

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Chemotherapy Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 12th April 2006, 2.30 - 4.30pm
Room 1, YCRN Conference Suite, Cookridge Hospital

Present:	Dr M Crawford Professor P Taylor	Airedale NHS Trust
	Ms L Newton	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Ms P Daynes Dr J Joffe	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Mr A Aldred	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
	Ms S McGonigle	Leeds North East PCT
	Dr D Dodwell Mr P Howard Dr D Gilson Professor L Kay (Chair)	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Ms K Norton	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
	Dr G Dublon	Wakefield West PCT
	Mr P Hall Ms E Jeffers	York Hospitals NHS Trust
	Ms L Carroll Ms K Collins Mr P Melling Mr D Thomson	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr G Haslam, Mrs C Miller, Dr S Picton, Mrs C Spencer and Prof M Seymour.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

It was noted that Dr Kumar will represent Mid Yorkshire at the meetings. Other than this the minutes were agreed as being an accurate record.

Prof Kay asked if the minutes of the meeting could be circulated to the Chief Pharmacists for information.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to add Chief Pharmacists the email circulation list for information.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Declarations of conflict of interest

None.

3.2 ToR work streams

Supporting paper will be circulated with the next agenda.

3.3 Membership

Supporting paper will be circulated with the next agenda.

4. Feedback from local chemotherapy groups

As a result of the Peer Review members were asked to give feedback from their cancer units to identify any governance issues that need to be addressed and help produce the forthcoming work programme.

Mr Thomson gave feedback from the Network team time out meeting that took place on Thursday 6th April 2006. One of the key issues raised at this meeting was regarding governance issues. Arrangements on how decisions made/guidelines produced etc are feedback to the local chemotherapy groups must be formalised and links with the Drugs & Therapeutics Committees must also be made.

- **Airedale**

There is support for the NICE/non NICE drug review implementation proposed by the Chemotherapy Group.

The consent clinic where patients are informed what is available in terms of treatment particularly when related to clinical studies has been well attended.

- **Bradford**

Ms Newton reported that work as a result of the Peer Review is ongoing. Printed prescriptions are been used for oncology but not for haematology.

The Chemotherapy Development Group is currently undertaking work on capacity and demand and therefore Mr Thomson asked locality representatives to ensure their Lead Chemotherapy Nurse and Lead Pharmacist link into this work. Ms Newton said she will speak to her locality regarding having representation on the Chemotherapy Development Group.

Mr Thomson is also undertaking work at LTHT on pre printed haematology scripts and will share this with Ms Newton.

ACTION: Ms Newton to speak to Bradford regarding having representation on the Chemotherapy Development Group.

Mr Thomson to share pre-printed haematology prescriptions work with Ms Newton

- **Calderdale & Huddersfield**

No major governance issues to report. The main concern is the financial impact Herceptin will have on the prescription budget.

- **Mid Yorkshire**

Work is ongoing following the Peer Review visit. Funding has been approved for an Aseptic unit at the Pinderfields site. Work on Trust led pre-printed prescriptions is also being undertaken. A haematology clinical governance group has been formed which will feedback to the Trust clinical governance group.

Mid Yorkshire has had difficulty gaining funding for approved drugs (including Network approved ones). Mr Thomson explained that he has raised with Mr Tinkler the fact that many of the Network guidelines are not linked into the commissioning process. A group discussion followed.

Prof Kay suggested they scope the different systems in operation and look at how they can improve the link with PbR, commissioning and banding for chemo and how this can be collated into a framework to be used across the Network.

- **Harrogate & District**

Work on the actions identified at the Peer Review i.e. capacity access and demand, Herceptin, homecare, electronic prescribing and pre printed prescriptions is being undertaken.

- **Leeds**

A new chemotherapy group has been formed that will cover chemotherapy governance and all non surgical oncology, haematology and solid tumours. Work on capacity and demand is also being undertaken.

- **York**

Ms Jeffers summarised the work York is undertaking on the decision making of new drugs noting that David Jackson is leading on this.

Discussion with Leeds regarding transferring second line chemotherapy service for colorectal cancer back to York is ongoing.

