

Meeting of the Haematology Site Specific Group*Thursday 21st May 2018 (12:30-14:30)**The Arundell Arms (Tamar Conference Room), Fore Street, Lifton, Devon***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

This group will observe the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) which allows a general right of access to recorded information including minutes of meetings, subject to specific exemptions. No one present today had any objections to their names being distributed in the minutes.

Draft Notes**Chair: Patrick Medd**

Consultant Haematologist, University Hospitals Plymouth

Reference	Notes
1.0	Welcome and Introductions.
1.1	Please refer to separate record of attendance via this link .
2.0	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and accepted as an accurate record.
2.1	Matters Arising
2.1.1	Ref 3.6.2: Research activity across the Peninsula is good, no cause for concern. Access to transport for patients who are disadvantaged by geography was discussed-this should be considered on a trial by trial basis and available options/support considered.
2.1.2	Ref 6.0 (audit): All haematology clinics across the Peninsula Cancer Alliance Trusts are 100% overbooked.
3.0	Clinical Guidelines
3.1	The group will consider adopting clinical guidelines from another Cancer Alliance group (with relevant permissions). Please refer to the following links for examples of current Haematology guidelines: North West Coast Strategic Clinical Network Thames Valley Strategic Clinical Network Kent and Medway Cancer Collaborative National Comprehensive Cancer Network
3.2	Care across the Peninsula needs to be equitable, any such guidance adopted needs to be flexible enough to allow for acceptable variations at a local level.

3.3 The possibility of allocating clinicians to sub-specialities to contact for specialist advice/guidance/support was discussed and has been proposed as follows:

3.3.1 **Myeloma**

Hannah Hunter (Consultant Haematologist-Plymouth)
Heather Eve (Consultant Haematologist-Torbay)
Liz Parkins (Consultant Haematologist-Cornwall)

3.3.2 **Lymphoma**

Deborah Turner (Consultant Haematologist-Torbay)
Simon Rule/David Lewis (Consultant Haematologists-Plymouth)
Dave Lewis (Consultant Haematologist-Plymouth)
Adam Forbes (Consultant Haematologist-Cornwall)
Paul Kerr (Consultant Haematologist-Exeter)

3.3.3 **AML/MDS**

Patrick Medd (Consultant Haematologist-Plymouth)
David Veale (Consultant Haematologist-North Devon)
Deborah Turner (Consultant Haematologist – Torbay)
Bryson Pottinger (Consultant Haematologist-Cornwall)

3.3.4 **CML/MPD**

Patrick Roberts (Consultant Haematologist-Torbay)
Patrick Medd/Sam Burrows (Consultant Haematologist-Plymouth)
Jason Coppell (Consultant Haematologist-Exeter)

3.3.5 **CLL**

Claire Hutchison (Consultant Haematologist-Plymouth)
Toby Todd (Consultant Haematologist-Cornwall)
Deborah Turner (Consultant Haematologist – Torbay)

4.0 **Living with and Beyond Cancer (LWBC)**

4.1 End of treatment summaries are now in use, however not all areas are compliant with full implementation of the recovery package due to a lack of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

5.0 **Regional Service Challenges**

5.1 Torbay and Exeter have initiated a mutual aid request across the Peninsula in view of continued difficulties with filling vacancies. Current service provision is unsustainable and there are notable gaps.

5.2 Haematology services across the Peninsula are experiencing very high levels of demand and there are a number of difficulties to address, both acute and in the longer term.

- 5.3 Exeter has 2 consultant gaps and lacks the freedom with current capacity to offer cover. Locums are in place.
- 5.4 In Torbay as of the 1st July for a three month period, cover for 1 in 4 weekends will be a challenge. Phone cover will be provided by colleagues across the Peninsula, but there will not be any on-site cover.
- 5.5 Truro has a lack of middle-grade staff cover and is facing a recruitment crisis.
- 5.6 There are concerns that trainee development is suffering as a result, and there is a gross lack of registrars for the Peninsula Trusts (in comparison to areas of comparable size). Consultants are under great pressure and posts are difficult to recruit in to.
- 5.7 It is necessary to come up with innovative ideas in order to address the future of Haematology service challenges, including the development of non-medical roles such as Advanced Nurse Practitioners, as well as firm research plans and sub-specialisation.
- 5.8 The group were of the view that an external consultant review of the Peninsula workforce is required.
- 6.0 **2ww straight to test for biopsy**
- 6.1 2ww forms across the Peninsula are not the same, however pathway changes would be required in order to standardise this.
- 6.2 GPs are not always referring patients on to the right pathway (for example-neck lumps that should be referred to ENT). Is there are need for GP education?
- 6.3 **Action:** MDT Leads to look at the wording on the 2ww form with regards to lymph nodes.
- 7.0 **Clinic Appointment Times**
- 7.1 **Action:** (with reference to section 2.2) Hannah Hunter will contact Sally Moore at RUH to discuss evidence to support clinic appointment time allocation.
- 7.2 Consideration needs to be given to appointment slots to ensure that they are appropriate in length and clinically safe.
- 7.3 **Action:** PK to devise a proforma for a Pan-Peninsula audit.
- 8.0 **AOB**
- 8.1 SIHMDS requires a separate meeting (no time today to cover this).
- 8.2 Patrick Medd formally handed over chairmanship to Jason Coppell for a 3 year term, it was agreed that Adam Forbes would then be the next successor.
- 8.3 Thanks were extended to Patrick Medd for leading the Haematology SSG over the last three years.

- 8.4 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th October (NK to liaise with Jason Coppel).

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