

**YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK
Gynaecology Nurses Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
17th October 2005
St James's University Hospital, Leeds**

Thank you to Jo Higgins for chairing the meeting

Present

Catherine Barnfield
Cheryl Downes
Jo Higgins
Carol Hancock
Beverly Hurst
Pat Marsden

Apologies

Marion Webb
Robyn Wells
Lynn Jackson

Minutes from last meeting were agreed as accurate and were used as a basis for this meeting.

Patient Information

It has become apparent from peer review that the surgical leaflets that we have been working on are not yet at a stage where they can be sent to medical illustration. The booklets need to say the same, and say what we want before they go to Medical illustration as Jane Garrud will format them for us but will not rewrite or change any of the written word.

We also need to have some agreement as to how the first print run will be funded. It is still the understanding that the booklets from the first run will be purchased by the units and this income will then pay for future print runs.

Plan

For each CNS involved in initial formatting to meet up and standardize the booklets. These are

Beverley Hurst - Vulva
Carol Hancock - Endometrium
Marion Webb - Cervix
Claire Parkinson - Ovary
Pat Marsden - Exonteration

The date of this meeting to be arranged with Carol Hancock.

We also need to arrange for these to be proof read by one of the user groups. Cheryl will speak to Jane Archer (information manager) to arrange this.

Support for radiotherapy patients

Cheryl explained that she sees radiotherapy patients during treatment to give support with regard to side effects of treatment and dilator information. She does not provide any long term psychological support or financial advice as she may only meet them 2-3 times during the treatment. Because of this it was felt that unit CNS'S should still be involved and should remain the key worker during radiotherapy.

Plan

At the end of radiotherapy, Cheryl will make sure patients have contact numbers for unit CNS's and ensure that they know to contact them with any ongoing problems.

With regards to dilators, a new leaflet has been produced at Cookridge. These were produced with input from the National guidance. Dilators will be offered to all radiotherapy patients and it is their choice as to using them. We are now using the Amielle dilators and offer appropriate size, handle and lubricating gel. Beverley has access to the full sets for her patients. Cheryl is looking to work with unit CNS's with regard to education for using dilators after radiotherapy.

Network plans

Follow up

It was decided that we need to know more about what is happening in nurse led follow up around the country. It was felt that we should do a literature search and visit Middlesborough where nurse led follow up was being used.

Plan

Beverley will contact Middlesborough and arrange a day out to observe their service. It was felt that maybe a nurse from centre and unit should visit.

Questionnaire

Pat and Cheryl felt that it was a very bad idea to ask the consultants what they expect from us and what they felt that we needed to develop further. We should

be able to identify these ourselves. Also, what happens when a consultant says they expect something we are not giving? We would then have to justify why we cannot provide that service. Beverley agreed that we may be opening a can of worms.

It could also be difficult as we all give very different services.

Maybe we should use the next network meeting to tell them what we do and identify that we work very differently. We can also make them aware of how well we work together and how we communicate.

Study day update

Pat and Cheryl have arranged the next study day for May 5th 2006. The subject is the hidden aspects of gynaecological cancer. It is at a new venue and will cost £10 per person.

A flier was handed around for each CNS to copy and distribute within their geographical area.

Cheryl will take responsibility for contacting Sue Thompson in Scarborough.

A provisional programme was also discussed and will be finalized at a later date.

We would be grateful for any sponsors for the event and we are trying to encourage new sponsors and products. We are asking for £250 per rep which will cover the fees for the room hire.

BGCS

Cheryl has contacted Geoff Lane regarding a nursing speaker and he has not replied. We have all offered to help out during the conference but again this has not been acknowledged. We all feel that it is too expensive to justify attendance but Cheryl is interested in two talks only and may attend as a day delegate.

Any other business

It was mentioned that maybe we should revise the name of the study day to reflect that YGONG no longer exists and we should now call the study day after the YCN Gynaecology Nurses Group.

This will be discussed further. The next study day will still be advertised as YGONG and we could announce any changes on the day.

Next Meeting will be held Tuesday 29th November 2005 at 8.30 am.
Venue to be arranged by Pat Marsden in Calderdale.