

Sarcoma Advisory Group Update

Highlights, progress and delivery: May 2015

This update has been developed in order to communicate the work of the London and South East Sarcoma Network Sarcoma Advisory Group across cancer services within the LSESN, promoting upcoming events and highlighting opportunities for wider clinical engagement.

The Sarcoma Advisory Group

The Sarcoma Advisory Group is co-chaired by Andy Hayes, Consultant Surgeon, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust and Jeremy Whelan, Consultant Medical Oncologist, University College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The group was established in 2010 and has a membership which is drawn from providers and commissioners from across the LSESN. The group meets quarterly alternating meeting venues between RMH and UCLH and wide representation from across the LSESN is encouraged.

Progress in Q1 2015 – a summary

Communication lists	The LSESN communication lists have recently been updated. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or other communications from the SAG please contact Gemma French, UCLH/RNOH Sarcoma Project Manager gemma.french@uclh.nhs.uk . Please also let Gemma know if you are aware of someone who should be receiving the SAG communications.
Guidelines	The LSESN Chemotherapy and Follow Up Guidelines have recently been updated. For the latest guidelines please visit the LSESN website www.lsesn.nhs.uk The SAG is currently updating its constitution which will be signed off at the next meeting in May.
Two week referral form	The sarcoma centres continue to receive a wide range of 2ww forms. The latest version of the form that should be used can be found on the LSESN website www.lsesn.nhs.uk
Diagnostic Clinics	The two sarcoma centres within the LSESN are seeing an increasingly high number of 2WW referrals, whilst the number of diagnosed sarcomas seen at the centres remains around 6% of referrals received (comparable to national data). The SAG has recently discussed ways to manage this increase in referrals with the focus of discussion on the model of 'diagnostic clinics'. A number of successful diagnostic clinics already exist within the LSESN, such as in Sussex and Norwich. The SAG would like to explore whether there is interest to replicate these models of good practice elsewhere in the network. A questionnaire will be circulated to all Trust Sarcoma Leads to gain a better understanding of current service provision and gauge the level of interest. Depending on the feedback received the SAG may hold workshops later in the year to discuss potential service models and support needed.
National Commissioning Update	The Sarcoma CRG is in the process of developing a service specification and a national chemotherapy algorithm. Further information will be circulated once available. The commissioner accountable for sarcoma will soon be leaving. Confirmation of his replacement is awaited.
CDF Drugs	From March 2015 two sarcoma drugs will no longer be funded funding through the Cancer Drugs Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pazopanib: for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma • Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin: for first and second line treatment of angiosarcoma, and first line treatment of sarcoma of the heart and great vessels. Patients who are currently receiving these drugs via the Cancer Drugs Fund will continue to have access to them.

	<p>Patients may still be able to access these drugs through an Individual Funding Request by their doctor. IFR's are considered by NHS England on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Imatinib for the adjuvant treatment of GIST was previously available through the Cancer Drugs Fund but is now available in the NHS following NICE approval.</p>
Trials	<p>A new Phase III randomized trial of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel followed by Doxorubicin vs observation for uterus-limited, high grade uterine leiomyosarcoma is now open for recruitment at University College Hospital and The Royal Marsden Hospital. Principal investigators are respectively Dr Palma Dileo and Dr Charlotte Benson. If you would like further information on the trial please do not hesitate to contact them palma.dileo@uclh.nhs.uk / charlotte.benson@rmh.nhs.uk</p>
Audits	<p>The SAG has agreed to take part in an audit of retroperitoneal follow up protocols. The audit will look at the differences in practice between the two centres and local hospitals with the aim to standardise practise across the LSESN. The aim is to present the audit at the SAG meeting in August.</p>
NICE QS	<p>In January 2015 NICE published a Quality Standard for Sarcoma which was developed in consultation with sarcoma specialists and interested organisations. NICE quality standards describe high-priority areas for quality improvement. Each standard consists of a prioritised set of specific, concise and measurable statements. They draw on existing guidance, such as Improving Outcomes Guidance and National Cancer Peer Review, to provide an underpinning, comprehensive set of recommendations, and are designed to support the measurement of improvement.</p>
Patient Survey	<p>The Royal Marsden Sarcoma CNS team have recently undertaken a patient survey which replicates a survey previously carried out by UCLH/RNOH. The results of the RMH survey will be presented at the next meeting in May.</p>
Priorities for 15/16	<p>Priorities for the Sarcoma Advisory Group will be finalised at the next meeting in May and circulated within the LSESN. The work of all pathway groups is expected to align with LCA's overarching objectives.</p>

Noticeboard

Recent events	Dates for your diary
<p>Sarcoma Advisory Group – 20th February 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic Clinics - Agreement of audits - Chemotherapy guidelines - Follow-up guidelines - Sarcoma CRG update <p>Minutes from this meeting and all previous meetings can be found on www.lsesn.nhs.uk or are available upon request from the UCLH/RNOH Sarcoma Project Manager gemma.french@uclh.nhs.uk</p>	<p>Sarcoma Advisory Group Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22nd May (London Cancer Meeting Room 1) - 04th September (RMH Boardroom) - 27th November (UCH 250 Euston Road 6th Floor East) <p>Soft Tissue Sarcoma Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 08th July (Royal Marsden Hospital) <p>For more information contact: conferencecentre@rmh.nhs.uk Tel: 020 7808 2921 www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/conferences</p>