

Welcome to the 2nd combined edition of the Monthly Cancer and Palliative Care Education Newsheet from Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Michael Sobell House. We hope you enjoy the information provided here
The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Education Group

**CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE EDUCATION NEWSHEET
FROM MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE
AND MICHAEL SOBELL HOUSE**

**Diamorphine and Morphine
Ampoule Alert**



The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued an alert in May 2006 regarding the use of high dose (30mg or greater) diamorphine and morphine injections to patients who have not previously received doses of opiates.

Our next newsletter will give greater details on this alert but meanwhile: Be vigilant when using ampoules of diamorphine or morphine ensuring that you are

1. Using the correct strength and
2. Using the correct dose

For More Information:

www.mmmnetwork.nhs.uk
www.npsa.nhs.uk
www.ukmi.nhs.uk

NPSA (25 May 2006) Safer Practice Notice 12 – Ensuring Safer Practice with high dose ampoules of diamorphine and morphine

Putting Technologies to Good Use

How many of you have ever had experience of ‘speed dating’? You have about 2 minutes to ‘sell yourself’ and hopefully the recipient of your story will be sufficiently impressed to want to see you again and learn more. You then repeat the process with other potential ‘dates’ for the rest of the evening. This principle was put to a different use at an innovative workshop organised by the research team at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre last month when groups of patients and carers had 5 minutes to tell their story to diverse groups of health professionals, who then had 5 minutes to come up with suggestions for actions that could have helped with the problem. As the bell rang, the health professionals moved on to hear another story and come up with more suggestions. Obviously the day required careful management as the ‘speed’ element of the process left little time for the niceties of subtle conversation and listening that are more familiar to users of the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre! But the feedback we have had so far, from the 10 patients and carers and 32 health professionals was that it was a good way to discuss lots of different issues quickly.

Have you ever thought about how many different health professionals cancer patients might come in contact with? For the meeting we gather together Oncologists, Palliative Care Consultants, GPs, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Macmillan Nurses, Radiographers, Social Workers, Benefits Advisors, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, NHS Direct Nurses, GP Out of Hours Triage Nurses, Pharmacists, Complementary Therapists, Counsellors, Chaplains, Volunteers from LJMC and Information specialists. Sadly we didn’t have any district nurses, but it was not for want of trying.

After all the brainstorming in the morning to generate ideas, the afternoon was spent trying to rationalise them into projects that could be taken forward to improve the patient and carers experiences of radiotherapy and subsequent care at home. We now have lots of ideas for projects around telephone help lines, out of hours GP services, drug dispensing both in the hospital and the community, admissions to unfamiliar A&E departments when admission to the Cancer Treatment Centre is not possible and the production of leaflets to help patients cope at home with new and unfamiliar symptoms and decide when and who to contact because they are having difficulty coping.

The next step is to put some of these projects into action, so maybe by the time the next newsletter is due out we can report on some of the successes?

Teresa Young - Research Manager - SORT (Supportive Oncology Research Team)

Have we got your contact address wrong?

If so please contact

Sarah Russell on 01923 844567

Forthcoming Events August 2006

Nurse Led

Guest Speaker

Departmental Meeting

Junior Doctor Oncology Teaching

Palliative Care Education /Training

Date	Topic	Venue	Comment
3rd	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room	2.15 – 3.00pm
3 rd	Clinical Governance Meeting	1600 – 1800 Post Graduate Centre	
7 th	Cetuximab in Head and Neck Cancer John Cunningham, Merck	Coffee Room, Chemo Suite	Lunch Provided 12.30 – 1.00pm, 1.00 – 1.30pm
8 th	MSH Journal Club	MSH Seminar Room 2 -3pm	Just Turn Up
10 th	Clinical Governance Meeting	1600 – 1800 Post Graduate Centre	
17 th	Macmillan Nurse Meeting	MSH Seminar Room	Via U O'leary
17 th	Action Learning Set – Group 2	MSH Lecture Hall 2.15 -3.15	Book via Sarah Russell
17 th	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room	2.15 – 3.00pm
17 th	Clinical Governance Meeting	1600 – 1800 Post Graduate Centre	
18 th	Junior Doctor Communication Skills	MSH Lecture Hall 1000 - 1230	Book via Dr Dickson
22 nd	MSH Journal Club	MSH Seminar Room 2 -3pm	Just Turn Up
24 th	Reflection on Practice Set	MSH Seminar Room 2.15 – 3.15pm	Just Turn Up
24 th	Clinical Governance Meeting	1600 – 1800 Post Graduate Centre	
31 st	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room	2.15 – 3.00pm
31 st	Clinical Governance Meeting	1600 – 1800 Post Graduate Centre	

Look out in September for:

- 5th - Difficult Conversations – Managing Anger
- 8th - Palliative Care Study Day
- 15th - Opioid Safety Symposia
- 21st - Syringe Driver 2

Contact Anni Hall on EXT 4177 to book these courses

To add your education event to this please contact Lorraine O'Connell on EXT 4669 with your name, designation, dept, ext no, date, teaching topic & speaker, target audience and preferred date & venue choice