Indicator guidance

QOF indicator area: cancer
Output: Indicator guidance for QOF
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Indicator for NICE menu (indicator ID: NM62)
The percentage of patients with cancer diagnosed within the preceding
15 months who have a review recorded as occurring within 3 months of the
practice receiving confirmation of the diagnosis.

Indicator to be replaced
CANCER 3. The percentage of patients with cancer, diagnosed within the
preceding 18 months, who have a patient review recorded as occurring within
6 months of the practice receiving confirmation of the diagnosis.

Rationale
A GP will have an average of 8 or 9 new cancer diagnoses per year and will
be looking after 20 to 30 patients with cancer. The increasing number of
cancer survivors has led to an increase in the number of people requiring
follow-up care, monitoring and management.

Most practices will see patients with a new cancer diagnosis following
assessment and management in a secondary or tertiary care setting. These
patients quickly resume consultations in general practice at an increased rate
to pre-diagnosis and treatment, therefore primary care has an important role
in managing survivorship. This review represents an initial opportunity to
address patients’ needs for individual assessment, care planning and ongoing
support and information requirements.
A cancer review in primary care should include:

- The patient’s individual health and support needs, which will vary with, for example, the diagnosis, staging, age and pre-morbid health of the patient and their social support networks. In collaboration with the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, Macmillan primary care community has produced a template which recommends that this could cover a discussion of the diagnosis and recording of cancer therapy, an offer of relevant information, medication review, benefits counselling and recording of a carer’s details.
- The coordination of care between sectors.

Further information on survivorship and the potential role for primary care can be found on the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative website.

While a review should be face to face in most cases, making contact with a patient over the telephone will qualify as a success for this indicator. Where contact is made over the phone, an offer should be made for a subsequent face to face review.

**Reporting and verification**

The practice reports the percentage of people with a new diagnosis of cancer in the preceding 15 months who have had a review performed within 3 months of the practice receiving confirmation of the diagnosis.

QOF assessors may wish to review records where a review is claimed to confirm that both elements have been completed.

**Further information**

This is NICE indicator guidance for QOF, which is part of the NICE menu of indicators. This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. The NICE menu of indicators for QOF is available online at www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/indicators.jsp