

Delivering quality services now and for the future

Transforming survival for people with secondary liver cancer

Summary

NHS England (East Anglia) is working to implement a single specialist surgical centre for people with secondary liver cancer (also known as Liver Metastases) living in Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and north Bedfordshire (the former Anglia Cancer Network region). Secondary cancer is where cancer has originated in a different part of the body and has spread to another.

Following an extensive review process which was led by independent expert clinicians, a referring surgeon, a service specialist, a clinical nurse specialist and a patient representative, a recommendation was made for the single specialist surgical centre to be based at Addenbrookes Hospital (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).

The next step in this process will be for NHS England (East Anglia Area Team) to run a period of engagement with patients and the public. The engagement exercise will be as thorough and as comprehensive as a formal consultation. This is in order to ensure all interested stakeholders and members of the public have the opportunity to learn more about the changes and give their feedback on the plans.

Engagement objectives

The '*Delivering quality services for now and the future*' engagement action plan is a strategy for engaging with patients and the public on the establishment of single specialist surgical centre for people with secondary liver cancer.

The action plan is fully inclusive ensuring that all sections of the region have the opportunity to participate and comment on the recommendations. Our aim is to ensure we run a credible and comprehensive engagement exercise with stakeholders and members of public.

Comments received during the engagement period will be used to inform the plans for change and future implementation, helping to ensure the new service meets the needs and preferences of those who may need it.

The engagement period

The engagement exercise will be as thorough and as comprehensive as a formal consultation and will run for the same period.

Formal consultations run for a minimum period of 12 weeks and are usually extended if the 12 weeks also include major public holidays (Christmas, Easter) or significant events (school summer holidays, elections).

We plan to begin our engagement period from early 2014 (this is subject to the outcome of the JHOSC process and the Regional Management Team sign off of the Expert Panel Recommendation), which will be based on the 12 week minimum period.

What's in the Engagement Plan – number & types of engagement events?

It is proposed that a mix of discovery events and visits/meetings with patient groups will be held in order to secure maximum coverage and ensure engagement with all key stakeholders.

In terms of the key geographical areas to hold engagement events, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge have been identified. The majority of engagement activity will take place in Norfolk to take into account the impact of potential change in this area, as the small number of people that will require specialist surgical treatment for secondary liver cancer will travel to Cambridge under the current proposals.

People living in Suffolk and Cambridge have also been identified as being affected by potential changes but on a smaller scale compared to Norfolk and a smaller number of events will be held to reflect this as outlined below.

In regards to visits and meetings with local and rural patient groups, we are working with representatives from Healthwatch and the third sector to identify appropriate local patient group meetings to visit and present our plans and recommendations for discussion and to provide the opportunity to comment on them.

Outlined below are key areas for consideration that all members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be aware of in relation to the engagement plan.

Discovery events (proposed number):

Norfolk x 5 (West, East, North and South Norfolk, Central Norwich)
Suffolk x 2 (West and East Suffolk)
Cambridgeshire x 1 (Cambridge)

Consideration will be given to the usefulness of holding an event in North Bedfordshire (Bedford) but at this stage it is not thought to be required.

Visits/meetings with local patient groups:

Work will be taking place on identifying appropriate patient groups to visit and we will be working with representatives from Healthwatch, the Third Sector, local CCGs and patient and public involvement colleagues from Strategic Clinical Networks and NHS England to put together a programme of visits.

Nb. Please note that the proposed discovery events and plans to attend meetings are subject to final agreement by the Liver Metastases Project Steering Group

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