

Electronic decision-support tool for possible bowel and lung cancers

Macmillan pilot of the Hamilton Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) *In collaboration with BMJ Group*

Macmillan Cancer Support and BMJ Group are working together to develop an electronic version of the Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) developed by Professor Willie Hamilton. The tool is being tested in England in paper-formats as part of the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative (NAEDI). Macmillan is supporting the NAEDI initiative by translating the tool into an IT format, and testing this widely across the UK. The pilot aims to test feasibility and usefulness of an IT version of the tool, as well as to provide insights into how the tool might influence GP referral behaviour.

What's involved

In order to take part in the pilot, your practice will need to be running Contract Plus or Audit Plus software. The tool can easily be installed by Informatica Systems (part of BMJ group) who provide this software. Time commitment is minimal as the tool can be quickly installed and referred to alongside existing Practice protocols and clinical judgement. Remember this is a decision-support tool that should not replace clinical judgement. We are keen to ensure that our work complements the evaluation of the paper-based version of the RAT and would therefore welcome expressions of interest from practices who are not involved in the paper based version of the project. The pilot period will run from **September 2011** until **March 2012**.

Participating Practices are asked to:

1. Identify a lead GP within the Practice who is happy to coordinate use of the tool within the Practice (this may be a single GP or several GPs working together).
2. Download the tool in their Practice with support from Informatica, and receive an information pack from Macmillan.
3. Familiarise with the tool, and the information provided about the pilot project.
4. Refer to the tool in conjunction with existing Practice protocols and clinical judgement, either when lung or bowel cancer is suspected, or when the tool provides a prompt indicating that cancer should be considered on the basis of previously read-coded symptoms.
5. Agree to provide qualitative feedback as part of the pilot project, through an online discussion forum and by taking part in a short telephone interview, if selected, at the end of the project.

Macmillan Cancer Support will reimburse Practices a fixed sum of £500 for time given to participating in the project.

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are being received now. You can confirm your interest in taking part by either contacting us on 020 7840 4862, or emailing us at Macmillan_primary_care@macmillan.org.uk. For further information on the project, please contact Dr Bridget Gwynne: bgwynne@macmillan.org.uk or Dr Steven Beaven: steven.beaven@nhs.net