

Case Study

Specialised Commissioning, Yorkshire and the Humber - Pancreatic Cancer Services

Background

Specialist pancreatic cancer services are currently being delivered from 3 centres within the Yorkshire and the Humber area and specialised commissioners have commenced a project designed to review and evaluate this service against national standards. Commissioners provided the Senate with the evaluation in September 2016 and asked:

“whether the current service model for pancreatic cancer is clinically appropriate.

Are there opportunities to improve the service and its compliance with the national service specification and what risks, issues, opportunities or concerns does the Senate advise the commissioner to consider in the development of the options for the future service.”

The Problem

When the services were assessed against the nationally mandated service specification, only one out of the three centres was found to be compliant with the required population minimum. This raised questions of whether each centre has a sufficient number of cases annually to maintain the expertise of the staff. This evaluation was also supported from peer reviews which noted that services within the Yorkshire and the Humber region were not delivered to the required standard.

Our Advice

The Senate recommended that the population base is a critical factor and therefore a 3 centre model for Specialised Pancreatic Cancer Services within Yorkshire and the Humber is not clinically appropriate. We advised that the opportunities to improve the service would be by delivering the Improving Outcomes Guidance recommendations.

The Senate also made a number of recommendations on the issues that need to be

considered in the next stage of work including the need

- i. To better understand the demographics of the disease.
- ii. For more detailed analysis and understanding of the activity.
- iii. For more detailed information on the diagnostic and supporting services.

Our Impact

The independent clinical advice received from the senate;

- Provided an independent expert clinical opinion and scrutiny on the pancreatic service review.
- Provided clinical oversight in the service review work already undertaken.
- Enabled further discussions to take place between commissioners and providers on potential modelling for future service delivery.

Testimonial

“As commissioners involved in the review of specialised services with a variety of different providers across a wide geographical footprint, the ability to call on an independent assurance process from a range of specialists within their field has been invaluable in providing a level of scrutiny and transparency to the processes undertaken.”



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