NATIONAL HEAD AND NECK CANCER AUDIT: BRIEFING NOTE JULY 2015

The management arrangements for the National Head and Neck Cancer Audit are changing

After more than ten years, the provision, development and management of the National Head and Neck Audit has moved from the Health and Social Care Information Centre to Saving Faces – The Facial Surgery Research Foundation. The new contract commenced on 1st July 2015 and transition activities are expected to run until December 2015.

Under the new management the audit will be named the Head and Neck Cancer Audit (HANA) and the informatics element will be provided by Dendrite Clinical Systems.

The audit will continue to be commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government and as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). Data collected by the HSCIC to date will be transferred to the new audit provider as soon as appropriate permissions are in place.

Data entry to the audit during the transition period

Although the new contract for the audit has now started, audit data cannot flow to the new provider until all the required permissions and approvals are in place. These include both Trust Caldicott Guardian permissions and Confidentiality Advisory Group approval for patient identifiable data to leave Trusts under S.251 of the Health and Social Care Act.

Also during this period the audit data set and audit questions will be reviewed and revised and required modifications requested of the MDT IT system suppliers (Somerset, Infoflex etc.) Therefore for the cohort of patients diagnosed November 2014 – October 2015, only the data fields required to support Consultant Outcomes Publication will be requested from Trusts for the Head and Neck Cancer Audit. These fields will be unchanged compared with the previous cohort and are as follows:

List of COP data fields

Please continue to collect and hold these data items locally until permissions are in place for the data to be transferred to the new provider. We anticipate that transfer of the data will take place between October and December 2015.

Future audit publications

The upcoming audit publications, audit provider and intended publication dates are as follows:

Report	Audit provider	Publication date
10th Annual Head and Neck Cancer (DAHNO) Report (2013 / 2014 data)	HSCIC	3 September 2015
3rd Consultant Outcome Publication (2013 / 2014 data)	Saving Faces	Scheduled Early 2016 (TBC)
4th Consultant Outcome Publication (2014 / 2015 data)	Saving Faces	Scheduled July 2016 (TBC)
1st Annual Head and Neck Cancer (HANA) Report	Saving Faces	Scheduled June 2017 (TBC)

Next steps

Over the next six months, Professor Iain Hutchison, CEO of Saving Faces and the Clinical Lead for HANA will visit each Head and Neck Cancer NHS MDT in England and Wales to describe the vision for the new audit, answer questions, gain feedback and clarify logistical arrangements for participation.

Audit contacts and further information

Queries in relation to the 10th Annual Report should be directed to the DAHNO team via enquiries@hscic.gov.uk.

All other queries in relation to the audit transition and future arrangements should be directed to hana@savingfaces.co.uk. Additional information will be available on the HANA webpages which will be established in the coming weeks.

If you wish to direct any queries to HQIP, please contact David McKinlay at either david.mckinlay@hqip.org.uk or communications@hqip.org.uk.