A third oncologist was not appointed after interview and therefore this post will be re-advertised.

Philip Hall, the Lead Pharmacist for haematology & oncology is leaving the Trust and therefore discussions are taking place to discuss future support.

Work as a result of the Peer Review is ongoing.

Members discussed in detail how they can improve links into the commissioning process. Mr Thomson emphasised the importance of representatives on the group feeding back to their local Drug and Therapeutic Committees to improve communication flows. Prof Kay suggested that the YCN Chemotherapy Group primarily work on having a standard D&T decision about drugs across the Network and then work on developing a standard approach towards medicine financing.

5. Financial arrangements for new cancer drugs in 2006/07

Mr Howard reported following discussions at the West Yorkshire Commissioning Group for Medicines on tertiary drugs that commissioners have agreed they will fund drugs currently approved by NICE and will fund drugs that will be approved by NICE within at the end of the three month threshold. A list 'Not generally preferred for funding' has also been produced – it was unclear at present what "not preferred" meant.

Mr Howard agreed to produce a paper summarising the approach to how the financing of the cancer drugs works. Mr Howard summarised the approach Leeds have taken. Dr Crawford asked if the group could agree to no longer use the term 'tertiary' drugs. A group discussion followed. Members agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

ACTION: Mr Howard to summarise the approach to how the financing of the cancer drugs works

6. Capacity planning

Work is currently being undertaken through the Chemotherapy Development Group.

7. Dose banding of cytotoxics

The National Network Pharmacists are undertaking a scoping exercise of the work that is currently being undertaken on dose banding at each of the units. Mr Thomson will collate the findings for the YCN and feedback at a future meeting.

8. Herceptin

The H&YCCN have agreed to submit a joint tender on herceptin with the YCN. A sub-group meeting to progress this work is taking place on 15th June 2006. Prof Kay asked any interested parties wanting to become involved in this work to contact Mr Thomson.

9. Computerised prescribing

Mr Thomson has circulated to the pharmacist group the national specification for comment. Discussions on how this is to be consulted need to take place. Mike Richards has agreed to release the information on the national specification. Mr Thomson said it is his understanding that there is no national funding for this. Mr Howard explained that he had spoken to Ms A Sleigh, Lead on Computerised Prescribing who has confirmed there will be some funding made available however business cases must be submitted. National notification will be circulated shortly.

Mr Howard encouraged colleagues to attend the Connecting for Health work shops taking place this year.

10. EPO model

The consultation of the EPO model has been postponed as NICE will publish their guidance the following month.

11. Horizon scanning

The YCN & H&YCCN Haematology group discussed the horizon scanning paper at their last meeting and agreed to have this as a standing agenda item. A horizon scanning paper will also be tabled at the YCN Breast cancer meeting taking place on 16th October 2006. It is hoped horizon scanning can be discussed at each NSSG meeting. Mr Thomson asked if members could send him any comment they have on the paper. The importance that the Horizon scanning paper links into the Network guidelines was highlighted.

ACTION: Members to send any comments on the horizon scanning paper to Mr Thomson.

12. Education and training

The Draft Competency Documents for the Administration of Chemotherapy by Nurses within the YCN have been circulated for a final consultation that ends on 25th April 2006.

The draft presentations to provide an YCN chemotherapy administration training programme have also been circulated for comments. Consultation ends Tuesday 23rd May 2006.

13. Status of guidance from NICE in cancer Network

The policy on NICE guidance is out for consultation which ends on 19th May 2006.

14. YCN approved regimes

Mr Thomson ensured members had received the YCN approved regimes update paper. The Network Haematology regimes have been approved and are available on the YCN website. The next step is for Local chemotherapy group haematology regimes lists to be submitted for approval. The next Network regimes to be produced are for the YCN Breast Group.

ACTION: Local Chemotherapy Groups to produce relevant regimen lists for Haematology and submit to YCN Chemotherapy Group.

15. Any other business

None.

16. Date of next meeting

**Wednesday 21st June 2006, 2.30pm,
YCRN Meeting Room 1, Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital.**