

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019!

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable festive season. The Southern Cancer Network team are now back on deck after enjoying a relaxing break over the Christmas/New Year period and looking forward to continuing improvement work in 2019.

This Southern Cancer Network Quarterly update highlights the recent activities of the network, as reported in our most recent quarterly report. The quarterly report is a key aspect of our accountability framework, where we provide detailed information around the progress we're making with our annual work plan, which goes to the South Island DHB leadership and the Ministry of Health.

The updates below reflect our key work streams. If you have any queries or would like more information, please feel free to contact the team member who has responsibility for that particular piece of work. More information about SCN is on our website: [Southern Cancer Network](http://SouthernCancerNetwork.org.nz).

Faster Cancer Treatment (FCT) Programme



This update is based on Q1 18/19 data (July – September 2018). While the Ministry of Health have confirmed the place of the Cancer Health Targets within Regional Health Service Plans for 18/19, SCN and the South Island DHBs await confirmation from the Ministry of Health regarding the requirements for public reporting and what change in emphasis is to be given to service improvement nationally into the future. In the meantime SCN continues to support DHBs to improve the timeliness of diagnosis and treatment for cancer.

Overall, the South Island achieved 86% for the 62-day health target (the health target is 90% of patients referred in with a high suspicion of cancer and triaged as urgent must receive their first definitive cancer treatment within 62 days of the date of receipt of referral). The health target was achieved by Canterbury and Nelson Marlborough DHBs, but was not met by the other SI DHBs. For the 31-day indicator (85% of all patients with a new cancer diagnosis should receive their first definitive cancer treatment within 31 days of the date of decision to treat), the South Island as a whole met the target, achieving 88%. Canterbury DHB, Nelson Marlborough DHB, South Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB individually met the 31-day indicator. Southern DHB achieved 84% and therefore just fell short of meeting the indicator.

The patient mapping template that has been developed amongst South island FCT leads has been further modified, to include FSA, biopsies, complex imaging, MDMs, decision to treat and first definitive treatment, and also tumour stream, treatment modality and ethnicity. The new look FCT dashboard has been shared with Te Waipounamu Māori Leadership Group and SI FCT leads, and this now includes patient maps of all Māori 62-day and Inter-district flow (IDF) patients. This had a favourable reception and should help DHBs to identify areas of constraint, possible inequities and opportunities for further improvement work. The SI FCT leads continue to focus on three key areas for 2018/19:

- Maintaining focus on urgency throughout inter-departmental and/or inter-DHB referral processes
- Impact of diagnostics pathways on timeliness of cancer treatment
- Review of capacity constraint breaches

For further information contact: Simon.Pointer@siapo.health.nz

Regional Cancer Pathways

Work continues to determine the business and system requirements of each DHB with regard to MOSAIQ in advance of the work to complete the implementation of MOSAIQ across the remainder of the South Island. In the last quarter,

site visits to SDHB, CDHB, SCDHB and WCDHB have been undertaken, with a visit to NMDHB to take place in January 2019. The aim has been to do a stocktake of the current use of MOSAIQ and the other electronic systems now and in the future by services around the South Island. The interoperability of systems will be investigated with input from vendors. A bi-directional scheduling interface with SI-PICS has been highlighted at this stage as a priority. This would not only allow for less duplication of work for staff, but also improved visibility of oncology and haematology patients to other departments and DHBs. One key finding that has been identified already is that MOSAIQ is used differently from DHB to DHB and that alignment of some of the electronic workflows would need to occur in order for a SI wide interface with SI-PICS to be effective for all sites. Once this work is complete the final project plan covering off all further planning and the subsequent implementation of this rollout (once approved) will be finalised, including resubmission to the SI Alliance Operational Group (SIAOG) and the Alliance Leadership team (ALT).

For further information contact: Simon.Pointer@siapo.health.nz

The annual assessment of the Cancer Clinical & Service Priorities, by the South Island/SCN Cancer Clinical Leads Group, will be undertaken at its meeting in February 2019.

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Q2 has seen further consolidation of the bowel screening programme in Southern and Nelson Marlborough DHBs. The impact of the programme on referrals to DHBs for cancer treatment continues to be monitored, noting that there has been impact on colonoscopy services relative to the polyp detection rate. This will continue to be monitored as other DHB's programmes roll out. Click [here](#) for more information on the National Bowel Screening Programme.



National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

The planned release of Early Detection of Lung Cancer Guidance is on hold, while work is underway on national toolkit resources. SCN will support the roll-out of these once available. This is likely to be available for use by the end of Q3 2018/19. Implementation will follow.

