Prostate Cancer UK Policy Position on Quality Performance Indicators

Our position

Prostate Cancer UK believes the prostate cancer quality performance indicators (QPIs) for Scottish Health Boards are a step in the right direction, but that the indicators need to be more comprehensive to cover all aspects of prostate cancer care.

The QPIs have a strong clinical focus but are not very patient orientated. Prostate Cancer UK believes they need to provide more joined up thinking for care between different services.

Specifically, the QPIs for prostate cancer do not discuss the information needs of men with prostate cancer at all. We think that this is a missed opportunity. A key aim of the QPI programme is to produce standards that help local Health Boards to improve the patient experience and to promote person-centred cancer care. As such, we believe that it is vital that the focus of the QPIs for prostate cancer is widened to include men’s information needs.

We want: the QPIs to be more comprehensive and patient orientated.

What are quality performance indicators?

QPIs are a set of standards used to measure and monitor cancer related data in Scotland. The aim of QPIs is to drive continuous quality improvement in cancer care.

QPIs are designed to be clear and measurable, based on sound clinical evidence whilst also taking into account other recognised standards and guidelines.

- Each QPI has a short title which will be utilised in reports as well as a fuller description which explains exactly what the indicator is measuring.

- This is followed by a brief overview of the evidence base and rationale which explains why the development of this indicator was important.

- The measurability specifications are then detailed, which highlight how the indicator will actually be measured in practice to allow for comparison across NHS Scotland.

- Finally a target is indicated, which dictates the level that each Board should be aiming to achieve against each indicator.

It is anticipated that other QPIs will be developed to cover chemotherapy, radiotherapy and patient experience, so these have not been included in the prostate cancer QPIs.
Background

Quality performance indicators (QPI) were established through Scotland’s 'Better Cancer Care' programme in 2008. The Scottish Cancer Taskforce established the National Cancer Quality Steering Group which is responsible for:

- the development of approximately 10-15 indicators of cancer tumour specific national quality performance indicators (QPIs),
- overseeing the implementation of the national framework which supports the reporting of performance against national QPIs, and
- making sure that this work continues.

The QPIs have been developed collaboratively with the three Regional Cancer Networks, Information Services Division (ISD), and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. QPIs will be kept under regular review and be updated following changes in clinical practice and emerging evidence.

The overarching aim of the cancer quality work programme is to ensure that activity at NHS board level is focussed on areas most important to improve survival and patient experience whilst reducing variance and ensuring safe, effective and person-centred cancer care. However, as there is no reference to patient experience measures, we cannot be sure that men with prostate cancer views are actually taken into account.

A Quality Checklist: your standards of care

Prostate Cancer UK wants to improve prostate cancer services for men across the UK. We have developed ‘a quality checklist: your standards of care’ for men with prostate cancer, based on research with people affected by prostate cancer and health professionals. The checklist outlines the quality of care and support men with prostate cancer should expect to receive. The checklist is needed because we know from surveys such as the National Cancer Patient Experience survey and our survey on quality care that experiences of care varies across the whole of the UK.

Which standards of our Quality Checklist does this issue fit within?

Applies to all. The standards within the quality checklist are key to driving care across the board from diagnosis onwards.


Date created/by whom: 19/2/2013 Holly Mitchell, Policy Officer

Review dates: 19/2/2014

---

i NHS Scotland (2012) Prostate Cancer Clinical Quality Performance Indicators: Scottish Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland
