

Improving the Cancer Journey

Improving the Cancer Journey is a service provided by Glasgow City Council in partnership with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Macmillan Cancer Support, Glasgow life and Cordia. It aims to offer adults living in Glasgow, with a cancer diagnosis, a holistic care needs assessment throughout their cancer journey using the National Cancer Survivorship initiative's Concern Checklist. The pilot was launched in February 2014 to patients diagnosed with sarcoma, gynaecological, prostate, colorectal and lung cancers. After an evaluation the service was rolled out to all cancer types from September 2014.

Newly diagnosed patients are identified from information provided by NHS GG&C trakcare system. They are sent a letter inviting them to contact the service to arrange to have an assessment completed. The team consists of 6 link officers who carry out the assessments. When patient's needs have been identified they will then link in with care providers or agencies who can best meet their needs. This assessment will then be offered at key points in the cancer journey including after treatment, if cancer reoccurs or progresses and if they enter end of life care. Clinical advice, support and development for the team are provided by our clinical advisor. Their role is to support and develop the team through case review, education and providing joint visits to support the team assess the patient's needs.

Patients may feel they need more information about their cancer or treatment; they may be worried about their relatives/carers, finances, housing, child care or pet care, how or if they can get back to work or how to deal with the emotional effects of their cancer diagnosis. They might want to make lifestyle changes such as following a healthier diet, to stop smoking or become more active. Our service can help to support the patient with all of these issues by giving them the right information or putting them in touch with the right services to help them. There has been a commitment from all of those involved in the project to change practice or develop services where gaps in meeting the patients needs exist.

For cancer patients receiving treatment as an out patient, adjusting to life after cancer or living with cancer it is more often than not their GP that they turn to for support. It's therefore essential that GP's are aware of what our service can provide and have a route to refer patients to us. This ensures that patient's are receiving the care and support that they need when they need it and will hopefully improve their cancer journey.

We accept referrals from health and social care professionals and self referrals from patients. If you would like to find out more about how we can help or want to refer a patient please contact us by phone on 0141 287 7077, find us on SCI Gateway as "Improving Cancer Journey – Glasgow City" or email at improvingthecancerjourneyservice@glasgow.gov.uk.