

December 2010

Update from Macmillan GP Advisers

Welcome to the December edition of Macmillan Cancer Support's newsletter for GPs to update you on activities in primary care. Macmillan produces this newsletter for the benefit of Macmillan GPs, Primary Care Cancer Leads, and our wider GP and primary care colleagues to keep you informed of developments within Macmillan Cancer Support that may interest you. Further information can be obtained from your local Macmillan GP Adviser (details below) or by responding to this email address: Macmillan_primary_care@macmillan.org.uk. We are pleased to welcome Dr Judy Parsons as a new member of the Macmillan GP Advisers' team.

Introduction

Health organisations across the UK are under increasing pressure to make efficiency savings as well as improving quality at the same time. These are challenging times for cancer services, and as you may know from recent correspondence from Macmillan, we are committed to ensuring that the needs of cancer patients are fully met regardless of the arrangements in place locally for the delivery of healthcare services. We also recognise that there will be opportunities to improve cancer care through the redesign of existing services as well as testing out new models of care, and we will be focussing our efforts to support these aims.

Macmillan has a strong track record of investing in cancer care; however we are also changing to ensure that we can continue to optimise outcomes for people living with cancer in the continuously diverse health structures across the UK. Macmillan is significantly increasing investment in its programme of work for primary and community care, and we also have a new corporate strategy (known as Evolve) that prioritises nine key outcomes for people living with cancer.

Macmillan's Evolve Strategy

By 2030, the 4 million people living with cancer in the UK will say:

I was diagnosed early	I understand, so I make good decisions	I get the treatment and care which are best for my cancer, and my life
Those around me are well supported to help me, and themselves	I am treated with dignity and respect	I know what I can do to help myself and who else can help me
I can enjoy life	I feel part of a community and I'm inspired to give something back	I want to die well

Our future priorities for primary care will be focused on supporting the delivery of these nine outcomes for people living with cancer and we hope that Macmillan GPs and Primary Care Cancer Leads will continue to play a key part in supporting us to achieve this.

As part of Macmillan's updated programme of work in primary and community care, we are supporting new, locally-led project-driven areas of work that will help to deliver these outcomes, and we have also revised and updated the role specification for new Macmillan GP appointments so that we have the capacity to respond to the new challenges and opportunities for cancer. Please do take the time to have a look at our new role specification, attached with this email. It is not broadly different to what many Macmillan GPs are already doing, but it brings a renewed emphasis to influencing decisions locally on the commissioning and redesign of cancer services.

Our current primary care priorities

Many of you will be familiar with much of Macmillan's work in primary care, including the exciting work that is going on regarding:

- piloting of new cancer treatment summaries in England
- piloting of Macmillan's cancer care review templates
- Development of **free e-learning modules** as part of the Macmillan out-of-hours toolkit (a joint collaboration with BMJ Learning).

Look out for the next edition of this newsletter where you will hear more about the launch of the OOH e-learning modules, planned for **1st February 2011**.

Strengthening our collaborative working

As key primary care leaders for cancer, Macmillan's relationship with you has never been more important. We recognise that Macmillan GPs are driving hard to ensure that the good work already done for cancer is maintained, and that new models of working that will improve the lives of those living with cancer can become embedded as routine practice. We want to hear from you on what is happening in your local area. In particular, we are interested in:

- **Local examples of how the current changes are impacting on delivery of good cancer and end-of-life care.**
- **What could Macmillan be doing more of to influence keeping cancer a high priority in primary and community care?**
- **How can we help you as a Macmillan GP or PCCL to influence the implementation of cancer care pathways or provision of local cancer and end-of-life services?**
- **With specific regard to GP-led commissioning, how the new commissioning arrangements are impacting on the ground for cancer and end-of-life care?**

Please do stay in touch with your local Macmillan GP Adviser and continue to tell us about key developments or suggestions in these areas.

Alternatively you can email the GPA team at

Macmillan_Primary_Care@macmillan.org.uk. Many thanks to those who have responded to Innove regarding the new commissioning arrangements in England. If you haven't yet completed the questionnaire or been interviewed by Innove, we have attached a copy to this email.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Macmillan UK-wide primary care conference. Tentative dates are either 22nd and 23rd September, or 29th and 30th September 2011. Please save the dates for now and we will confirm early in the New Year.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the team.

Best wishes from Macmillan GP Advisers

Dr Terry Bowley
Dr Cathy Burton
Dr Charles Campion-Smith
Dr Rhys Davies
Dr Bridget Gwynne
Dr Matthias Hohmann
Dr Duncan Leith
Dr David Linden
Dr Rosie Loftus (lead GP Adviser)
Dr David Plume
Dr Judy Parsons
Dr Kavi Sharma
Dr Lucy Thompson
Dr Hong Tseung

and from the Macmillan primary care team:

Stephanie Peart, Healthcare Project Officer
Lorraine Sloan, Primary and Community Care Programme Manager

Want to know more about who we are and what we do? Visit www.macmillan.org.uk/goodday today and see our latest awareness campaign to help us reach and support even more people affected by cancer.

Did you know?

Around **4-5 new patients** per 1,000 on your list **will be diagnosed with cancer** each year (the younger the age profile of your practice, the lower this figure is likely to be).

Around **25 patients** per 1,000 on your list are **living with cancer** – do you know who they are?

- 3-4 were diagnosed last year
- 8-9 were diagnosed 1-5 years' ago
- 6-7 were diagnosed 5-10 years' ago
- 6-7 were diagnosed 10-20 years' ago

Useful links

Learn Zone

Learn Zone gives you free and easy access to a wide variety of online resources, e-learning programmes, professional development tools and information about Macmillan's latest learning and development opportunities. Learn Zone is open to Macmillan professionals, other healthcare professionals and members of the public. We hope you've enjoyed reading this update from Macmillan GP Advisors. Please feel free to send us your comments by responding to

Macmillan_primary_care@macmillan.org.uk

Please add us to your safe senders or contacts list to ensure you continue to receive emails from us.

If you would like to [leave feedback](#) about this newsletter or the work Macmillan do, please do so.

Our cancer support specialists are available on 0808 808 00 00, Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm.

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