

Cancer Nursing News



contents:

Cover Story

Feedback from local branch.

TITAN and TARGET projects

Nursing innovations

Dates for your diary

Message from the editor

A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland 2006.

The second cancer strategy was published in July 2006. It was prepared by the National Cancer Forum and makes recommendations in relation to the organisation, governance, quality assurance and accreditation of all aspects of cancer care. Joan Kelly and subsequently Eileen Furlong represented the IANO on the cancer forum which produced the cancer control strategy.



Strategy Overview:

MANAGED CANCER CONTROL NETWORKS:

HSE to establish 4 managed cancer control networks serving a population of 1 million each. Each network to be comprised of 5 elements; primary care, hospital care, palliative care, psycho-oncology and supportive care.

Each network will be led by a network director (position rotated every 4 years. He/she will be responsible for establishing care pathways which should link primary care, hospital care and other services.

Within each network, cancer care will be limited to accredited cancer centres that must serve a population of at least 500,000 (8 centres needed to serve Irish population). No single centre should lead on all cancer services in a network and for patient convenience some care should be delivered outside of centres but this should be under the direct supervision of the centre e.g. paediatric oncology shared care programme.

In order to maximise the benefits to patients the emphasis of each network should be on connection and partnership rather than isolation and self sufficiency and on distribution of resources rather than centralisation.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR QUALITY IN CANCER CONTROL:

The NFQCC should be in place comprised of 4 elements:

1. Quality in cancer control groups. The health information and quality authority (HIQA) should establish site specific groups at national level to develop guidelines in the major site specific sites.
2. A statutory system of licensing and accreditation should apply to public and private cancer services.
3. An information model and infrastructure should be available to address the information needs of patients, professionals, managers and policy makers.
4. HIQA to establish a cancer health technology assessment panel. This will develop a model of assessment that allows for the speedy introduction of proven technologies.

POLICY INDICATORS:

A set of policy indicators are set based on the examination of international approaches. They were chosen to cover the major areas of cancer control policy at a high level. The HSE should present a report on the indicators each year to the cancer forum based on national and network figures. The 1st report will allow targets to be set for each indicator and these should then be reviewed annually by the cancer forum.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND CANCER PREVENTION:

This supports the "review of the national health promotion strategy" the strategic task force on alcohol and the national task force on obesity. The strategy makes additional recommendations on tobacco, alcohol, nutrition, physical activity and risk reduction with uv light and radon.

Specific recommendations include:

- Extending breast screening to 50-69 years.
- National roll out of cervical screening.
- Population based screening for colorectal cancer.
- Regulation of sunbeds.

THE NEXT STEPS:

Areas to be addressed:

1. A national cancer workforce plan should look at any shortfalls that are limiting current capacity and impairing service quality.
2. Education and research: There must be adequately skilled staff in all disciplines and research and education are essential components in the development, implementation and evaluation of a national cancer control programme.
3. Cancer control and prevention: The importance should be reflected in systems development that enables the measurement of interventions, outcomes, and incidence e.g. cancer surveillance.
4. The numbers on clinical trials established is a marker of quality of care and access to these trial must be improved.

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The following questions were sent to the HSE and were responded to by Tracey Conroy, Assistant Principal, Cancer policy unit.

Q1. What specific time frame has been established to achieve the strategy targets e.g.

■ **Extending breast screening to 50-69 years.**

■ **National roll out of the cervical screening programme.**

■ **Population based screening for colorectal cancer**

A. Breast Check, the National Breast Screening Programme will commence national roll-out by 2007. Once the programme has been rolled out nationally, consideration will be given to extending the age range of the programme. The Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children wishes to see the Irish Cervical Screening Programme (ICSP) rolled out nationally by 2008, based on an affordable model.

As part of her response to the Strategy for Cancer Control, the Tánaiste has announced her intention to establish a National Cancer Screening Board to amalgamate the BreastCheck and ICSP to deliver both programmes nationally. This will maximise the expertise in both programmes, ensure improved efficiency and develop a single governance model for cancer screening.

