

HSC(6) 27-23 PTN 16

Response from Professor Helen Thomas, Chief Executive – Digital Health and Care Wales to follow up questions from the evidence session held on 29 June 2023 in relation to the committee’s inquiry on gynaecological cancers

I have discussed with Professor Tom Crosby in order to understand the specific data he was describing at a previous evidence session.

My understanding is that Canisc was previously able to support capture of cancer staging information, however, as those staging algorithms were updated or changed, the Canisc system was unable to be updated as no developments were possible given the fragility of the system.

The new solution will now support the capture of staging information as part of the Cancer dataset collections being implemented. The new system already supports the capture of routes to diagnosis, tumour subtype and stage at diagnosis for gynae Cancers as part of the newly developed Cancer dataset collections that have been deployed to all Health Boards, timelines for adoption and implementation of the new solution by Health Boards to be agreed by 31st August 2023.

There are also improvements and support that can be provided by the team at DHCW to the Welsh Cancer Network to ensure, as more of the cancer datasets are implemented, joined up views of data relevant for cancer intelligence are routinely available. DHCW will work with WCN to ensure all source of referral data is visible to the WCN.

Work to implement Gynaecological cancer sub sites is underway led by the WCN and supported by the DHCW Data Standards team. In addition to the new Cancer dataset collections already developed to support the capture of routes to diagnosis, tumour subtype and stage at diagnosis for gynae Cancers DHCW will develop specific data collection capability for Ovarian Cancers in the new solution by 31st March 2024. This will provide far more granular data to inform cancer pathway improvements and also facilitate Wales submitting that more granular data to National Audits.