Chemotherapy Update

We would like to provide you with an update on the two key pieces of work being undertaken for Chemotherapy:

2012 Chemotherapy Census

The NCAT Team would like to express our thanks to you for your contribution to the 2011 pilot Chemotherapy census collection, we have applied the lessons learned from this pilot when we developed the 2012 Census and have tested the tool with members of National Chemotherapy Implementation Group and with chemotherapy nurses from the North Central London and Yorkshire Cancer Networks.

Census Day is 17th October 2012, the toolkit and guidance will be circulated to you all on Monday 24th September for distribution to your lead Chemotherapy nurses.

As with the 2011 pilot we will only be collecting data on nurse who are delivering Chemotherapy in Ambulatory Care settings.

We are confident that the 2012 census will provide us with a set of meaningful data that will be published for to help Networks and Trusts understand this key area of the cancer nursing workforce.

2012 Chemotherapy Patient Experience Survey

The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey in 2010 and 2011 showed significant variance in the reported experiences of patients who had received Chemotherapy.

Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Clinical Director for Cancer has commissioned a survey of chemotherapy patients to help understand this group of patient’s experiences in more detail.

The patient experience survey has been designed and tested by members of the National Chemotherapy Implementation Group, patient representatives and members of the Quality in Nursing Steering Group. We have contracted Quality Health to deliver the survey due to their experience in delivering the DH National Cancer Patient Experience Survey.

Quality Health will distribute a total of 15,250 surveys to patients and will use a random sample of patients within selected Trusts requesting sample sizes that are proportionate to their chemotherapy throughput.

Quality Health will commence with collection in October 2012 and will be contacting the Trusts in due course with full information about the patient sample sizes etc.

We are confident the outcomes of this work will provide us with a good baseline of data identifying some of the key areas of good practice and potential issues affecting chemotherapy patients. A report on the findings from the first Chemotherapy Patient Experience Survey will be published in early 2013.

If anyone has any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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