## Snapshot Questionnaire of the Experience of General Internal Medicine Physicians with Regards to Acute Oncology

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## **INTRODUCTION** RESULTS 2008 NCEPOD report investigating deaths within 30 days of • 79.6% of clinicians were aware of a formal Acute Oncology Service (AOS) within **Biggest challenges for acute physicians in** chemotherapy: their current trust. caring for acutely unwell cancer patients? 27% of deaths were found to have been either caused or The majority (81.6%) of patients who present acutely with an existing diagnosis of hastened by systemic anticancer treatment (SACT). Ascertaining prognosis, perceived lack of cancer either with a complication of treatment (Type 2) or malignancy (Type 3) are • Only 35% of patients were judged to have had good care. planning for patient deterioration seen initially by acute medical services as opposed to AOS • 'National Chemotherapy Advisory Group' (NCAG) was then established. Lack of knowledge regarding SACT and NCAG advised that all hospitals with an Emergency Department should • Were patients felt to have been seen by oncology team in a timely way? complexities of treatments establish Acute Oncology Services (AO/AOS), aiming to improve the care New malignancy diagnosis of cancer patients receiving unscheduled, acute inpatient care. Complication of Malignancy or Treatment Complexity of patients Varying models of AO services have been developed across the UK, evolving according to local needs, structure and resources. Accessing oncology advice in a timely way. NO As the focus on AO increases and training becomes formalised it is NO important to understand the status quo and areas of unmet need from an YES Increasing no. of oncology patients acutely acute/general physician's perspective thus in the development of services YES such considerations can be taken into account Accessing oncology notes METHODS Split site working Snapshot summary guestionnaire delivered via Survey Monkey platform. Posed to Consultant Physicians who sit on the General Internal Medicine As an acute/general physician, what do you think would improve the care of patients CONCLUSION Speciality Advisory Committee (GIM SAC) at the Joint Royal Colleges already under the care of oncology services when they develop intercurrent illness? Postgraduate Training Board (JRCPTB). UK General physicians were aware of AOS. Open for responses for a total of 14 days in January 2020. Oncology team considering, Increased AOS □ The majority of patients with an existing Distribution to the 66 SAC members was conducted via group email. and discussing with patients Greater capacity & more malignant diagnosis received review from AOS in consultant treatment intent and Members were invited to share the survey with colleagues. prompt reviews a timely manner. input into prognosis Results reviewed via thematic analysis. Open comments and feedback AOS Most initial care is given by acute and general were encouraged. Availability of AO physicians. Increased support to these colleagues Documentation of PARTICIPANTS protocols discussions in through improved information sharing, • 103 survey responses from physicians throughout all regions of the UK. medical notes Greater training education, and better accessibility for advice 82 were consultants and 19 registrars. of acute about patients would be highly beneficial, Direct admission • Respondents were equally distributed between district general hospitals Availability of physicians on AO to oncology beds enabling teams to provide optimum care for the and university teaching hospitals all of which had an Emergency oncology notes growing population of cancer patients. Department (ED).

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National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death, (2008). Systemic Anti-cancer Therapy For better, for worse [Online] National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death. [Viewed 10 Oct 2020]. Available from: https://www.ncepod.org.uk/2008report3/ Downloads/SACT\_report.pdf. National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (2009). Chemotherapy Services in England: Ensuring quality and safety. National Chemotherapy Advisory Group [Viewed 10 Oct 2020]. Available from: http://www.theacp.org.uk/news/22-aug-2009-ncag-report-published.asp