

*Minutes of the PCA Haematology SSG**Thursday 17th October 2019**The Arundell Arms Hotel, 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.

Meeting Minutes**Chair: Dr Jason Coppell**

Consultant Haematologist, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

Reference	Notes
1.0	Welcome and Introductions.
1.1	Please refer to separate record of attendance via the SWCN website.
1.2	JC opened the meeting by welcoming two new consultants to the Peninsula; Tom Coats (Exeter) and Barry Jackson (Torbay).
1.3	The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd May 2019 were considered.
2.0	Matters Arising
2.1	(Ref:2.3) Adjustments have been made to the Sub-Speciality Leads in order to highlight the relationship that already exists between the trusts.
2.1.1	ACTION : BK to upload onto the SWCN Website
2.2	ACTION : BK to email SWCN website link to the group.
2.3	(Ref 2.4.2) JC has emailed the Alliance lead and author of the Thames Valley Guidelines to ask permission to adopt guidelines.
2.3.1	ACTION : JC and BK to chase up before the next meeting.
2.3.2	ACTION : HH to ask PM to ask Andy Peniket; Thames valley SSG Chair for permission if email approval not forthcoming
2.4	(Ref 5.1) The next meeting on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN) is on the 6 th November 2019. A monthly MDT by WebEx is being hosted by BHODS for Myeloproliferative cases.
2.4.1	ACTION : JC to arrange for further details on both to be circulated to the group.

3.0 Staffing Updates from across the Peninsula

3.1 Plymouth

The SpR rota has improved and there are currently no vacancies for consultant posts. However the team has a lack of middle-grade medical and senior nursing staff (CNS'/ ANPs)

3.2 Exeter

The team have been working two consultants short for 2.5 years, but they now have Tom on board and interviews are in progress for the second unfilled post. One CNS is due to be off on maternity leave shortly and both ANPs are leaving, with no sign of imminent replacement.

3.3 Truro

Desmond Creagh has retired and returned part time. Richard Noble may retire next year. The team is currently looking at reshuffling sub-specialities within the Trust and will be advertising for an additional consultant in due course.

3.4 Torbay

The team now has a full complement of 6 consultants (3FT and 3PT) in place. However Dr Rymes will fully retire next year.

3.5 North Devon

Medical staffing has improved in parallel with Exeter, but there is similar instability with respect to nursing – although there are currently 3 CNS' in post, this is only guaranteed until January

3.6 The STP has been meeting to discuss Peninsula-wide staffing issues, but no substantial progress has yet been made. Drs Hunter, Kerr and Turner intend to push this forwards in the coming months.

4.0 Lymphoma Pathway

4.1 DT from RCHT has completed most the work for the Lymphoma pathways and has revised the guidelines following feedback from the last meeting (Ref: 6.0). The peninsula is happy to adopt these as Network Guidelines moving forward.

4.1.1 **ACTION:** BK to email guidelines out to the group for final comments, with the aim of signing them off at the next meeting.

4.1.2 **ACTION:** Once signed off, BK to upload to the SWCN website for reference.

5.0 CNS/ LWBC Update

5.1 Exeter is currently changing their EOT summary templates. The team has recognised that for their cohort of patients, it would be more suitable to send “End of a Treatment” summary to patients and GPs, rather than “End of Treatment”. These will detail potential side effects from treatments to assist GPs and to help patients recognise any adverse effects. The rest of the LWBC service is well embedded within the team.

5.1.1 Recent results from the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey found that a lot of patients visiting the hospital have commented on the business of the team.

5.2 Plymouth collaborates with The Mustard Tree charity for their LWBC delivery. The teams are focusing on hitting the KPI targets, but have struggled due to a vacant Band 4 Cancer Support Worker role.

5.2.1 The team scored well on the patient experience survey but identified that accessibility to a CNS was challenging for patients. The team does not have an answerphone service, in order to avoid urgent messages being left. The group discussed a generic mailbox that sends automatic replies in emails as a solution.

6.0 **Research Update**

6.1 *Malignant Haematology Recruitment*

Please see the slides circulated with the minutes from Chris Levett, *Research Delivery manager, NIHR Clinical Research Network South West Peninsula*. The general impression from the group was that recruitment to NCRN-badged studies for the current financial year will be globally reduced (looking at the tear to date figures available). This is likely to be because many of the larger studies in AML and Myeloma are currently reaching completion. The SW Peninsula compares well with similar-sized regions in terms of recruitment.

7.0 **Genomics Presentation and Update – Guest Speakers**

John McGrath (*Deputy Director, SW Genomic Medicine Centre*)

Chris Wragg (*Head of Molecular Cytogenetics, South West Genomics Laboratory Hub*)

Ana Juett (*Programme Lead, SW Genomic Medicine Centre*)

7.1 Please see slides circulated with the minutes for further details.

7.2 A National Test Directory has been set up and will be reviewed annually. Please see the link on the slides for further details. These tests will be centrally funded from April 2020, but until then the provider requesting the tests will be charged.

7.3 The group agreed that Peninsula-wide guidelines for the use of genomic testing would be useful and perhaps this NSSG should collaborate with SWAG on authorship.

7.4

Haematology is one of the three groups where whole genome sequencing will soon become standard of care for ALL/AML and for all patients less than 19 years of age.

7.5

CW confirmed that the samples (bone marrow and skin biopsy) need to be received by the laboratory within 72 hours.

7.6

AJ notified the group that a regional Genomic Cancer Event is being held on the 29th January 2020 in Taunton.

7.6.1

ACTION: BK to circulate event flyer to the group

7.7

7.7.1

A SW GMC Haem GTAB WebEx is being held on the 30th October 2019.

ACTION: BK to circulate Invite to the group.

8.0

AOB

8.1

The group agreed to continue holding SSG meetings three times a year alongside Blood Club (January, May, and October).

ACTION: BK to arrange both for the 23rd January 2020 and to liaise with Liz Parkins regarding which Trust will organise the Blood Club Meeting (likely to be Torbay, then Truro).

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