

Royal College of Emergency Medicine

24 April 2023

Dear Colleague

Inquiry into gynaecological cancers

The Health and Social Care Committee is looking at the experiences of women with symptoms of gynaecological cancer, how they are listened to and treated by healthcare professionals, and how services empower, care for and look after women diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer to ensure their physical, psychological and practical needs are met.

The Committee will be taking oral evidence during the summer term, following which we will produce a report of our findings and make recommendations for improvements to the Welsh Government. To help assist our deliberations, we would be grateful if you could provide us with the following information:

1. A recent International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) study found that more patients are diagnosed with cancer in A&E in the UK than in other comparable high-income countries. It states that more than a third of patients in only find out they have the disease once they are in hospital. Could you explain why we have higher levels of emergency presentations in the UK?
2. The study found that those aged 75 and over were more likely to be diagnosed in an emergency. What is your understanding of why this is?

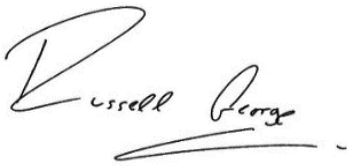


HSC(6)- 24-23 Papur i'r nodi 1 Paper to note 1

3. The study also found that cancers that often have non-specific, vague symptoms, such as ovarian cancer, are more likely to be diagnosed through emergency routes. Are you aware of any analysis that has been undertaken to better understand the presentation of different types of gynaecological cancers in A&E?
4. What action do you believe is needed to ensure fewer patients are being diagnosed with cancer after an emergency referral or visit to A&E. What action do you believe is needed to improve the assessment of patients with late stage cancer symptoms admitted through A&E and to ensure new cancer patients (admitted through A&E, who usually have advanced disease) have prompt access to cancer services and support.
5. Any views on the way acute oncology teams currently operate in Wales in terms of providing an emergency cancer service to hospitals with A&E departments.

To ensure we can take your answers into account as we take oral evidence, we would be grateful for a response **by 12 May 2023**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.