



## Midland Cancer Network

### Progress Report – July – September 2008

#### Executive Summary

This is the Midland Cancer Network's quarter one 2008-09 report covering the period 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2008. This report summarises:

- the background to the formation of the MCN
- structure development of the MCN
- progress on key MCN projects
- national programme update.

Key regional achievements this quarter include:

- lead Liverpool care pathway (LCP) facilitators have been appointed for all DHBs. Midland is the first region to implement an LCP facilitators foundation training workshop in NZ. The workshop was facilitated by the MCN manager and Theresa Mackenzie, CNS Arohanui Hospice.
- MCN hosted a New Zealand regional cancer network management team workshop to orientate and share learnings with new staff
- the MCN 2007 annual report has been published and distributed
- the Midland adolescent young adult oncology haematology service (AYA OHS) report and plan is out for final round of consultation. This project is a finalist in the Best of Health 2008 Awards
- the network has commenced a psycho-social assessment tool project
- a Midland stereotatic biopsy Lean Thinking project has commenced and to date has resulted in BOP altering its referral process, introduction of a standard regional referral form, change to the process resulting in a reduction of waiting time from 28 days to 17 days. There is further potential to reduce this to 10-14 days
- Waikato Population Health service has commenced development of a Midland cancer control health needs assessment for the network regional cancer control strategic plan due June 2009 (this is in progress with draft plan due by February 2009).

## **Introduction**

This report covers the quarter one period 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2008. This report builds on previous reports and summarises progress to date on the MCN work programme. This report summarises:

- development of the network
- sharing knowledge
- progress on key MCN projects
- national programme update.

## **MCN Management Team**

- Claudia Romano, network administrator commenced 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- In September 2008 the MCN manager along with other New Zealand regional cancer network managers and clinical directors attended an educational site visit to Scotland and England. The report on findings and recommendations of this visit is being developed and will be available in the near future.
- The MCN has contracted Business and Costings Limited to carry out data analysis for the network.
- The MCN has contracted Waikato DHB Population Health service to undertake a cancer control health needs assessment.
- Work has halted towards relocating the network team to 198 Pembroke Street, this is frustrating with continued delays for over 10 months.

## **MCN Executive Group**

- Graham Harbutt, Cancer Society has joined the executive group following resignation of Diana Bowen.
- Kevin Harris was recruited as surgical representative on the Executive group.
- The Executive group consumer representative position description was developed and endorsed.

## **Koha o Matauranga - Sharing Knowledge**

- The MCN presented to the Whakatane management journal club 14<sup>th</sup> July on the role of the MCN and progress to date
- The MCN meet with Scott MacFarlane regarding the development of the Midland AYA OHS service
- The MCN manager presented to the Waikato DHB Health Waikato Advisory Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> July on the development and progress of the MCN
- The MCN hosted the first New Zealand regional LCP lead facilitators foundation day on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The day was jointly facilitated by the MCN manager and Theresa MacKenzie from Arohanui.
- The MCN hosted a New Zealand regional cancer network management team workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> August. The workshop was to orientate new network staff and promote learning between the networks. The workshop had two key themes, reducing inequalities and service and patient mapping. Guest speakers included Professor Tony Blakely presented an overview of

inequalities in New Zealand and Emma Hindson, Ministry of Health overview of the inequalities projects, as well as presentations on the whanau ora health assessment and HEAT tools.

- The MCN team / stakeholders and work programme were the main theme of articles in the Ministry of Health Cancer Connections winter newsletter
- The MCN attended a presentation by Dr David Colin-Thorne, national director of primary care in the Department of Health, London. This session was hosted by Waikato Primary Health on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- The MCN and the Waikato DHB media and communications service supported a nurse with bowel cancer to share her story and promote early detection of bowel cancer in the local Waikato newspapers.
- The Ministry of Health and the New Zealand regional cancer networks jointly facilitated a workshop with the Victorian State Government Department of Human services cancer team on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The workshop topic was on Patient Management Frameworks (PMFs). Clinical staff from across the region attended the workshop. It was decided that there was value for New Zealand to adopt and adapt PMFs for New Zealand. The MCN manager and clinical director are on the steering group to further develop New Zealand PMFs.
- The MCN along with key Waikato DHB staff (clinical and management) meet with the Ministry of Health Cancer and Palliative Care Information Systems project manager who was collecting information regarding local cancer systems
- The MCN have contributed to the Waikato cancer control section of the Waikato District Strategic Plan.
- The MCN presented to the New Zealand Oncology / Haematology Nurses Conference (26<sup>th</sup> September) on the role and work programme of regional cancer networks.

