



## **Report on progress with implementing the Non-Surgical Cancer Treatment Service Plan for the Midland region**

**26 May 2008**

### **Introduction**

This report presents the progress that has been made with implementing the recommendations made in the Non-Surgical Cancer Treatment Service Plan for the Midland region (Barber J, 2004) and its subsequent implementation plan (Hewitt J and Scanlan L, 2005).

### **Background**

The Midland DHBs regional CEO group mandated that non-surgical cancer treatment services should be planned at a regional level.

The regional service plan for non-surgical cancer treatment services was based on international and New Zealand guidelines for best practice and included twenty-seven recommendations that were categorised into eight work streams.

In 2005 the service plan recommendations were prioritised and an implementation plan was subsequently developed which identified the specific tasks required to work towards achieving the recommendations, milestones, responsibility and timeframe for implementing the tasks.

A funding assessment was also undertaken of the cost to DHBs of implementing the recommendations in the regional service plan. The cost to implement the service plan based on the recommendations within the original plan was estimated at around \$17.5 million over a five to seven year period (based on assessment back in 2005). There was no funding attached to the service plan and its implementation plan. It was acknowledged that the cost of implementation of the plan may be greater than the revenue available and prioritisation of the recommendations and a phased approach to implementation would be required and dependent on the funding available.

The Midland DHB regional CEO group endorsed the establishment of a Midland Cancer Network group to commence implementation within allocated resources. The following section summaries the progress to date.

### **Discussion**

There were 27 recommendations made in the Non-Surgical Cancer Treatment Service Plan for the Midland region of which:

- 12 have been achieved
- 14 are in progress
- 1 has not been progressed at this stage.

The one recommendation that has not been progressed relates to planning for a 5<sup>th</sup> LINAC. This recommendation is discussed further under equipment.

See Appendix One for more detailed information about progress with implementing each of the recommendations.

The regional service plan listed the recommendations under eight work streams:

- Patient-focus care co-ordination
- Integrated care
- Role delineation
- Leadership
- Contracts
- Information Systems
- Equipment
- Workforce

### **Patient-focus care co-ordination**

This work stream details three recommendations to be actioned. One of the recommendations has been achieved. The other two recommendations are in progress.

#### *Key achievements*

- Appointment of cancer care co-ordinator positions at all of the participating DHBs
- Development of Midland Cancer Network care co-ordination framework
- Establishment of a regional cancer care co-ordinators forum under the Midland Cancer Network umbrella
- Employment of Māori Cancer Nurse specialist at Lakes DHB
- Pilot project to provide community based cancer support service for Māori patients in the Lakes DHB area

### **Integrated care**

This work stream details two recommendations to be actioned of which both are in progress.

#### *Key achievements*

- Recruitment process in progress for multi-disciplinary meeting Co-ordinator, Regional Cancer Centre
- Telemedicine equipment purchased for Te Kaha and Opotiki, Bay of Plenty DHB
- Development of a Midland Cancer Network multidisciplinary team framework (in progress, 2008/2009 work programme)

### **Role delineation**

This work stream details one recommendation to be actioned which has been achieved.

#### *Key achievements*

- Establishment of resident medical oncology and haematology service at Tauranga Hospital, Bay of Plenty DHB
- New chemotherapy suite at Whakatane Hospital, Bay of Plenty DHB
- Resumed chemotherapy administration at Taupo Hospital, Lakes DHB

### **Leadership**

This work stream details four recommendations to be actioned of which all have been achieved.

#### *Key achievements*

- Establishment of the Midland Cancer Network
- Regional cancer work groups established as required (adolescent/young adult, non-surgical cancer treatment service, care co-ordination, palliative care)
- Cancer champions appointed at each of the participating DHBs
- Regional Clinical Director of Midland Cancer Network funded and appointed

#### **Contracts**

This work stream details five recommendations to be actioned. Two recommendations have been achieved and the other three are in progress.

#### *Key achievements*

- Chemotherapy is now coded as haematology or medical oncology
- Initiated a coding split for medical oncology and radiation oncology FSAs and FUs
- Introduced regular reporting and active management of haematology waiting lists

#### **Information Systems**

This work stream details two recommendations to be actioned of which both are in progress.

#### *Key achievements*

- Improved access to clinical information for visiting specialists working off-site
- Waikato DHB is scoping the development of a cancer care co-ordination (patient tracking) system

#### **Equipment**

This work stream details two recommendations to be actioned. One recommendation is in progress and the remaining recommendation has not been progressed.

#### *Key achievements*

- 4<sup>th</sup> LINAC and new CT scanner both operational which has resulted in greater capacity to provide services

#### **Workforce**

This work stream details eight recommendations to be actioned. Four of these have been achieved and the other four recommendations are in progress.

#### *Key achievements*

- Recommended staffing levels met for haematologists and radiation oncology staff
- Appointment of a regional oncology liaison nurse
- Appointment of cancer clinical nurse specialists at Waikato (breast, breast screening, colorectal, adolescent and young adult, gynaecology. Lung and haematology nurse specialists already appointed), Bay of Plenty (breast, generic, chemotherapy) and Lakes (generic and Māori) DHBs.

#### **Overall Progress**

Good progress has been made with the implementation of the recommendations made in the regional service plan for non-surgical cancer treatment services. The regional service plan has

provided a framework for guiding regional and local activities and unifying efforts to improve the delivery of non-surgical cancer treatment services across Bay of Plenty, Lakes and Waikato DHBs. The progress is shared across all of the participating DHBs. The participating DHBs are on track to successfully complete the implementation of the recommendations which are still deemed appropriate by 2010.

The on-going work related to non-surgical cancer treatment is incorporated into the Midland DHB's action plans and the Midland Cancer Network 2008/09 work plan. Key areas of focus are:

- Resident medical oncology and haematology service at Tauranga
- Radiation therapy target
- Oncology nurses and chemotherapy chairs.

## **Attachments**

Appendix One: Detailed monitoring report on progress with implementing recommendations made in the Midland region non-surgical cancer treatment service implementation plan 2005 -2010