The Tánaiste will also ask the new Board to advise her on the introduction of a national colorectal cancer programme, specifically on the population to be screened, at what intervals screening should take place, the type of test required and the requirements for a quality assured and well organised cost effective symptomatic service.

The Tánaiste will now amend the existing National Breast Screening Board (Establishment) Order 2004 and extend its current membership to include expertise in cervical and colon cancers. These programmes will transfer to the Health Service Executive and form an integral part of its cancer control programme at an appropriate time.

Q2. What amount has been agreed for the cancer budget?

A. Since the implementation of the first National Cancer Strategy commenced in 1997, approximately €920 million has been invested in the development of cancer services. The Vote for the Health Service Executive in 2006 includes a sum of €9 million to continue to meet the additional service pressures in cancer care, improve the quality of care, facilitate better access to radiation oncology services and to continue the preparation for the national cervical screening programme.

The Government is fully committed to significant additional investment in cancer control based on the reform programme now being implemented by the HSE. Additional investment will be addressed from within the annual financial allocation approved by Government commencing in 2007. To this end, the Tánaiste has asked the HSE to prepare a robust needs assessment for cancer control for the next five years to reflect priorities in cancer control, equitable distribution and priority setting that maximises efficiency and reduces dependency on hospital in-patient care.

Q3. What hospitals are to be named as the 4 managed control networks and the 8 cancer centres and what hospitals will link with each network?

A. The HSE has announced the establishment of a National Cancer Control Programme to implement the new Strategy, details of which will be outlined by the Executive over the coming weeks. The HSE will develop four Managed Cancer Control Networks which will consist of primary, hospital, supportive and palliative care. The Programme will provide the necessary leadership, governance and integration to create an essential framework for cancer control. It will be led by a National Programme Director and will host a single national budget for all cancer control activities.

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The North West Experience

In October 2003, some nurses from the North West (NW) area began to talk about setting up a regional branch of the Irish Association of Nurses in Oncology (IANO). The vision for such group would be that it would participate and lead out on local educational initiatives and should also provide a forum for regional support and networking amongst nurses working in Oncology.

In February 2005 the first committee meeting of the NW IANO was held in Donegal Town, 28 months since the idea was first conceptualised. So what was so difficult about this task that took over two years to get started? Actually the process was painless and with little hurdles and in hindsight it is hard to know why it took so long to get going.

Initially the constitution of the IANO had to be changed to facilitate the addition of another regional branch. This happened quickly, however by October 2004, no further work had been done. Shamed into action at the annual AGM in October 2004, a number of individuals within the North West put their names forward as being interested in being involved in the NW IANO committee. A date was eventually selected and the inaugural committee meeting was held in Donegal town in February 2005.

Despite the long road to get to this stage, the NW IANO has become a group of interested and enthusiastic nurses who strive to develop nursing practice within their own area of work through promoting attendance at national IANO events and by running local educational initiatives. The committee of 6 individuals, all based in Letterkenny General Hospital, consist of Janice Richmond (Chair of NW IANO and ANP site-facilitator), Margaret Houston (Secretary of NW IANO and A/CNS Oncology), Maggie McGinley (Treasurer of NW IANO and CNM2 Oncology), Annette Brunnick (Committee member and CNM2 Oncology), Noreen Rodgers

Committee member and CNS Oncology Liaison) and Geraldine McGilloway (Committee member and A/CNS Oncology Liaison).

In May 2005 the first educational event was held. An evening workshop (sponsored by Napp laboratories) entitled "Its good to talk" was held in Letterkenny General Hospital. Over twenty staff members attended and through presentations, drama and discussion communications issues were explored. A lunchtime debate was held in September 2005 in Letterkenny General and the motion was, "This house believes that for individuals to receive treatment for their cancer they must be aware of their diagnosis". Fifty staff attended and despite running out of refreshments and lack of space in the room, feedback was very positive. In November 2005 the NW IANO was directly involved in organizing and presenting for a regional study day entitled 'when cancer gets complicated'. Speakers were mainly from in-house and focused on the presentation and management of Oncology emergencies. This day was held in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny and had over 140 delegates. Despite only been advertised locally, delegates attended included those from Dublin, Galway and N.Ireland and evaluation was all positive.

