

GP Practice visits: Overcoming the barriers

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Objectives

Discussion about early detection

→ National and local statistics

Practice profiles for cancer

→ Practice and CCG data

Cancer care review

→ Current activity and thoughts around change

Safety netting

→ Current processes and suggestions for improvement

Awareness of local services

→ Highlighting available diagnostics and services for patients with cancer

Follow up

→ Followed up visit by emailing a summary of our discussion and a certificate for appraisals

Response from practices

I have had an excellent response from the practices - visiting 18 practices in 5 months.

They have actively engaged in discussions and have acknowledged that they have found the visits very useful.

They appreciate the summary of discussion and CPD certificates I send.

Barriers

→ Practices are very busy - time for meetings is scarce and high demand from services wanting to visit.

→ Most practices have meetings on one set day.

→ Lack of awareness of who I was and role of 'Macmillan Facilitator'.

→ Perception that you are going in to performance manage.

→ Lack of awareness of the Practice Profiles and how they could be useful.

Overcoming the barriers

Visited locality meetings initially, to raise awareness of my role and to network with GPs and Practice Managers.

Followed up these visits with emails to Practice Managers asking if a visit could be arranged. Attached a letter and asked this to be distributed to Cancer Lead GPs.

Liaised with locality managers and CCG to get early detection of cancer and, specifically, a visit from myself, into their local priorities.

Followed this up with repeat emails to managers advising that my visit had been included as a priority for their locality.

I have worked around practices, so visited at times when they had regular meetings organised - this definitely made it easier.