### **MCN Work Programme**

This section summarises progress of the MCN 2008-09 work programme initiatives including;

- 2007-08 annual report
- development of regional cancer control strategic plan
- service and patient mapping
- early stage breast cancer plan
- non-surgical cancer treatment
- BOP resident medical oncology / haematology oncology / haematology service
- AYA OHS
- palliative care
- psycho-social assessment tool project
- Midland tobacco control.

## **2007-08 MCN Annual Report**

The inaugural MCN annual report has been published and distributed.

### **Development of the Regional Cancer Control Strategic Plan**

Progress is being made as per A Planning Process for the Development of a Regional Cancer Strategy Plan (April 2008). Work in progress includes:

- Proposals were sought from the Public Health Intelligence Unit (epidemiology group of the Ministry of Health) and Waikato DHB's Population Health Service to assist in developing a health needs assessment for cancer control across the Midland region. The Public Health Intelligence Unit did not respond to the request. The proposal from Population Health Service has exceeded expectations and was within financial parameters. Waikato DHB Population Health service has been contracted to complete a Midland cancer control health needs assessment
- Tairāwhiti DHB has requested to be incorporated into the planning process. It was considered that it would be useful to incorporate information from Tairāwhiti DHB in the HNA for cancer control for the Midland region.
- The MCN inequalities manager is completing a regional stocktake of the NZCCS Action Plan inequalities recommendations
- Stocktake of national and regional initiatives is in progress for Goal 1 – 6 for each outcome / result area of the NZCCS Action Plan. The MCN manager has visited all PHOs within the Midland region.
- A Midland PHO fact sheet has been developed to give an overview of the 11 PHOs within the Midland Cancer Network. It has been prepared using publicly available information. The information in the fact sheet will be supplemented with further information obtained directly from PHOs about the services and programmes provided. Some of the information about services and programmes would come out of regional review of progress with implementing the cancer control action plan goals.
- The MCN AYA OHS project has been completed and future recommendations will be incorporated into the MCN Strategy Plan.
- The MCN early stage breast cancer report and action plan with future recommendations will be incorporated into the MCN Strategy Plan.

### **Service and Patient Mapping - Lung**

The MCN is focusing on completing a review of the lung cancer pathway. The pathway has been mapped and undergoing final review. In addition to the mapping the following is in progress:

- log of staff issues
- consumer perspective i.e. focus groups, review of compliments / complaints
- variation analysis of each hospital map
- high level health needs analysis for each tumour group
- analysis of waiting time between key stages of the journey
- inequalities analysis
- regional report of findings and action plan for each tumour stream

- establishment of a regional site specific group.

The Waikato respiratory service has scheduled a regional lung cancer meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November. The theme of the meeting is 'the journey'. The MCN will present to this meeting.

### **Service and Patient Mapping – Colorectal**

Mapping of the colorectal pathway has commenced.

Following a request from clinicians the Midland GM planning and funding forum endorsed the MCN 'have the conversation' with stakeholders about the feasibility of submitting a proposal to be a national pilot site for a bowel screening programme sometime in the future. Overall following discussions there is support for the concept.

A national bowel cancer taskforce has been established. Shelley Campbell chief executive of Waikato Primary Health Organisation has been appointed to chair the taskforce.

In the interim the MCN has organised a Midland LEAN training project team to focus on the colonoscopy pathway for all Midland public hospitals undertaking colonoscopy procedures. The project will commence late October.

### **Midland Early Stage Breast Cancer Report & Action Plan**

The Midland early stage breast cancer patient mapping report and action plan 2007-2010 was published and distributed in May 2008.

Mr Ian Campbell has agreed to chair the inaugural regional breast cancer work group. The first meeting of the work group was planned to take place in November 2008 to agree and prioritise recommendations. In the interim the following initiatives are in progress.

### **Stereotactic Biopsy Lean Thinking Project**

A lean thinking approach was taken for this project. The project aim was to reduce the wait time by 50% (or to less than 14 days) for out of area (Bay of Plenty and Lakes DHBs) from referral to procedure. A referral from Lakes goes through twenty different locations. Some of the issues identified with the current pathway include high number points along the pathway where the referral waits, areas of rework due to missing information or rescheduling of appointments and transportation waste due to a centralised drop-off point for courier parcels at Waikato Hospital.

As a consequence of this work process improvements which include radiologists from Bay of Plenty referring certain patients (calcifications only) direct to Breast Care Centre at Waikato Hospital and development of standard referral form for stereotactic biopsies are now underway. A standard regional referral form has been developed. As a result of the project waiting times have reduced from 18 days to 17 days with the potential to further reduce to 10-14 days.