In March 2006 a local GP presented her qualitative research findings on 'women's experiences of a breast cancer diagnosis in Co. Donegal' and a good interest was demonstrated for this talk. Lunch was served at this event held in Letterkenny General Hospital. As a group of nurses have also started work on a research study which aims to 'describe and explore patients' knowledge of neutropenia and their experience of patient education following completion of adjuvant chemotherapy treatment for a solid tumour'. This subject has never been researched before and we look forward to the knowledge that will be gained both in completing the methodology and also in the results obtained. Preliminary work has already been done by the NW IANO in regards to this and data collection will commence in the near future. In addition, Margaret Houston (NW IANO secretary) traveled to Milan in May 2006 to train for the TARGET programme.

The NW IANO organization provides nurses with a forum for discussion of ideas, networking, local and regional support of colleagues and the opportunity to lead and develop nursing practice. We would encourage other staff to join as a member of the national IANO and also join a local regional branch. As the NW IANO we look forward to continued development and improvements in the care that we offer our patients.

*J. Richmond, M McGinley, M Houston,
A Brunnick & N Rodgers*

TITAN and TARGET are two initiatives that provide education for oncology nurses. They were developed by the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) and are implemented locally by the Irish Association for Nurses in Oncology (IANO).

TITAN

TITAN is an EONS (European Oncology Nursing Society) Training Initiative in Thrombocytopenia Anaemia and Neutropenia developed with the aim of contributing to improved patient quality (and quantity) of life by focusing on the prevention, detection and management of these serious haematological toxicities. In 2004, Ireland under the auspices of the IANO was the first pilot site for this exciting new initiative. We are also the first country to roll out the revised TITAN programme.

Twenty-three oncology nurses attended the one-day course, which was held on Friday 26th May 2006 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin. The TITAN course featured a combination of lectures, interactive sessions and case studies. Nurses from Ireland Cathleen Ryan (CNM 111, Mid Western Cancer Centre, Limerick), Marie Cox (Clinical Nurse Manager III in Oncology/Haematology/Radiotherapy Services, University College Hospital Galway), Colette Healy (Clinical Education Facilitator, HOPE Directorate, St. James's Hospital) Rita Smith (Lecturer in Nursing, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems), Eileen Furlong (Lecturer in the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems, University College Dublin) as well as nurses from abroad Jan Foubert (Immediate Past President of EONS) and Dion Smyth (Lecture-Practitioner in cancer and palliative care, Birmingham) facilitated the course.

Participants are expected to complete a dissemination project within six months of attending the study day. Projects can be individual or group submissions. The purpose of the dissemination projects is to help TITAN participants to share their enhanced knowledge with colleagues, patients and/or their families. The projects are due for completion in November 2006. AMGEN Ireland is providing a €1,500 travel bursary for the project judged the best in Ireland. EONS are also providing a prize for the project judged the best in Europe.

In order to help the participants to plan their dissemination projects the winners of the Irish TITAN pilot dissemination project award Catriona Duggan and Sally O'Connor (Portiuncla Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co Galway) shared their TITAN experience. They presented the poster they developed demonstrating a flowchart for the management of febrile neutropenia to educate staff to identify patients at risk from neutropenia. This poster has been disseminated to the wards, accident & emergency department and intensive care unit at Portiuncla Hospital. As a reward for the best Irish dissemination project in 2004 AMGEN (Europe) funded Catriona and Sally to attend ECCO-13 in Paris November 2005. They got the opportunity to present their project at the conference.

