson to speak to Mr Tinkler regarding involving Health Care at Home in their meetings

3.3 Policy on charging patients for their medicines

The policy on charging patients for their medicines will be discussed at the next YCN Management Board meeting taking place on Monday 24th October 2005. Once this has been approved Prof Kay will write to members of the Chemotherapy group suggesting they contact directors of finance to ask them to implement this policy in their Trusts.

3.4 Herceptin in Adjuvant Breast Cancer

Mr Thomson ensured members had received the summary paper he had produced demonstrating the budget impact for trastuzumab (Herceptin®) for the adjuvant treatment in patients with HER2 positive breast cancer following initial surgery in the YCN and the position paper produced by David Erskine, Acting Director London & South East Regional Medicine Information Centre.

Mr Thomson summarised the content of the papers. He noted that the YCN population is 2.6m.

Mr Thomson gave feedback on the DOH Herceptin advisory group meeting he had attended with Mr Richards. At this meeting they discussed what should be done in the interim period prior/post licensing of the drug and prior to NICE approval. Discussions took place on how to identify patients who require HER2 testing, whether HER2 testing should be centralised and on the cardiac monitoring implications for the extended use of the drug. Mr Thomson said it is likely trial data will be published in the next few months and noted some European countries are considering pre-licence use. Concerns were raised regarding pre licence prescribing, the length of time between the data being published and licensing (anticipated date July 2006), on Herceptin funding (i.e. will there will be disinvestment in other areas) and on capacity staffing issues.

The group felt there needed to be a uniform approach across the YCN on what should be done prior to the publication of the data and ahead of licensing. After an in-depth group discussion the group agreed the Pharmacy, Nursing, Service Improvement group should look at the capacity/staffing issues and the YCN Breast cancer group (with support from Mr Thomson and Ms Mansell) should produce a position paper to be brought back to the Leeds drug and therapeutic group and Chemotherapy group for further discussion. The group felt it would be beneficial to know what amount of trastuzumab is being used across the Network. The group decided that the agent was not supported for use at this time in the Network.

ACTION: The YCN Breast Group with support from Mr Thomson and Ms Mansell to produce a position paper on trastuzumab and the Pharmacy, Nursing, Service Improvement Group to look at the capacity/staffing issues and present this paper at the next meeting

3.5 Capacity Planning

The next meeting of the Pharmacy, Nursing, Service Improvement Group is taking place on Friday 16th September at 12.00pm. Mr Thomson felt it would be beneficial if this group undertake work on capacity models. It is anticipated the capacity model produced by the DOH will be published in August 2005. This model is split into two sections (delivery of chemotherapy and pharmacy preparation) and will be adopted by most networks, be used for NICE submissions and it is likely HRG costs will be linked to this. Mr Thomson agreed to circulate the model when it is finalised. The group felt they should have an understanding of the capacity across the network and how this could be managed differently.

ACTION: Pharmacy, Nursing, Service Improvement Group to undertake work on capacity models and provide the Chemotherapy group with the model with initial thoughts on its use across the network and populated as far as possible for further discussion on how this can be taken forward.

4. Computerised Prescribing

Companies involved in providing computerised prescribing have demonstrated their systems to the National Group. Five systems were identified. The connecting for Health Board (formally known as the NPfIT Board) met on 11th July are producing a statement regarding the system(s) that should be used if a chemotherapy prescribing system is to be implemented in the network. It is understood that there is no funding available for this intermediate solution. The roll-out of computerised prescribing by the NPfIT has been put back to 2010.

Mr Thomson agreed to ask the YCN Pharmacy group to produce a position paper on the sharing information on systems and regimes.

ACTION: YCN Pharmacy group to produce position paper on sharing information on systems and regimes

5. EPO Model

The draft guidance for the use of Erythropoetin in chemotherapy related anaemia and as part of Emergency Blood Management Arrangement will be discussed at the next YCN & H&YCCN Haematology meeting taking place on Friday 30th September 2005. Mr Thomson agreed to send the final draft guidance to Dr Joffe for comments.

ACTION: Mr Thomson to send Dr Joffe the final draft guidance

6. Education and Training

Mr Thomson said he will speak to Dr Bradley regarding forming a sub-group to progress with the work previously discussed on education and training.

Mrs Miller announced that Ms Collins has been appointed as the Chemotherapy facilitator for the YCN. Mr Thomson said he would liaise with Ms Collins regarding the chemotherapy Peer Review measures.

ACTION: Mr Thomson to speak to Dr Bradley regarding education and training

Mr Thomson to liaise with Ms Collins on the Peer Review measures

7. Status of Guidance from NICE in Cancer Network

Mr Thomson confirmed amendments had been made following the consultation of the NICE policy document and tabled a paper summarising the feedback received from the pilot phase. Mr Thomson ensured the group were happy for him to make the suggested changes to the document and send out for final consultation.

8. Peer review Update

- **Agreed Policy for Preventing Regular Use of Regimes not on Accepted List (1E-306)**

The agreed Policy for Preventing Regular Use of Regimes not on Accepted List (1E-306) and acceptable regimes have been sent to the NSSG Chairs (and copied to the group) for consultation until Friday 9th September 2005. The Colorectal and Upper GI regimes will be circulated shortly.

It was highlighted that not all the Network policies will be finalised in time for some of the Trusts visits.

- **Acceptable Regimes**

No further discussion took place.

9. Network Drug Submission Form

Mr Thomson tabled a paper highlighting the feedback received on the YCN approval and commissioning of cancer chemotherapy and related drugs discussion paper. Consultation of this paper ends on 20th September 2005. An in-depth discussion took place.

It was acknowledged that the YCN Site Specific Groups are dominated by surgical representation and therefore would be more appropriate to approach non surgical oncology forums for decision making on drug issues. Mr Thomson agreed to write to the YCN NSSG Chairs to ask how they link with non surgical colleagues to address such issues.

ACTION: Mr Thomson to write to the NSSG Chairs

10. YCN Guidelines Update

Mr Thomson confirmed that the Extravasation, Care of Venous Aid to Access, Anaphylaxis and Administration of Chemotherapy guidelines has been finalised and is now available on the YCN website www.ycn.nhs.uk

Mrs Miller explained there have been some problems with the implementation of the extravasation guidelines. Mr Thomson said he would liaise with Mr John Dave to see what the alternative recommendation is.

ACTION: Mr Thomson to discuss with Mr John Dave the issues raised on the implementation of the extravasation guidelines.

11. Any Other Business

Mr Thomson reported the DOH is proposing a secondment post to undertake work on the Chemotherapy HRG's. He summarised the proposal used for the pilot.

The group were happy with Mr Thomson's suggestion to include Dr Picton, Chair of the YCN & H&YCCN Paediatric & Adolescent Haematology & Oncology group on the next agenda to discuss how the two groups can link up in particular on sharing competencies.

12. Date of next meeting

Please note that the date of the next meeting has changed again. Please ensure that the following meeting dates are cancelled from your diary:

27th October 2005
9th November 2005
8th December 2005

The date of the next YCN Chemotherapy Meeting is:

Wednesday 30th November 2005, 2.30pm
at Room 1, YCRN Conference Suite, Cookridge Hospital