For further information contact: Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

Service Co-ordination and Quality Improvement

Implementation of the SI cancer MDM electronic system (SIMMS) originally developed by SDHB clinicians, continues to progress with six more MDMs added to Health Connect South (HCS) in the past six weeks bringing the total number of MDMs using the HCS system to 11 of 15 total planned for implementation in CDHB and NMDHB.

The remaining MDMs in CDHB and NMDHB will adopt the SIMMS over 18/19. SDHB MDMs will also be moved across to the HCS version with the ultimate aim to have all cancer MDMs on a single platform accessed via HCS. Other supporting processes will be aligned as part of this work.

For further information contact: Janfrey.Doak@siapo.health.nz

Survivorship

South Island stakeholders recently provided feedback on the draft national survivorship consensus statement. The feedback commended the collaborative work that had been undertaken with suggestions to improve the clarity of the survivorship continuum and a strengthened equity focus. This feedback and the finalised statement will inform SCN/DHBs in the development of a local trial of post-treatment support.

For further information contact: Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

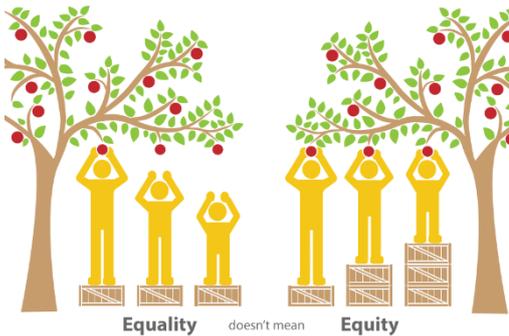
Radiation Oncology Services

The South Island Radiation Oncology Partnership Group met again on 12 December 2018. Using the National Radiation Oncology dataset, Stage I breast cancer fractionation was reviewed and compared to that prior to the recommendations made in 2017 for hypofractionation. Analysis has shown a shift in practice from 25 fractions to 15 fractions and less heterogeneity of practice across the South Island. The reduction in the number of fractions provided to Stage I breast cancer patients not only reduces the impact of travel for inter-district flow patients receiving radiation therapy, but also frees up linear accelerator capacity. The fractionation for Stage II and Stage III breast treatment along with follow up care will be reviewed and recommendations will be made in due course.

For further information contact: Simon.Pointer@siapo.health.nz

Reducing Inequities

A draft Equity Framework will be considered by Te Waipounamu Māori Leadership Group (TWMLG) at their February meeting, with a view to utilising the Framework in the development of the SCN 2019-20 workplan.



Following work to review and clarify the roles and memberships of TWMLG and SICCG, both groups have identified priorities within the SCN workplan that they will support. Both groups will also be involved as partners in developing the SCN workplan for 2019-20.

The Te Waipounamu Māori Leadership Group (TWMLG) met on 23rd November 2018 with the following key messages from the meeting:

- TWMLGC received an update on Bowel Screening uptake in Southern DHB and were pleased to see the high rate of Māori participating. The group is also providing the Regional Bowel Screening Programme with feedback on its South Island Equity Plan.
- TWMLGC received an initial version of the revised FCT dashboard and were very supportive of the approach taken, while noting ongoing concerns about the exclusion of 'patient choice' and 'clinical considerations' from MOH reporting against the 62 day target.
- In particular the group was excited by the information presented in the 'Map of Māori 62 Day Breaches', and wish to further investigate what insight this information can provide on preventing delays and streamlining the patient journey.
- TWMLGC members discussed next steps for their workplan and alignment with SCN activities, in particular around the SCN Equity Assessment Framework, further work around FCT breaches and dissemination of the Routes to Diagnosis findings.
- The group were pleased to receive very positive updates on trials for cervical screening self-testing occurring in Northland and Waitemata/Auckland. Both trials are successfully reaching women who are currently under-screened and participants are responding positively to self-testing. As part of the trials, consideration is being given to options around contacting women, delivery and collection of tests and provision of information about the process. TWMLGC noted concern that the transition to HPV testing and roll-out of self-testing is still several years away due to competing priorities in MOH.

The next meeting will be held on the 15th February 2019. For further information contact:

Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

The findings from the Routes to Diagnosis Project have been presented at the Grand Round in Canterbury DHB on 30 November 2018. An abstract was submitted to the Cancer Care at a Crossroads conference (31 January – 1 February 2019), a national conference co-hosted by the University of Otago and the Cancer Society of New Zealand, and supported by the NZ Society of Oncology and Ministry of Health. This abstract was accepted for an oral presentation at the conference and will allow for sharing of the findings nationally and a national conversation around strategies to achieve earlier detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer in high needs and high risk groups, particularly Māori.

