

National and Vanguard prioritised 'best practice' cancer pathways

Introduction

The national Cancer Vanguard has committed to developing and implementing 'best practice timed pathways' that should act as national exemplars to the wider NHS.

Analysis from the pan-Vanguard informatics team directed our focus towards lung, colorectal, prostate and oesophago-gastric (OG) pathways, as this is where we can have the biggest impact in terms of improved one-year survival rates, screening uptake, reduced variation between providers and CCGs, and wait times.

Implementing the National Optimal Lung Clinical Pathway (NOLCP), which was developed by NHS England's Clinical Expert Group for Lung Cancer, is our first priority. The aim of this pathway is to ensure that each stage happens quickly, that communications with patients are effective, and that the entire lung team works in a coordinated but flexible way, focusing always on the patient's journey.

There has been a lot of focus on data on this pathway over a prolonged period of time due to the national lung cancer audit. This has led to a recent marked increase in the proportion of patients receiving surgery.

Despite this, there is still a lot of variation in the currently measured variables and data for the lung pathway, including the proportion of apparently 'operable' cases with stage I/II NSCLC who receive surgery. This variation may be due to other co-morbidities. However, there may also be potential for delays in patients being referred and delays during the diagnostic work-up phase that sometimes lead to clinical deterioration, making surgery no longer possible.

Building upon the NOLCP, we are striving to get patients through the first part of the pathway faster, maximising the number who might benefit from potentially curative surgery and subsequent chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment where appropriate.

Representatives from pan-Vanguard colorectal and prostate leadership teams have now assembled to develop and implement their own accelerated exemplar pathways. Our recently developed pan-Vanguard colorectal pathway is overleaf.

Overarching principles

'Best practice' pathway implementation is committed to incorporating these overarching principles

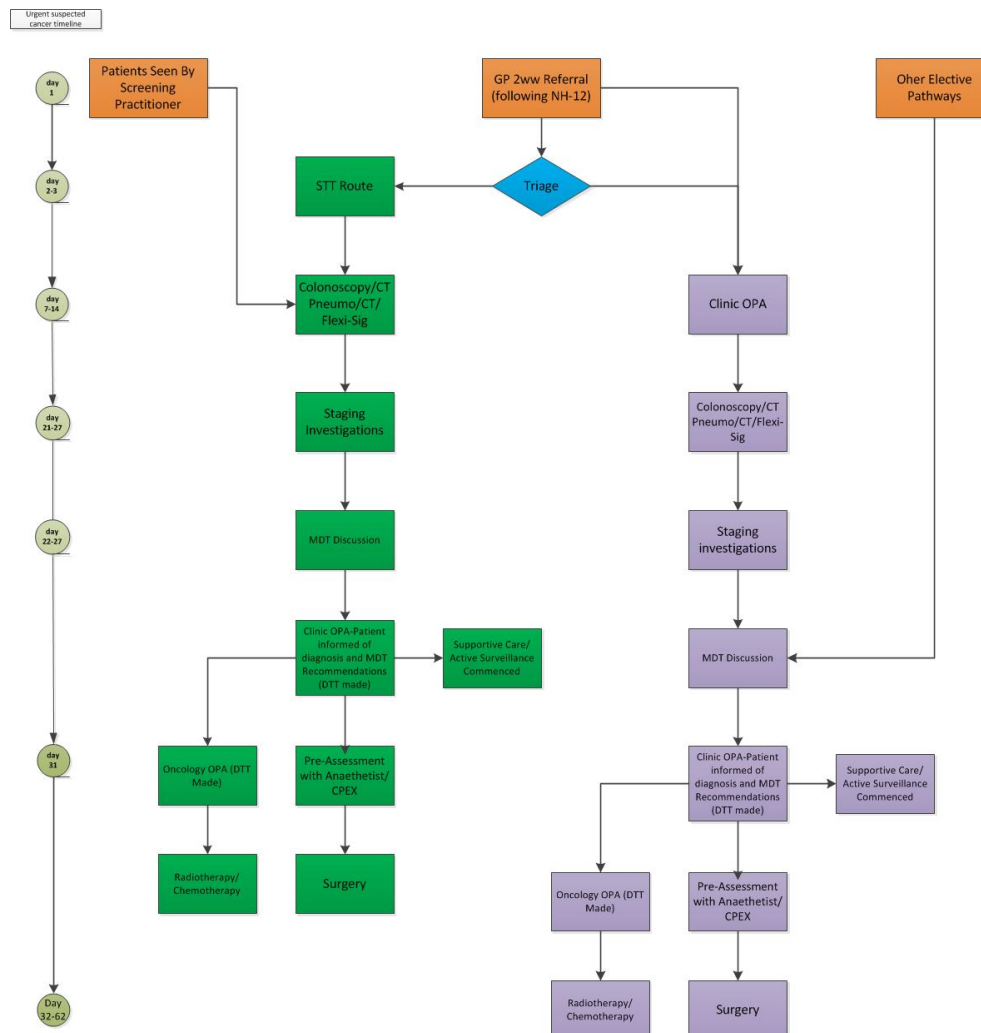
- Partnership working
- Audit, data collection and sharing
- Gathering and responding to patient feedback
- Research and innovation: ie cooperation to maximise clinical trials portfolio for patients
- Education and training: ie training programmes
- Encourage earlier diagnosis and access to STT.

Colorectal pathway

Cancer Vanguard



Colorectal Timed Pathway



Next steps

Prostate

The prostate pathway leadership team has been constituted. As well as following the principles that guided development of colorectal and lung pathways it will include a triage system that ensures patients have early access to the diagnostics appropriate to their risk.

The **oesophago-gastric (OG)** leadership team is awaiting new NICE guidance to ensure the pathway developed aligns with said guidance.

Contact

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