

London Cancer Brain and Spine Tumour Pathway Board Annual Report 2017-18

Introduction

London Cancer incorporates the geographical areas of North Central and East London and West Essex with a population of 3.7 million. Since 2016, London Cancer has become one of the six principal programmes of the UCLH Cancer Collaborative.

The Brain and Spine Tumour Pathway Board has been led since November 2017 by Edward McKintosh, a neurosurgeon at Bart's hospital. Prior to November Jonathon Pollock a neurosurgeon at Barts led the board. The board is responsible for driving improvement across the whole care pathway. The Board's membership includes multi-disciplinary representation from cancer professionals across the region and active participation from primary care and from patients.

The role of each pathway board is to understand any variation in practice and set standards that take advantage of planning whole pathways of cancer care for a large population. This drive to improve cancer care for patients covers an integrated care pathway that extends from presentation and diagnosis through to palliative care and living with and beyond cancer.

The board has been most concerned with supporting achievement of the NICE guidance NG12, which for brain and spine specifies GP direct access to MRI Head. The board's mapping engendered confidence that every GP within the patch has access to MRI head for suspected brain cancer. The challenge is now to increase its utilisation.

Achievements this year

This year has been a transitional one for the board having taken the time necessary to recruit Mr Edward McKintosh (in November 2017), neurosurgeon at Barts hospital from a plethora of outstanding candidates. In Edward the board has a director who will help build on previous progress made around data collection, in enhancing the running of MDTs, in improving patient experience and in rolling out GP direct access MRI Head tests.

Our key achievements have been:

- Appointment of Edward McKintosh as new the new pathway director in November 2017
- Recruitment of a new board patient representative.
- Continued scoping work around stratified follow up, the improvements required to the 2week wait pathway and revisions required to our clinical guidelines.



Mr Edward McKintosh, Pathway Director and Neuro-Surgeon at St Barts

UCLH Cancer Collaborative brings together hospital trusts, GPs, health service commissioners, local authorities and patients across north and east London and west Essex.

Future plans

In 2018/19 our priority will be overseeing the transition of neuro-onc surgical services. Through audits of the MDTs and via working with our partner Trusts we will understand the issues and risks then show NHS London how these will be mitigated to the highest possible degree of confidence. Our work plan is outlined below.

No	Objective	By
1	Support the reconfiguration of neuro-onc services.	Ongoing
2	A pre and post reconfiguration MDT audit to be held.	April 2019
3	Work with Transforming Cancer Services Team, Commissioners and GPs to increase uptake of GP direct access MRI Head.	April 2019
4	Complete revision of brain and spine guidelines then publish	September 2018
5	Hold a patient engagement event	October 2018
6	Pilot stratified follow up on a defined patient population	April 2019

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the Brain and Spine Tumour Pathway Board for contributing their time to Tumour Pathway Board meetings and projects outside the meeting.