For further information contact: Simon.Pointer@siapo.health.nz

South Island Cancer Consumer Group

The South Island Cancer Consumer Group met on 3rd December 2018 with the following key messages from the meeting:

- The Group was pleased to welcome four new members. They all bring valuable insight and experience of cancer as patients, family members and supporters and much of the meeting was focused on orientating them and planning for 2019. The new members are:
 - Christine Cuff, Hokitika
 - Linzi Ebbage-Thomas, Wanaka
 - John MacDonald, Queenstown
 - Rory McGeown, Oamaru
- The Group received Trisha Falleni's resignation as she is relocating to Wellington in 2019. The Group thanked her for her thoughtful and compassionate contribution, and wished her all the best for her move. The Group will be seeking expressions of interest for several new members throughout 2019.
- The Group discussed how their priorities align with the SCN Workplan and agreed that communication, survivorship/post-treatment and supportive care are their primary focus.
- The Group discussed the MOH draft Generic Standards of Care document and will coordinate collective feedback.
- John MacDonald was nominated to join the South Island Cancer Psychological and Social Support Steering Group.

The next SICCG meeting will take place on 11th February 2019. For further information contact:

Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

Cancer Intelligence Service

Following feedback from DHBs the FCT quarterly dashboard is being further developed. This includes a strengthening of its equity focus, with graphs displaying capacity breaches by tumour stream, treatment modality and ethnicity, to enable DHBs to target areas where service improvements will have the most impact. The dashboard is being repurposed to be more of a tool for those in the sector wanting to drill down for information, in the interests of service improvement. For further information contact: Simon.Pointer@siapo.health.nz

Cancer Strategy

The prostate decision support tool has been developed by the Ministry of Health in response to the Prostate Cancer Management and Referral Guidelines published in 2015. There has been no further information from the Ministry of health regarding this implementation. For further information contact: Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

The draft stocktake document for cancer services regional clinical leadership arrangements across the South Island has been developed and will be discussed at the February 2019 Clinical and Operational Leadership Group meeting. For more information, please contact: Nicholas.Glubb@siapo.health.nz

While challenges remain for both the Upper and Lower South Island Psychological and Social Support Initiative Services around recruitment and retention of staff, a national evaluation of the initiative has found patients value greatly the support they receive. SCN will continue to support the Steering Group in investigating options to support the sustainability of the South Island services.



Cancer Psychological and Social Support Initiative

The South Island Psychological and Social Support Initiative Steering Group met on 7th November 2018 with the following key messages from the meeting:

- **Evaluation of Psychological and Social Support Initiative:** Interim reports (carried out by Sapere) will be available shortly prior to a final report being submitted in January 2019.
- **Recruitment and retention challenges:** The general shortage of clinical psychologists, the difficulty of the role and the risk of burnout all contribute to ongoing challenges around recruitment and retention of clinical psychologists in the service. There is concern that lack of continuity and minimal staffing levels are making it more difficult to integrate and embed the service into general cancer services.
- **Outcome measures:** There has been national agreement to use the distress thermometer and the problem list as outcome measures. While it is acknowledged these are not perfect, they are nationally consistent and will help

to tell the story about the work being done. This is a positive step, and further information is also needed to support planning and funding decisions, such as the impact the service has on equity and the impact it has on other service utilisation.

- **Equity:** On a purely proportional basis, Māori are accessing the service at expected rates, but further work is needed to address unmet need and achieve equity of outcome. Different channels need to be used to reach Māori and vulnerable communities to build a viable, trust-based relationship and ensure the service is viewed as credible. Utilising different channels to engage Māori and vulnerable communities will also support improving health literacy/taking a population approach to psychosocial health.

The next meeting will be held on the 27th February 2019. For further information contact: Stacy.Belser@siapo.health.nz

Development of Urological Cancer Tumour Standards

Work continues with the 18 month programme for the development of National Urological Cancer Tumours Standards. The prostate cancer clinical performance indicators and quality statements have been endorsed by the working group, with data requests to the Ministry and the Prostate Cancer Outcomes Registry, to support the finalisation of the prostate indicators and stratifying variables agreed at the November face to face workshop. The next workshop takes place on Monday 25th March 2019.

For more information, please contact: Ursula.Jewell@siapo.health.nz