

GRICS Optimal Cancer Care Pathways Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER 1 - MAY 2017

Why are we developing the Optimal Cancer Care Pathways?

Optimal Cancer Care Pathways (OCPs) have been developed to help people receive the best possible care.

The pathways describe the key stages in a patient's cancer journey and expected optimal care at each stage. This ensures people diagnosed with cancer receive the finest possible care, regardless of where they live or have their cancer treatment.

For each cancer pathway there are three versions:

- **detailed clinical pathway**
for cancer specialists, health professionals and health service administrators
- **quick reference guide**
for General Practitioners - to familiarise GPs and primary care providers with the care pathway
- **patient 'what to expect' guides** -
to assist patients and people affected by cancer to understand the care pathway and what to expect at each stage.

Detailed pathways, quick reference guides and patient guides have been developed for the following tumour types:

- acute myeloid leukaemia
- breast cancer
- colorectal cancer (bowel)
- endometrial cancer
- head and neck cancers
- hepatocellular carcinoma (liver)
- high-grade glioma
- lung cancer
- lymphoma
- melanoma
 - non-melanoma
- oesophagogastric cancer
- ovarian cancer
- pancreatic cancer
- prostate cancer

The consumer versions have an additional 4 guides developed - cancer of unknown primary, pleural mesothelioma, peritoneal mesothelioma and Sarcoma.

Who will implement the pathways?

The Integrated Cancer Services are implementing the pathways throughout Victoria. GRICS has been tasked with implementing across the Gippsland region with the initial focus on the Colorectal and Lung tumour streams.



As part of this process, GRICS were involved with data auditing and surveying to collect information about the current state of cancer pathways in Gippsland and subsequently identify gaps in current cancer practices as compared to the OCP recommendations.

The information collected formed three areas of focus for improvement, which GRICS, in collaboration with the Gippsland Primary Health Network, are currently working on.

The initiatives are:

1. Increasing number of patients prospectively discussed at a Multidisciplinary Meeting - further analysis in progress.
2. Increase communication from Specialists to GPs - Treatment summary developed, finalising capacity to be completed within computer software program.
3. GP referral letter to Specialist - Referral letter drafted, currently seeking feedback from GPs and Specialists.

GRICS have also been involved in the promotion of the OCPs to health professionals and consumers with the communication activities continuing throughout this year.

By adopting the OCPs, Gippsland health facilities will be better equipped to provide consistent, coordinated and quality cancer care at each stage of a patient's cancer journey.

The next two OCPs to be implemented later this year are Prostate and Oesophagogastric.

Where do I find out more information on the pathways?

View the Optimal Cancer Care Pathways or download consumer PDFs from www.cancer.org.au/OCP or view the interactive consumer web portal at www.cancerpathways.org.au

Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services
Latrobe Regional Hospital
PO Box 424 Traralgon 3844
Phone: 03 5128 0138 Email: grics@lrh.com.au
Website: www.grics.com.au

