

PRIMARY CARE 10 TOP TIPS

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Getting the most from your commissioners

1 Build relationships
Get to know different individuals and teams involved with cancer care. Don't be afraid to use your unique position to liaise with primary and secondary care, patient groups, the third sector and public health.

2 Listen to patients
Placing patients at the heart of healthcare is integral to providing effective cancer care planning and delivery. Use your position to develop relationships with different patient groups and ensure their voice is heard.

3 Understand the annual commissioning cycle
Get to know the different phases of planning, contracting, financing, and Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN). There is nothing more frustrating than missing the right moment.

4 Recognise the different CCG departments
Make time to understand how financing, contracting, procurement and transformation teams function and relate to secondary care. This is key to enhancing service delivery.

5 Become a local flagship for cancer information
Being a repository of cancer information and disseminating to primary and secondary care, patient groups and healthcare managers is a fundamental part of your role.

6 Update the CCG on national cancer developments
Keeping abreast of developments within cancer will assist with establishing opportunities to become the reference point CCGs need for national debate.

7 Support the analysis of cancer outcomes
Cancer outcomes are under increasing scrutiny. Be part of this by encouraging CCGs and providers to improve cancer care delivery. CCGs should welcome activity which enhances their cancer outcomes, thereby resolving problems sooner rather than later.

8 Become a resource for cancer projects
All CCGs have financial constraints and will welcome a further clinical lead. If appropriate, offer your services to involve clinical advice, project definition or delivery. As a clinical lead, do not underestimate your value to CCGs.

9 Reflect local opinion
With your wide remit you are in the ideal position to canvass opinions from patients, service providers and the third sector and ensure they are relayed to the CCG. As one of the few people regularly entering into primary care, use your GP practice visits to enhance this role.

10 Remember you are part of a team
Don't forget you carry the credibility of the Macmillan name with you. You could also be invaluable to your CCG in securing funding for cancer projects. Use the Macmillan brand to your advantage.

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