

## **SECTION 2 - SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR CANCER PREVENTION, TREATMENT & CARE**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Cancer is one of the main causes of ill health, disability and death in Northern Ireland. The aim of this framework is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland by improving health promotion, preventative services and the quality of cancer care. To do this, the service will have to work beyond traditional health and social care boundaries. It will work with patients and the public to raise their awareness of how they can reduce the risk of cancer.

The cancer service framework sets standards about care across the patient journey. This includes:

- prevention;
- diagnosis;
- treatment;
- ongoing care;
- rehabilitation; and
- palliative and end of life care.

The framework focuses on people who already have cancer. It also looks at people / communities that have a bigger risk of getting cancer in the future.

This is a three year service framework and was not designed to be fully comprehensive of all cancers. Those involved have highlighted the most important areas for cancer prevention, treatment and care. There are no individual standards relating to the care of people with head and neck cancers, sarcoma and thyroid cancer. This will be subject to review as new evidence becomes available. Professionals working in these areas will be concentrating on the delivery of the standards that apply to all types of cancer and all people with cancer.

Alongside this document work is ongoing on the development of an implementation plan which set out key service components which are essential in relation to the effective implementation of this framework.

## **2.2 Process for developing the service framework for cancer**

The development of service frameworks is overseen by a multidisciplinary programme board, which is jointly chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and the Deputy Secretary of the DHSSPS. In addition, the cancer service framework has been developed by the Northern Ireland Cancer Network (NICaN)<sup>1</sup>, with representation from all aspects of the service and service users and carers as well as the voluntary sector. NICAN was tasked to develop a cancer service framework and is accountable, through the project lead, to the Departmental Service Framework Programme Board. The full membership of the project team is set out in Appendix 1.

## **2.3 Equality screening**

The Department's equality screening of the Cancer Service Framework was informed by the consultation process. The screening process did not identify any adverse impacts on any of the groups covered by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.

## **2.4 How to read the rest of this document**

Each service framework follows a person's journey, from prevention through to end-of-life care. It also takes into account the needs of children and adults.

The standards are all presented in the same way. Figure 1 shows the information that is included in each standard.

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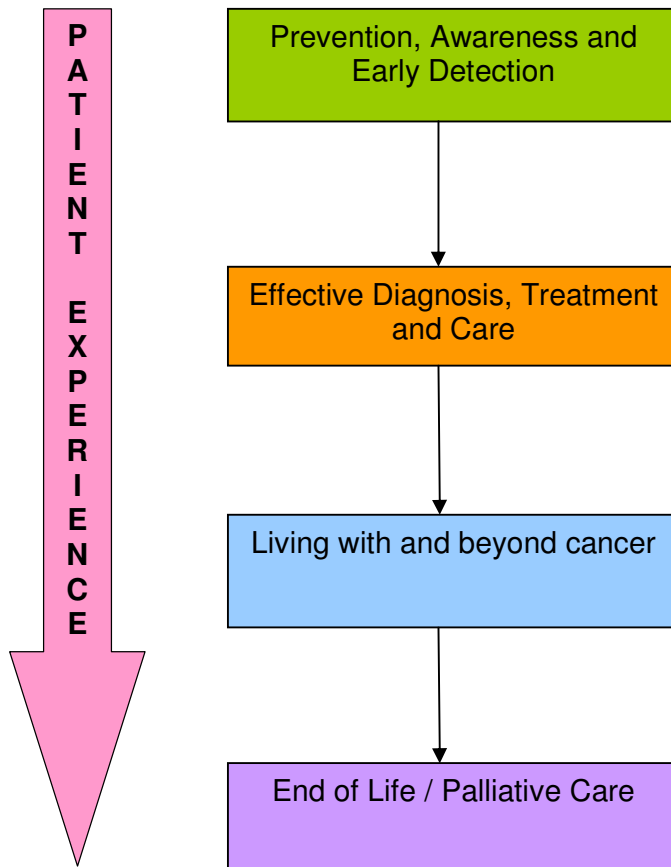
<sup>1</sup> For more information about NICaN go to [www.nican.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.nican.n-i.nhs.uk)

**Figure 1: Explaining the standards**

<p><b>Standard:</b> This is a short statement that outlines what will be delivered.</p>			
<p><b>Rationale:</b> This is a short section that outlines why/how the standard will make a difference for patients.</p>			
<p><b>Evidence:</b> This includes brief references for the research evidence or guidance that the standard is based on.</p>			
<p><b>Responsibility for delivery / implementation</b> This lists the health and social care organisations that will be working together to deliver the standard.</p>			
<p><b>Quality Dimension</b> This section includes information about how the standard will make the service better for patients. It will focus on six factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safety</li> <li>▪ Timeliness (is it given at the right time?)</li> <li>▪ Effectiveness (will improve outcomes for patients?)</li> <li>▪ Efficiency (will it mean better value for money or will it reduce waste?)</li> <li>▪ Equity (will it mean that everyone will get the same care?)</li> <li>▪ Patient-Centred (will it mean that each person gets the care they need?)</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Performance Indicator</b></p> <p>This information will be monitored to show if the standard is being delivered.</p>	<p><b>Data source</b></p> <p>This tells you where the information will come from.</p>	<p><b>Anticipated Performance Level</b></p> <p>This states how well the service must do on this performance indicator.</p>	<p><b>Date to be achieved by</b></p> <p>This states when the Anticipated performance level should be reached.</p>

The standards are colour coded to show which part of the patient journey they are about. For example, standards that are about assessment and diagnosis are yellow (see Figure 2). Standards that affect all parts of the patient journey are pink.

**Figure 2 – Colour coding of standards to show which part of the patient journey they are about**



There are three levels of standards

1. Standards that are relevant to a number of service frameworks (i.e. Standards 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10). Work commenced in 2009/10 to collect data to monitor the delivery of these standards.
2. Standards that are generic across all cancers – that is, they apply to all people with cancer and to all cancer types (e.g. access to clinical nurse specialists and patient information).

3. Standards that are about people with a certain type of cancer (e.g. colorectal or lung).

The rest of this document is divided into the following sections:

- **Section 3** explains why there is a need to develop a service framework for cancer prevention, treatment and care. It talks about some of the lifestyle issues that can affect the risk of developing cancer.
- **Sections 4,5,6,8 and 9** set out standards that will apply to all cancer patients and across all types of cancer. Each section deals with one of the key themes outlined in Figure 2:
  - Prevention, awareness and early detection
  - Effective treatment and care
  - Palliative and end of life care
  - Living with and beyond cancer
  - Patient experience.
- **Section 7** sets out standards that apply to only one type of cancer or to patients with a certain type of cancer.

A glossary of terms is attached to this document (Appendix 6). It explains some of the medical terms used in the standards. If a standard includes a word that is *written in italics* it means that you will be able to find the meaning of that word in the glossary.