



# Covid-19 Regional Cancer Surgical group

## Terms of reference

(Finalised 6.7.20)

### 1.0 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the need for clinically guided changes to patient treatment to address new risk and ensure access to emergency care. As we enter a new 'reset' phase it is essential that we support efforts to deliver surgical care with the right prioritisation to minimise any potential adverse cancer outcomes secondary to COVID-19. This will need to take into account the potential for further COVID surge(s), capacity constraints imposed by the need for COVID-19 infection prevention measures and the existing capacity constraints in HSC. This will require regional collaboration to ensure consistency in delivery and equality of access across all HSC Trusts and tumour sites.

### 2.0 Overall aim

The Regional Cancer Surgical group will bring together cancer surgeons and those involved in the planning and delivery of cancer services and surgery in Northern Ireland, to ensure collective clinical leadership and provide evidence based direction to the delivery of cancer surgical services during the on-going response to COVID-19 and ensure equity of access across the system.

### 3.0 Objectives

- Provide expert clinical leadership to ensure the appropriate clinical prioritisation of cancer surgery patients in line with national guidelines/agreed clinical prioritisation framework.
- Provide expert clinical advice to the Cancer Reset Cell on the approach to implementing the reset of cancer surgery and ensuring equitable access for cancer surgery, taking in to account patient treatment and care, service management and minimising the risk of COVID transmission.
- Ensure consistency and equity in the delivery of cancer surgery in Northern Ireland.
  - agree a process for local MDTs to work together across Trusts to enable central regional triage when required
  - develop operational policies and protocols to support central triage if required in the event of another COVID surge

### **3.0 Core membership**

To include:

- The CRG surgical leads or CRG surgical representative nominated from each NICaN CRG.
- Cancer Services Manager and/or nominated deputy for all Trusts
- Surgery services manager and/or nominated deputy for all Trusts
- Surgeon to be invited from Trusts where they are not already represented through a CRG surgical representative.

Administrative support is provided by a member of the NICaN team.

It is the responsibility of core members to report back within their own professional group and to ensure adequate consultation and involvement in key areas of the regional group work plan.

See Appendix A for list of members.

### **5. Frequency of Meetings**

The group should meet regularly with meetings agreed in advance by the Chairs. Frequency of meetings may be determined by impact of potential repeat surges. All attendance will be recorded.

### **6. Accountability and reporting arrangements**

The Group's authority will come from its credibility. This credibility will be evidenced by the application of the Group and its member's knowledge and expertise. It will be the principal source of advice to inform cancer surgery, service configuration, and resource implications), required to achieve the highest quality care. Clarity needed on status of relationship with Cancer Rest Cell.

## Appendix A

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mark Haynes</b>
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Niall McGonigle</b>
<b>Tumour site reps</b>	
Breast	Lynn Darragh
Endocrine	Fiona Eatock
Gynae	Ian Harley
Head & Neck	John Hanratty
Lung	Niall McGonigle
Lower GI	Damian McKay
Neurology	Nicola Johnston
Sarcoma	John Barr
Skin	Olivia Dolan
Upper GI	Andrew Kennedy
Urology	Mark Haynes
<b>Operational reps</b>	<b>Cancer services /surgical service reps</b>
BHSCT	Lisa Houlihan & Glenn Dunwoody
NHSCT	Pat McClelland & Lorraine McDonnell
SET	Mary Jo Thompson & TBC
SHSCT	Fiona Reddick & Martina Corrigan/Amie Nelson
WHSCT	Bridget Tourish & Paul Doherty
HSCB	Cara Anderson
PHA	Louise Herron
NICaN	Kathryn Boyd (MD), Yvonne McGivern (Primary Care MD) Naomi McCay, (NICaN Manager), Sarah Donaldson, Paula Treanor (NICaN Coordinators)
<b>Extended members</b>	
SET	Ian McAllister (SET)
NT	Mr Bill Campbell and Mr Barry McAree (NT)
WT	TBC