

Notes on meeting of Thyroid sMDT/ Head & Neck NSSG

held at Stafford Hospital 19/04/13

Unfortunately due to the demise of the Cancer Networks, I no longer receive any paperwork for these meetings, and went along at the invitation of my CNS.

Because of the relatively few cases of thyroid cancer, to meet patient numbers there is a weekly videoconference between Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton & Stoke hospitals. This special MDT received a peer review in February, and the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the three items of non-compliance arising from the review. Not having a copy of the review, I had a problem following some details, but they were in essence:-

1. Team covered both Salivary Gland and Thyroid Cancer. - These items to be discussed separately.
2. Multiple operators dealing with surgery. - Surgeons to be limited to main and cover for each hospital.
3. Insufficient clinical activity. - With the wide geographic area this was deemed to be sufficient.

Other Matters

The technical problems with videoconferencing had been resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

A report of a meeting on 16th April of the West Midlands Strategic Clinical Network for chairmen of the NSSGs was circulated. Like the event on 18th April this was poorly advertised and with insufficient places, so the chairman was unable to attend. However it looks as if Wolverhampton will be part of Black Country & Birmingham, while the rest of the GMCN will be part of Shropshire & Staffordshire. The admin facilities would be much worse than the old networks. I asked that this task did not fall on the CNSs as this was a waste of talent.

The group decided that until the new network structure was fully in place, they would continue both the role of the sMDT and of the old NSSG, with the next meeting being at New Cross in July. They agreed to appoint me as the official Patient Representative and to include me in the circulation. They were going to draw up an agenda for the next meeting including items like Patient Satisfaction Surveys.

SaTH have received a Macmillan grant to establish a Head & Neck Cancer support group.

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