



ADVANCING CANCER CARE FOR 12-24 YEAR OLDS

The Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Network and the Ministry of Health are developing Standards of Care that recognise the unique preferences, values and needs of 12-24 year olds with cancer and ensure they receive timely, good quality care along the cancer management pathway.

What are Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Standards of Care?

The AYA Standards of Care will include a concise set of prioritised statements that describe the level of service that 12-24 year olds should have access to. They will consider the complete care pathway from public health to health and social care.

What is the Purpose of Standards of Care?

The AYA Standards of Care will be designed to drive measureable quality improvements for this age group by enabling:

- Health professionals to make decisions about care based on the latest evidence and best practice.
- People receiving health and social care services, their families and carers and the public to find information about the quality of services and care they should expect from their health care provider.
- Service providers to quickly and easily examine the performance of their organisation and assess improvement in standards of care they provide.
- Funders to be confident that the services they are purchasing are high quality and cost effective and focused on driving up quality.

Are the AYA Standards of Care the Same as the Tumour Standards?

This age-related standard will sit alongside and reference the eleven Tumour Standards that the Ministry of Health has developed for bowel, breast, gynaecological, lung, lymphoma, head and neck, melanoma, myeloma, sarcoma, thyroid and upper gastrointestinal cancers. It will also complement service standards established by the National Child Cancer Network.

It will include many elements of the common standards that have been included across the set of Tumour Standards for example those on Multidisciplinary and Supportive Care.

How will the AYA Standards of Care be developed?

The development process will adopt the general framework established for Tumour Standards and will consider evidence relating to effectiveness and cost effectiveness, people's experience of using services, safety issues, and equality.

Development will commence in February 2015 with an open discussion forum in Wellington.

The AYA Standards of Care will be developed by a clinical working group, managed and funded by the AYA Cancer Network. The working groups will include doctors, nurses and allied health and patient and whānau support professionals from across the cancer pathway.

The Working Group will be led by the Standards' Chair, Dr Tristan Pettit.

The provisional standards will be based on established national and international evidence-based guidelines, or expert opinion. The AYA Standards of Care Working Group will have access to expert advisors including Māori and consumer health representatives.

The standards will also be informed by wider consultation from key sector stakeholders and relevant professional organisations.

How Can I be Involved?

There will be many opportunities to participate in the development process:

- attend the discussion forum in Wellington on **Friday 27 February 2015**
- seek selection (through an Expression Of Interest process) to the AYA Standards of Care Working Group
- provide feedback on the draft AYA Standards of Care when they are circulated.