

# Yorkshire Cancer Network Skin Cancer Group

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005, 2.00pm**  
Arthington House Conference Suite, Cookridge Hospital

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Present:	Dr J O'Dowd	Airedale NHS Trust
	Mr S Al-Ghazal Dr P Batman Dr K London Ms C Wheelhouse	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	Dr G Slack	Eastern Wakefield PCT
	Dr W Merchant (Chair) Professor J Newton-Bishop Mr H Peach Dr G Stables Ms J Sugden	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Dr E Potts	Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust
	Professor M Baker Mr P Melling Mrs H Ryan	Yorkshire Cancer Network

## 1. Apologies for absence

Dr A Boon, Dr G Ford, Dr H Galvin, Dr F Hicks, Dr C Lyon, Dr G Taylor, Mr B Tinkler and Dr A Wright

## 2. Minutes from the last meeting

Were agreed as being an accurate record.

## 3. Matters arising

### • YCN Skin Cancer Pathology Guidelines

The YCN Skin Cancer Pathology Guidelines were circulated at the last meeting for comments.

Dr Merchant explained that the YCN Pathology Group produced the guidelines for good practice and for the Quality Measures for Peer Review.

Dr Merchant presented the guidelines and highlighted a number of issues to the group. The group accepted the guidelines.

### • Update from Skin Cancer Network Leads Meeting

Dr Merchant circulated electronic documents from the Skin Cancer Network Leads meeting, which he had attended in London. Dr Merchant explained the presentations to the group.

- **BCC/SCC Minimum Dataset**

Dr Merchant explained the difficulty in defining high risk and low risk BCC's of recurrence after treatment.

Dr Merchant displayed documents from the Standards and Minimum Datasets for Reporting Skin Cancers from the Royal College of Pathologists. The dataset divides BCC's into low risk and high risk types, the high risk BCC's are then divided into sub types.

Dr Merchant displayed an audit of BCC's from Leeds and explained the results to the group. It was noted that there are a surprisingly high number of BCC's fall into the high risk group.

A discussion followed regarding the sub-categories for high risk BCC's. The group agreed that more work is required to define high and low risk BCC's.

**Action: Dr Merchant to modify the minimum dataset.**

- **Primary Care Representative**

Dr Slack, GP with Specialist Interest from Eastern Wakefield PCT was welcomed to the group.

- **Yorkshire Skin Lymphoma Guidelines Update**

Dr Merchant informed the group that the Yorkshire Skin Lymphoma Guidelines are progressing and currently with Dr Gilson.

Dr Merchant explained that he has had discussions with colleagues about obtaining dermatology time for skin lymphomas. It was suggested to wait until the Improving Outcomes Guidance is published to give an ideal standard to work to. The group were unsure where funding would come from to support such a system.

Dr Merchant agreed to find out the number of B cell patients and estimate the number of patients with fungoides.

Dr Merchant informed the group that he had met with a Service Improvement Facilitator from the YCN Service Improvement Team who would be willing to help the group produce a document for certain service provision once the guidance has been produced.

**Action: Dr Merchant to invite Dr Di Gilson and Dr Rod Johnson to present the guidelines at the June meeting.**

#### **4. NICE Guidance**

Dr Merchant highlighted that the consultation on the first draft of the NICE Guidance by stakeholders is due at the end of March to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and the consultation on the final draft will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The final version of the guidance is expected in December 2005.

Professor Baker informed the group that the published guidance will be translated into a set of Quality Measures which will then be subject to periodic Peer Review. The timing of the publication is an issue, as the measures will not be drafted until April 2006, a six month lead time will then follow from the publication of the measures and the conduct of Peer Review. The current round of Peer Review ends in March 2007 when most Networks will have already been reviewed.

The current intention is to translate the guidance into measures which will be an audit tool.

Professor Baker explained that there will be an interest in the NICE Guidance at the Department of Health as it is the first opportunity to apply the cancer strategy principles to primary care practice.

Professor Newton-Bishop informed the group that she attended a meeting of the EORTC Melanoma Group and it was confirmed that there will be no more stage two trials for melanoma, there will only be

stage three which requires Sentinel Node Biopsy. Sentinel Node Biopsy will have to be carried out in order to participate in adjuvant trials.

It was noted that the main issue for Sentinel Node Biopsy is lack of funding. A business case was sent to Professor Baker and it was confirmed that until the NICE Guidance is published there is no central pressure or availability of funding for developing services.

A discussion followed regarding how to obtain funding for Sentinel Node Biopsy with no conclusion.

## **5. Cancer Waiting Times**

Skin cancer waiting times information was circulated to the group with the agenda for urgent referral to first seen, decision to treat to treatment and urgent referral to treatment for the first and second quarter of 2004/5. Mr Melling explained the data to the group.

Mr Melling confirmed that the data for quarter three of 2004/05 had just been published.

Mr Melling highlighted that the 31 and 62 day targets will become live targets in December 2005. Much work is still required to achieve the 62 day target.

## **6. Any Other Business**

- **Patient Information CD-ROM**

Professor Newton-Bishop informed the group that the patient information melanoma multi media package is now available online at [www.genomel.org](http://www.genomel.org).

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist Post**

Ms Wheelhouse informed the group that another Skin Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist post has been advertised in Portsmouth.

- **Meeting venue**

Dr Merchant had received a letter from Dr Cheesbrough suggesting a more central venue for future skin cancer meetings. The group agreed that Cookridge Hospital was the preferred venue.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005, 2.00pm  
at YCRN Conference Suite, Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital**