

Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Newsletter

Welcome to the first Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer newsletter.

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), in conjunction with the Cancer Institute NSW and Cancer Australia, with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing, have now successfully completed structured pathology reporting protocols for the six most common cancers in Australia: *prostate, breast, lung, melanoma, lymphoma and colorectal*.

This newsletter is intended to provide information concerning the further development, dissemination and maintenance of these structured pathology reporting protocols for cancer.

Protocol Launch

Associate Professor Paul McKenzie, President of the RCPA with Professor Jim Bishop AO, Department of Health and Ageing's Chief Medical Officer, officially launched the first six developed protocols at the Pathology Update 2010. The launch was held during the Welcome Cocktail Party of the annual Pathology Update conference on Friday 26 February 2010 at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Also involved in launching the protocols was Dr Cleola Anderiesz, National Manager, Research and Clinical Trials, representing Cancer Australia and Dr Debra Graves, CEO RCPA.

"The new systematic report structure is designed to facilitate access to information and ensure all necessary staging and grading information is present, rather than just simplification. It includes mandatory and optional data items, incorporates the results of ancillary tests and allows for free text expansion to capture the subtleties of diagnosis and level of certainty" explained Professor McKenzie, "patients and their treating doctors will have the best available information to undertake treatment, no matter where the pathology is reported."

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Professors Paul McKenzie and Jim Bishop at the Launch.

To view the protocols or download them for use please go to:

www.rcpa.edu.au/Publications/StructuredReporting.htm

Education Program

An education program on the published protocols has been planned based on a "train the trainer" approach. Champions have been identified in each state and in New Zealand who will fly into Sydney for the initial education event on Friday 16th April 2010. At this meeting Associate Professor David Ellis Chair of the Cancer Services Advisory Committee of the RCPA, will provide a general background and overview on structured pathology reporting and then presentations will be given by each of the chairs of the protocol expert committees:

Colorectal - Prof Bob Eckstein
Prostate - Prof James Kench
Lung - Dr Jenny Ma Wyatt
Melanoma - Prof Richard Scolyer
Breast - Prof Michael Bilous
Lymphoma - Dr Debbie Norris

Each presentation will be videoed and made available on the structured pathology reporting website as well as via DVD. Following this initial meeting, the champions will hold meetings in each state and in New Zealand with interested pathologists in which they will undertake to transfer the knowledge provided.

More protocols, a multidisciplinary task

Following on from the publication of the initial six protocols, additional funding has been applied for and granted by the Department of Health and Ageing. As part of this project we will be actively developing protocols in the following areas this year:

- Gynaecology – vulva and endometrium
- Gastrointestinal – gastric
- Genitourinary - kidney
- Neurological - brain
- Head, neck and Endocrine – thyroid and oral cancer
- Bone and soft tissue – soft tissue sarcoma
- Ophthalmic

Chairs of each group have been selected and planning of these protocols is well underway. While the focus is pathology reporting the protocol development committees are multidisciplinary incorporating pathologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists with particular expertise in a cancer area.

Cancer Services Advisory Committee

In 2008, the RCPA set up the Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC). CanSAC was established as a multidisciplinary group with oversight responsibility for coordinating the review of the Framework documents (used to develop the cancer protocols) and the protocols themselves.

The protocol development expert groups have been restructured to align with other international bodies to facilitate international communication and participation. The expert groups now reflect clinical groupings, such as gastrointestinal rather than colorectal. The 12 groups are:

- Gynaecological
- Gastrointestinal
- Neurological
- Genitourinary
- Head/neck & endocrine
- Bone and soft tissue
- Pulmonary and mediastinum
- Skin and adnexal
- Breast
- Haematolymphoid
- Paediatric
- Ophthalmic

The chairs of each of these clinical groups will form one or more 'authorship' groups who will be responsible for the development of the cancer protocols. Each of the chairs of the expert groups has been invited to participate in CanSAC. The addition of the 12 chairs provides a wealth of knowledge in different cancer specific areas, forming a core of experienced protocol developers who will also represent the project on international committees such as the CAP cancer protocol development committees.

WEBSITE: www.rcpa.edu.au/Publications/StructuredReporting.htm

You have received this message because you are listed
as a stakeholder of the national structured pathology reporting project.

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