



**College of Cancer Nurses,
New Zealand Nurses Organisation monthly news bulletin
Friday 27 September 2019**

Section message

Consultation

NZNO regularly seeks members input on a range of documents up for consultation. The listing is regularly updated and [can be found here](#).

Proposal that will enable podiatrists to prescribe medicines to their patients

NZNO seeks your feedback on a proposal that will enable appropriately trained podiatrists to prescribe from a list of medicines relevant to their clinical practice. This is known as Designated Prescribing - [Link to the Consultation document](#).

Please send feedback to jill.wilkinson@nzno.org.nz by 14 October 2019.

Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) review

NZNO invites your feedback on the Ministry of Health's review of the WCTO programme. The aim of the review is to ensure the programme is able to help improve the health and overall wellbeing of tamariki.

We welcome your views on what you think is currently working, what may not be working and any improvements.

[Please see the engagement form](#) and send feedback to policyanalysts@nzno.org.nz by 24 October 2019.

NZ News (general)

Pancreatic cancer lowest one-year survival rate in NZ - study

New Zealand is falling behind other comparable countries, including Australia, on cancer survival, according to a new study released today. [Read more here](#)

Will Māori health equity put more pressure on system?

More screening would help address Māori health disparities, but would that simply put more pressure on services already struggling to cope? [In the second of a four part series](#) Carmen Parahi talks to Southern DHB Gastroenterologist, Dr Jason Hill about the extra work he does to improve Māori bowel cancer outcomes. [Read more here](#)

Shrinking swollen arms is the aim of a Waikato trial targeting this breast cancer side effect

Clothes three sizes bigger? That's the reality for some breast cancer survivors. Lymphedema is a condition experienced by 10-20% of women who have lymph nodes removed from their armpit. [Read more here](#)

Bowel cancer

New Zealand is top of the world for bowel cancer

New Zealand has the sad honour of having the highest rate of Bowel (Colorectal) Cancer in the world. Thousands are affected annually and even more are affected indirectly - family members and loved ones dealing with the heartbreak and often loss of sufferers. The real travesty is that with the right diet, 50% or more may be prevented. [Read more here.](#)

This article is not freely available but may be sourced from databases available via the NZNO library or those of a DHB or educational institution

Setting up a nurse-led bowel 'two week wait' service

Rachael Bromley and Karen Cock

British Journal of Nursing 2019 28:16, 1063-1068

Patients who present to their GP with 'red flag' symptoms for possible bowel cancer (such as a change in bowel habit or rectal bleeding) are urgently referred to an acute trust, as a '2 week wait' (2WW) patient requiring assessment and investigation in an efficient and timely manner. The burden that is created by ever increasing numbers of referrals requiring a service that is reliable and flexible in meeting demand. This article presents the development of a nurse-led 2WW service that was implemented as a direct result of this pressure. The development of the national guideline is discussed and the rationale for a nurse-led service is provided, along with the processes followed to ensure patient safety. The inclusion of a telephone side to service provision is also examined and the challenges faced by the team are discussed.

Breast cancer

The link between hormone treatment and breast cancer

Hormone treatments could have caused breast cancer in one million women since 1990, a study indicates. [Read more here](#)

Scalp cooling treatment allows chemo patients to keep their hair

Oncology nurses and Rotorua Breast Cancer Trust, were today given ... out on health funding Breast Cancer Foundation NZ chief executive Evangelia... [Read more here](#)

Higher mortality seen for male breast cancer patients

(HealthDay)—Male breast cancer patients have higher mortality after cancer diagnosis than female patients, according to a study published online Sept. 19 in JAMA Oncology.

[Read more here](#)

Head and neck cancers

Are patient education and self-care advantageous for patients with head and neck cancer? A feasibility study.

Söderlund Schaller, A, Dragioti, E, Liedberg, GM, Larsson, B. *Nursing Open*. 2019; 00: 1– 14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.361>

This study evaluates whether patient education and individually self-care reduces pain and improves QoL, mood and sleep during and after radiotherapy treatment for patients with head and neck cancer. [Read more here](#)

Medication

Can old drugs put a leash on wandering cancer cells?

Can an immune system distracted by post-surgery healing allow previously dormant cancer cells to wake up and cause havoc? Scientists say the science isn't settled but old drugs may help. For years there's been a question surrounding breast cancer surgery. Twelve to 18 months after surgery there's a high recurrence rate of cancer. [Read more here](#)

Melanoma

Non-melanoma skin cancer deaths

"This factsheet presents an indicator of deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer in New Zealand in 2015. Skin cancer occurrence is a persisting issue due to higher than average UV levels in New Zealand, compared to other countries at similar latitudes." Source: Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand. [Read more here](#)

Melanoma Deaths

"This factsheet presents information on deaths from melanoma in New Zealand. Most melanoma (80–96%) is caused by UV exposure (WHO 2006)." Source: Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand. [Read more here](#)

Palliative care

Ngā paerewa pairuri tāngata | Standards for palliative care

Hospice New Zealand has launched the *Standards for palliative care* (fourth edition) 2019, after an extensive consultation and review process involving all hospice services in New Zealand. [Read more here](#)

Prostate cancer

Kiwi prostate cancer sufferers facing delays, inconsistent advice - study

Inconsistent, "inequitable" access to information and healthcare services mean "the odds are stacked" against Kiwi men with prostate cancer, experts say. [Read more here](#)

Men face increasing wait times for prostate cancer treatment

Men are experiencing longer wait times for prostate cancer treatment and a lobby group wants the disparity between District Health Boards to stop. Prostate cancer nurse says not enough said about impact on sex, calls for support. Dealing with the medical aspect of prostate cancer is a key part of Gay Corbett's job, but one side effect she says does not receive enough attention is sex. [Read more here](#)

Psychology

Empowering cancer patients to shift their mindsets could improve care, researchers argue

A cancer diagnosis can cause a significant emotional burden for patients and their families. This may persist years into survivorship. As a result, depression and anxiety are two to three times more common in cancer patients than the general population. Experts propose that targeting cancer patients' mindsets could have an impact on their health, functioning, and well-being, and they call for more research in this field. [Read more here](#)

General articles

Excess weight linked with poorer psychosocial health among cancer patients

In a study published in *Psycho-Oncology*, excess weight was linked with poorer psychosocial health among older adults [diagnosed with breast cancer](#) or prostate cancer. The association was not seen in older patients with colon cancer, however.

[Read more here](#)

Publications and reports

A Competency Framework for Nurses Providing Care to People with Breast Cancer (RCN)

Cancer is often considered to be a life-limiting illness, but is viewed increasingly as a long-term condition involving the individual with cancer, their family and carers. Enabling self-care and rehabilitation are viewed as a crucial component in developing future services. Health care services need to respond creatively to cancer strategies in the four UK countries to meet patients' needs.

This framework defines the standards of care expected for a competent registered nurse providing general breast cancer care or specialist breast cancer care. This publication is supported by a grant from Roche Products Limited. [Read more here](#)

Lung Cancer Research Review - Issue 10

This issue features mixed results for erlotinib in stage IIIA-N2 NSCLC and a disappointing result for nintedanib added to chemotherapy for treatment of advanced malignant mesothelioma.

Other highlights include:

- Screening for ALK gene rearrangement
- Patient traits and tumour genomics in NSCLC
- 5-year overall survival results from KEYNOTE-001

[Read more here](#)

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of College of Cancer nurses, NZNO. It is provided on the last Friday of each month and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the Section members. All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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