

Written evidence from NHS England

Note supplied in relation to the request by Mr Jackson and directly following on from Q63 by the chair:

Professor Clark would have gone on to state:

The current situation in relation to CDF outcome data is this -

1. Every new CDF patient is automatically identified on the Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) database.
2. Submission rates for the core SACT dataset is 100%.
3. Compliance rates for other parts of the SACT dataset are variable, though steadily improving. Each hospital Trust is sent a monthly report highlighting the missing dataset items. The SACT team has expanded its facility to liaise directly with the Trust teams that collect and submit the data and this is helping the completeness of data returns.
4. Submission of SACT data is best in those 62% of Trusts which have electronic prescribing systems in place for chemotherapy. There is a major NHS England initiative to ensure that the 38% of Trusts without such systems are urgently addressing this lack in electronic prescribing.
5. As there are now sufficient numbers of CDF patients who have mature outcome data, SACT is currently beginning to perform analyses of survival for CDF patients, for example with bowel, breast and ovarian cancer treated with bevacizumab (the most commonly prescribed CDF drug in 2013-2015). These data are currently being checked by the SACT team with a view to presentation to the NHS England Chemotherapy Clinical Reference Group before being made public. A rolling program of such analyses is being agreed between NHS England and Public Health England.
6. The lessons learned in the collection, submission and analysis of CDF chemotherapy data have aided the collection of non-CDF chemotherapy data as well as informing the processes used by NHS England in its Commissioning through Evaluation projects and in the planned changes to the CDF from 2016 onwards. In addition, the CDF SACT issues have greatly informed the need for and targeting the implementation of electronic prescribing systems in England.

NHS England and Public Health England are both frustrated about the time taken to sort out all the processes required to produce robust and mature clinical outcome data for CDF drugs but remain determined for this information to be made available in the near future.

9 December 2015