National Cancer Diagnosis Audit Scotland

Summary information from an audit of patients diagnosed in 2014

A Management Information publication for Scotland

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About this release

This report provides summary information from the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit Scotland.

Main Points

The purpose of the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit (NCDA) is to support service improvement in relation to cancer diagnosis and therefore the main outputs were in the form of direct, tailored feedback to practices that volunteered to participate. As well as local improvement work, further analysis of the audit dataset is planned to explore cancer diagnosis pathways.

- This audit information summary is not intended to be a representative summary of results for Scotland; it is being released to increase awareness of the audit and what it covered.
- In total, 73 practices (around 8% of all practices) across Scotland participated in the audit. They submitted data on 2,014 diagnoses, around 6% of the total diagnoses in Scotland during 2014. Coverage varied by region.
- The summary includes information on types of cancer, place of presentation, primary care interval, consultations, referrals and perceived avoidable delays.
- The audit process has prompted participating practices to reflect further and they are actively working to identify future improvements, with support from Cancer Research UK.

Background

The National Cancer Diagnosis Audit Scotland is the Scottish part of a UK-wide audit, co-ordinated by Cancer Research UK. The Scottish part of the audit was overseen by a Scottish steering group, which includes representation from the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Scottish Primary Care Cancer Group, Macmillan Cancer Support, academic GPs and Information Services Division (ISD - part of NHS National Services Scotland). ISD was responsible for the collection of data from GPs, linkage to secondary care data and provision of a pseudonymised dataset to the UK audit team at Public Health England for analysis and reporting.

The first National Cancer Diagnosis Audit in primary care was completed in England in 2010. The audit process and results motivated repeatable cycles of quality improvement activities (such as Significant Event Audit activity), generated influential evidence about the size and nature of the challenge of cancer diagnosis in primary care and led to the development of a suite of audit tools that have been utilised since to support local service improvement initiatives.
The audit also collected information on presenting symptoms and co-morbidities which are not included in this report but are available in the full dataset (see Further Information).

All practices were provided with a tailored feedback report based on their own data with relevant regional and Scottish comparisons. Practices have also been offered support from Cancer Research UK and other organisations to interpret their reports and signposted to relevant quality improvement tools.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report.

For more information on Cancer see the Cancer section of our website.

NCDA data for 2014 diagnoses was also collected in England, the findings of which have been reported in the British Journal of General Practice: http://bjgp.org/content/68/666/e63

The data collected from NCDA is available for further analysis. Scottish NCDA data can be accessed via eDRIS at NSS.eDRIS@nhs.net The English data and Scottish data (without practice identifiers) can be accessed via the Office for Data Release at odr@phe.gov.uk

Information on future work relating to the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit is available from the Cancer Research UK website: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/diagnosis/national-cancer-diagnosis-audit

Practices interested in being involved in future audits can get in touch with the CRUK team at ncda@cancer.org.uk

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