



## Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) Patient/User Involvement Brief

Cancer Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) meetings are held across the South West of England. The remit of the Cancer Clinical Advisory Group Manager (hosted by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust) for the SWAG region of the South West is to coordinate these meetings and resulting group activities for the following cancer sites:

- Brain and CNS
- Breast
- Cancer of Unknown Primary
- Colorectal
- Children and Young Adults
- Gynaecological
- Haematological
- Head and Neck
- Lung
- Skin
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy,
- Upper Gastro-intestinal (Oesophago-Gastric and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary)
- Urology.

The CAG meetings support the cancer services across the following areas:

- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- North Bristol Trust
- Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The purpose of these meetings is to bring about improvements in the quality and equity of care and outcomes for the population they serve.

One of the three main aims within the Government's paper *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer*, is 'to put the patient or service user at the heart of the public services – transforming the relationship between citizen and service through the principle of *no decision about me without me*'.

**If interested, please contact Helen Dunderdale, Cancer Clinical Advisory Group Manager:**  
helen.dunderdale@uhbw.nhs.uk

### Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) Patient/User Involvement Brief

To help achieve this aim, two or more Patient/User Representatives need to be recruited as members to each CAG, as contributions from the experiences of patients and carers living through cancer are vital in enhancing the planning and delivery of care.

The terms Patient or User Representative are both used to describe the role, as it can be undertaken by a representative familiar with the patient experience from the perspective of a close relative or carer and who have, by association, been through the cancer journey.

The Patient/User Representatives should meet the following criteria:

- At least one Patient/User Representative should ideally have recent<sup>1</sup> direct or indirect (in the form of a carer or supported by a site specific population, e.g. support groups) knowledge of treatment from the current health care team within the South West cancer services for the specific cancer type that will be discussed at the CAG meeting
- The other Patient/User Representatives should ideally have past direct or indirect knowledge of treatment for cancer, experience in patient and public involvement within the NHS and a willingness to act as a mentor for other user representatives
- A willingness to travel within the South West region
- The time to commit potentially two working days a year to attend the CAG meetings, plus a minimum of another two days to discuss outcomes from the group with other users / support groups, and potentially another day as a Patient/User Representative at Peer Review meetings
- A willingness to voluntarily commit time, whilst incurring no financial loss. All travel expenses will be refunded and refreshments will be provided
- A passion to improve the patient experience by sharing opinions formed by their own experiences and others from within their local community
- The confidence to ask for information to be translated into lay terms within the CAG meeting environment.

Within every meeting, an NHS employed network group member will be nominated as having specific responsibility for providing user representatives with support.

---

<sup>1</sup> Recent is defined as within the last 5 years