On behalf of the Irish Association of Nurses in Oncology we would like to thank Jan Foubert (Immediate Past President of EONS), Kathy Redmond and all of the EONS working group for developing TITAN. We believe that it has contributed to improving nurse's knowledge of anaemia, thrombocytopenia and neutropenia and so enable them to provide quality care to patients who experience haematological toxicities. Thanks also to Mary Uhlenhopp, AMGEN (Europe) and Annette Kent, AMGEN (Ireland) for their support to the IANO in organising this TITAN course.

TARGET INITIATIVE

The TARGET initiative is a European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) project to educate oncology nurses about targeted therapies used in the treatment of cancer. This project is sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from Merck KgaA.

The IANO were invited by EONS to participate in a train-the-trainer course for the TARGET Initiative. Kay Leonard (President, IANO), Joan Kelly (NEC member), Marie Lavin (NEC member), Margaret Houston (NorthWest branch member), Louise Maher (Dublin branch member), Mairead Cowan (IANO member) and Roisin Molloy (Merck, Ireland) attended the train-the-trainer course which was held on May 12-13th 2006 in Milan, Italy.

The programme is a one-day course that takes nurses through the biology of cancer, why the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is so important in solid tumours and gives detailed information on using EGFR targeted therapies in clinical practice. A major focus of the course is the pivotal role nurses have in assessing and managing the side effects of anti-EGFR therapy. The TARGET Advisory Board and EONS were concerned that the information gained by nurses attending the TARGET course should not be lost so they have developed the concept of dissemination projects.

The oncology nurses who attended the train-the-trainers dissemination project under the auspices of the Irish Association for Nurses in Oncology will be to roll out the TARGET initiative to oncology nurses in Ireland. We hope to organise the first course on 1st December 2006. This will be open to all IANO members and will be advertised on our website www.iano.ie or for further information email iano@irishcancer.ie

Kay Leonard (President IANO)

Dates for your Diary

NCI 3RD ALL IRELAND CANCER CONFERENCE 2006

Date: 13-15 November 2006

Venue: Waterfront Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland

For more information on the programme, call for posters and registration details visit www.aicc2006.co.uk

TARGET

Date: Friday December 1st 2006

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin

Open to all IANO members.

Contact iano@irishcancer.ie or details on web www.iano.ie

EVENING MEETING IANO (LIMERICK BRANCH)

Date: Spring 2007

Venue: Southcourt Hotel.

Open to all healthcare workers.

For further details contact cathleen.ryan@mailh.hse.ie

Dear Members,

Apologies for the delay in getting our publication to you this year. As you can see the newsletter has been redesigned. It will be circulated on a quarterly basis and any of your comments, suggestions or ideas are welcome. It is hoped that it will be used as a format to circulate regional news, advertise local events and keep each other in touch with nursing innovations in the area of oncology nursing.

If you wish to advertise on the newsletter on any of the aforementioned please contact cathleen.ryan@mailh.hse.ie or phone (061) 482831.

Advertising for the February 2007 newsletter should be sent before December 22nd.

PAEDIATRIC BOOKS

Congratulations to the staff of the paediatric oncology/haematology unit in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children on their recent international award for the publication of "Precious Times". This, and other publications such as "Helping Hand" which was produced in 2005 help in providing information for the parents of children who have a cancer diagnoses.

1. PRECIOUS TIMES

Precious Times is a handbook on palliative care for parents of children with cancer. The aim of the book is to provide information and support for families whose child is on palliative care. The information in the book was compiled by the Haematology/ Oncology Clinician Nurse Specialists of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Dublin 12. It was first published in 2000 and the second edition was published in 2004. It was nominated, by the IANO, for an EPE (Excellence in Patient Education) award in 2005. This was awarded by EONS (European Oncology Nursing Society) at the 13th ECCO conference in Paris.



2. HELPING HAND – A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR

A booklet produced jointly by the Haematology/ Oncology CNSs of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Beaumont Hospital and St. Lukes Hospital to provide information to parents and their families about brain tumours and treatments.



Both books are sponsored by the Irish Cancer Society.

*Teresa Slevin CNM 3 St Johns Ward,
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children.*



**Please encourage colleagues to join the IANO. For further details contact:
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