



Shropshire & Mid Wales  
Cancer Forum

**Notes from the meeting held  
December 2012 at the Hamar Centre,  
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, SY3 8X**

**Present:**

Sian Hallewell (chair), Colin Stedgeman, Ray Dowling, Greg Hayward (part), Rob Gough, Alan Morrison, Robin Conley, Eileen Lewis, David Rees

**Apologies:**

David Whiting

**Notes of the last meeting**

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Introductions**

Robin C introduced himself and explained his role as head & neck patient representative at the partnerships network site specific group and member of the Wolverhampton Patient Advisory Cancer Team. (The equivalent of our forum). He is interested in the forums views on the possible loss of complex head & neck cases. Robin was updated on the project with the local health economy group who are looking into this and who will be looking at a patient pathway which includes the best practice and outcomes nationally.

**Matters arising**

Sian advised the group that the Macmillan's Therapy Team bid to Macmillan had been approved. (A copy of the forums letter of support was available for members).

**Haematology** Rob has still received no reply from Birmingham regarding accreditation. Rob will contact Dr O'Connor

**Action: Rob**

**Displaying banner & information**, Rob advised this is now up in the learning centre.

**Nutrition & dietary workshop.** This will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at the Hamar Centre from 10 -12. Posters were distributed for forum members to circulate. The feedback form for this event was discussed and agreed. The talk will be given by NHS oncology dietician Catherine. Questions can be submitted in advance. It was agreed to put up the forums 'display board' at the event. Greg is going to attend and bring his get active banner and literature. Greg has already recruited 5 people to the event. Sian advised she was aiming for 15-20 to attend. People can sign up using the forums mobile phone number, the e mail address or through Greg.

**Expenses** It was agreed to pay all mileage at 45pence per mile. Expense forms should be submitted at each monthly meeting if possible and Alan will bring a cheque to the next meeting for each member claiming.

**Confidentiality forms** Members were invited to sign the confidentiality form if they were happy to do so. These would be kept in a locked drawer. Further advice is being sought by David W on this topic.

**Action: David W**

**Meeting times** It was agreed to hold the summer meetings at The Hamar centre in the afternoon at the usual time as opposed to going to Telford

**My Cancer Treatment** Sian gave out leaflets and posters on this web site. It has been launched this month and shows the peer review reports. It allows users to compare teams (of the same cancer type) in different localities.

**Treasurers Report** – Alan presented the latest financial position.

## **AOB**

The group were pleased to welcome David R to the forum and listened with interest to his questions and concerns.

Rare cancer awareness and management in the hospital system:

- emergency admissions & services; ward transfers; general ward management, markers on admissions computer systems, training
- admission procedures for “acute episodes”, that are urgent but not emergencies; would want to avoid emergency and MDT

Sian & Rob will write to SaTH regarding the above.  
**& Rob**

**Action: Sian**

Managing other illnesses; managing treatment side-effects – is it the underlying condition playing up or what everyone else has got? Best use of GP, use of over-the-counter medicines?

Sian felt this could be an area where our Macmillan GP Dr Fiona Hayes could help.

Information sheets/letters/etc (treatment summary) describing complex conditions that could be useful for hospital admission in other areas/countries.

Foreign holidays – EHIC cancer needs register? Condition descriptions in different languages/ insurance

Advance directives – should cancer patients be offered this information.

GP commissioning – what does this mean for cancer services, especially rare cancers? Sian advised that rarer cancers will not be commissioned locally but at a National level.

Access to more technical information on cancer. Sian advised that it was her understanding that generally information for the public was designed to be read by someone with a reading age of 12 or 14 and that to find anything more technical may mean looking on professional websites and magazines.

Managing “the public” information needs on health, medicine & hospital services.

It was agreed that the forum would start at the top of David’s list as it was too large to manage in one go. However, we welcomed the questions and look forward to working through the list.

**Date of next Meeting; Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 2:30, The Hamar Centre, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, SY3 8XQ**