### **Development of a Care Coordination Database Project**

The patient mapping recognised that there is no way to identify the number of breast cancer patients on the cancer continuum pathway, where they were along the pathway and whether women were accessing services within recommended timeframes. Access to appropriate data remains a critical issue within the MCN. This is an innovative initiative within New Zealand.

The MCN in response to this major issue commenced a project in 2007 to scope the feasibility of development and implementation of a care coordination database system, and if this could occur then the pilot in Waikato DHB breast cancer service. The project is a partnership with the MCN, Waikato DHB CIO and Simpl. The project aligns with the national development of patient management frameworks. It is recognised that the national cancer and palliative care information systems project in progress will not meet the requirements of this initiative. The objective of the project is to provide quality care coordination for cancer patients along the continuum of care.

The project has completed the scope definition and requirements analysis phases and is ready to move to the design and development and testing and implementation phase. The project is complex and requires careful consideration before progressing.

### **Midland Non-Surgical Cancer Treatment Work Group**

The MRNSCT Operations Network terms of reference have been updated to align with other work groups within the network. The membership of this group has changed and they now meet quarterly.

In 2007-08 a report on progress against the non-surgical cancer treatment services plan for the Midland region and associated implementation plan 2006-2010 was completed and demonstrated significant progress. In August the MNSCT work group recommended that the MCN update the regional plan.

Members considered that the regional service plan for the non-surgical cancer treatment services was now outdated and did not take into account changes in clinical practice and how this has impacted on demand (changes to patient encounters). The regional plan is over four years old and many of the underlying assumptions have changed. Cancer CNS have been employed at secondary and tertiary level across all participating DHBs, a resident oncology and haematology service has been established at Tauranga and changes in clinical practice mean that the workload is more complex. Patients are receiving more episodes of treatment and as a consequence are under treatment for a longer time. There has been a shift in demand from radiation oncology to medical oncology. Radiation capacity has improved due to the commissioning of the 4th LINAC and other efficiency improvements. There is more demand for medical oncology as a consequence of increased number of medical oncologists, a more aggressive approach to medical oncology and access to new pharmaceutical cancer treatments.

Members considered the regional service plan should be reviewed to include treatment, facility and workforce changes and incorporate new assumptions around future changes for non-surgical cancer treatment services. This will be reflected in the MCN strategic plan.

### **BOP Resident Medical Oncology/Haematology Service**

Resident service commenced in January 2008 with the employment of a medical oncologist. Second stage funding now in place for employment of two new senior medical officer position (2nd medical oncologist and a haematologist). Recruitment process has commenced. The market for medical oncologists and haematologists is tight and there is the added complication of competition with the Regional Cancer Centre which is also recruiting for senior medical staff. Locums may be utilised until such time as permanent staff is recruited.

Dr Richard North is currently working very hard and was expected to see around 250 - 300 new patients in first year of the services operation (benchmark is around 200

new patients per oncologist per year). Concern was expressed about the impact of the workload.

Some of the available funding for staff is being used to employ a junior medical team to support Richard with day to day outpatient commitments and assist Richard extend his role to include inpatient services. The oncology team comprises a GP with special interest (GPSI), house officer and registrar (effective from December 2008).

Richard has taken over the management of Whakatane patients and is holding a fortnightly clinic (was monthly) at Whakatane Hospital. The GPSI also attends the Whakatane clinics. New cancer centre at Tauranga Hospital opens in October 2008.

### **Adolescent / Young Adult Oncology / Haematology Service**

The draft MCN AYA OHS report and action plan has been out for consultation, endorsed and distributed. Recommendations will be incorporated into the MCN strategic plan. The Midland AYA OHS work group has been established and meet again in November.

### **The Best of Health Awards 2008 Finalist**

The Best of Health Awards is a biennial event that was developed in 2003 to recognise and reward excellence and innovation in health initiatives around the Waikato region. The Midland AYA OHS is a finalist in the continuous improvement – clinical service delivery improvement category. The awards will be announced 7th November.

### **Palliative Care**

Midland DHBs received palliative care funding effective 1 January 2008 to advance the following three new service components:

- Last days of life programmes
- Education programmes for generalists
- Telephone advice and support for generalists.

The MCN palliative care network group agreed to work collaboratively on advancing the above service components.

### **LCP**

The MCN is sponsored the first New Zealand regional LCP facilitator's foundation day (1 August). The workshop aim was to facilitate a collaborative approach to implementing the end of life Liverpool Care Pathway for the Midland region. The MCN manager and Theresa MacKenzie from Arohanui Hospice facilitated the workshop. BOP and Lakes DHBs have appointed LCP facilitators.

Topics discussed included, palliative care strategic overview, the Liverpool Care Pathway and how to link with the UK, understanding collaborative approach, project planning, how to manage expectations, pre/post audit and reflective database. The resources would be enhanced from feedback received and would be retained and utilised for future foundations days.

### **Waikato Palliative Care Scholarships**

The MCN in partnership with Waikato DHB is leading the implementation of two scholarships within Waikato to advance implementation of LCP and development of

specialist palliative care nursing packages of education for generalist palliative care. Developments from these scholarships will be shared with the Midland palliative care community.

### **Psycho-social Assessment Tool Project**

The national supportive care guidelines came out in September for consultation. It is anticipated that the Network will be requested and resourced to complete a stocktake of supportive care services / providers and gap analysis against the guidelines. This will require the network to establish a supportive care work group.

In the interim the network lead by the MCN clinical director has implemented a supportive care initiative in response to health professional's request. The MCN Executive group endorsed the project scope.

A Midland project team is tasked with assessing psychological health assessment tools and to select the most appropriate tool for use by the cancer care community. The tool will be trialled by a small team of clinicians and nurses with a view to rolling it out across the Midland region. The tool will be used to screen all cancer patients and then if required medical and nursing staff would refer to most appropriate resource available. It is hoped that from this work psycho-oncology gaps and needs will be identified.

### **Tobacco control**

The Midland DHBs' CEOs and Board chairs have recently agreed that the five Midland DHBs (includes Tairāwhiti and Taranaki) will work towards a high-level consistent Smokefree Midland environment. This approach is on-top of the tobacco control strategic leadership positions and smoking cessation nurses within DHBs. A project scope is being developed and will be disseminated.

### **National Programme Update**

#### **Patient Management Frameworks**

As previously discussed it was agreed in principle to adopt the Victorian State Patient Management Framework, refer to [www.health.vic.gov.au/cancer](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/cancer)

#### **Cancer Control Prioritisation**

The NZ Cancer Control Implementation Steering Group is developing a prioritisation framework for cancer control initiatives. A steering group workshop is planned for 21 November.

#### **Bowel Cancer Screening**

National taskforce established and had its first meeting in August. Shelley Campbell CEO of Waikato Primary Health is the taskforce chair.

The Ministry has appointed Julie Artus, interim programme manager to develop a work programme for the bowel cancer programme.

#### **Guidelines / Protocols**

Protocol for sharing of public radiation oncology capacity between cancer centres developed.

Protocol on the public interface with private radiation Oncology services developed.

The access and referral to cancer services guideline went out to the sector for consultation this quarter. The NZ Guidelines Group is facilitating development of this guideline.

Revised guidance on prostate cancer has been finalised and endorsement received by the Royal NZ College of General Practitioners. Testing for prostate cancer: a consultation resource and patient information resources will be released in October 2008.

Melanoma conference and launch of the guideline will occur 14<sup>th</sup> November.

First draft supportive care guidelines will be out for consultation in September.

### **Service Specifications**

The Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer service specifications were not finalised or launched in September as expected. The Ministry discovered just before the launch that they did not meet the new criteria required of service specifications for acceptance on the national service framework. The Ministry has been working with the AYA advisory group, expected timeframe for launch is Feb/March 2009.

The Specialist Palliative Care service specifications have the same issue regarding the new criteria. The purchase units within the specifications require further work. The Ministry is working to clarify the purchase unit definitions and reporting. In addition the Ministry is planning to scope and conduct a gap analysis to determine actual funding required to fully implement the specifications. A palliative care data group has been established to develop a minimum data set and facilitate the development of compatible NZ palliative care information systems.

### **Cancer and Palliative Care Information Systems Project**

In order to achieve the objectives of the Cancer Control Strategy better systems for collecting and sharing information on cancer and palliative care need to be developed and implemented. A nationally led cancer information project is being undertaken. There are three focus areas: non-surgical cancer information and links to current northern regional cancer and blood services proposal; cancer and palliative care data collection; improvements to the cancer registry.

### **PET Scanning**

Awaiting response from the DHB consultation.

### **Palliative Care**

The syringe driver advisory group is still awaiting decision from the DHBNZ procurement committee relating to the recommended replacement syringe driver following the withdrawal by Medsafe of the license for the Graseby driver.

A national professional development framework for cancer nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand (draft) is out for consultation.