



Cancer Frailty Service



The Princess Alexandra
Hospital
NHS Trust

Project aim

To decrease the cancer mortality rate of older people and offer them more intensive cancer treatment in the UK. To also create an improved method to assessing older patients which will help provide sufficient information and offer the appropriate cancer treatment recommendation as well as provide the best possible patient outcome.



Project team

Janice Bernardo - Frailty Lead
Fran Humphries – General Manager
Dr Sreekanth Sakthi – Frailty Lead Consultant
Ms Vardhini Vijay - Consultant laparoscopic and colorectal surgeon

Measures

- Patient experience feedback
- Patient safety incidents
- Colorectal cancer performance 75+ years old (2ww & 28FDS)
- Conversion rate to investigation/ treatment/ discharge
- LOS following cancer treatment
- Cancer mortality rates for older people
- Length of cancer pathway

Timeline for delivery

From: Pilot commenced July 2022 To: Present, scope expanding

Learning and next steps

- A business case is in progress to substantiate the service while expanding to other cancer services.
- Days of clinics moved to ensure reduction in days wait
- Location of clinic reviewed as located in assessment area and impacted by IPC outbreaks
- Training for COSMIC outcomes and letter dictation completed
- TIBC to be added as investigation for referral – Mandatory prior to clinic review
- Bowel prep provided in frailty clinic following review to improve patient experience
- Attendance at MDT initially to discuss joint referrals
- Individual cases who were deemed inappropriate for the clinic are discussed monthly to share the learning amongst clinicians.

Results

- From Jan 2022 - June 2023 a total of 210 patients attended the frailty cancer clinic
- High levels of patient satisfaction
- After a thorough consultation only 37% of patients proceeded to investigation
- Average of 0.4 investigations requested per referral for those patients who attend the cancer frailty service as opposed to an average of 1.1 for all colorectal 2ww's over the age of 75
- 43 patients who attended the clinic were deemed unfit for investigation and for palliation which supports quicker identification of patients requiring palliative care
- 2ww performance in October for patients on a cancer frailty pathway was 58% in comparison to 43% for all LGI 2ww referrals demonstrating a 15% improvement in 2ww performance
- The 28 FDS performance in October for patients on a cancer frailty pathway was 47% in comparison to 31% for all all LGI 2ww referrals demonstrating a 16% improvement in 28 FDS performance
- Patients who are seen in the cancer frailty clinic are on their cancer pathway for an average of 36 days which is an average of 4 less day than all colorectal 2ww's over the age of 75



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