

## Cancer Screening Quality Improvement Opportunities for General Practice

### Data recording and information management improvements

### Workflow process improvements

### Improvements in delivery of care

### Improving the patient experience

- Ensure consistent and validated methods of recording cancer screening activity and results across the team
- Undertake data cleansing as per the *Sentinel Practices Data Sourcing (SPDS)* project
- Set up *BreastScreen NSW* locations in the EMR provider directory

- Put in place processes and systems for recall and reminders for cancer screening. Make sure all staff are aware of this. Consider:
  - Allocation of team roles and responsibilities
  - Consistent and validated recording of test results, entering recalls, sending out reminders (i.e. letters, SMS, phone call) and follow up of abnormal results.
  - Targeting high risk groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, CALD and under-screened populations
- For practices participating in the SPDS project, use CAT4 to complete data cleansing activities for cervical (basic manual), breast and bowel cancer screening (advanced manual)
- For other practices consider using EMR data queries provided for cervical cancer screening
- Consider improving workflow processes for all three national cancer screening programs (as shown below)

- Active use of *HealthPathways* Cancer Screening pathways in order to provide best practice assessment, management and referral  
<https://illawarrashoalhaven.healthpathways.org.au>  
 Username: connected  
 Password: 2pathways
- Check for overdue cancer screening at each consultation for eligible patients and offer the opportunity to be screened
- For the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program
  - Actively promote in practice the 1800 number for receiving the free NBCSP screening kit
  - Encourage patients to accurately fill out their NBSCP form, and include their GPs details
- For BreastScreen NSW
  - Actively promote BreastScreen NSW's free mammogram services in the practice
  - Encourage patients to enter their GPs details with BreastScreen NSW if self-referring in order for the results to be sent back to the practice

- Incorporating cancer screening discussion into routine consultation for eligible patients
- Obtain informed consent and include discussion over provision of patient information to the screening registers
- Arrange priority follow up for patients with positive screening results – see *HealthPathways* for local options
- Provide quality patient information – see *HealthPathways* or the National or State screening websites
- Provide eligible females with information on the upcoming changes to the cervical screening program

### **Cervical screening**

- ✓ Request data from the NSW Pap Register to ensure an accurate screening history  
<https://www.csp.nsw.gov.au/information-and-resources-for-health-professionals/general-information/requesting-data-from-the-nsw-pap-test-register/>
- ✓ Set up the NSW Pap Register Electronic reminder service for women with overdue screening  
<https://www.csp.nsw.gov.au/information-and-resources-for-health-professionals/general-information/current-projects/>
- ✓ Sign up for the Cervical Screening Practice Incentive Program to encourage Pap tests in under-screened women. An under-screened woman is someone who has not had a cervical smear in the last four years. <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-incentives-program>

### **Bowel cancer screening**

- ✓ Use the electronic National Bowel Cancer Screening Program GP Assessment Form for patients with a positive FOBT to update the Register
- ✓ Set up electronic results from Laverty Pathology for patients screened via National Bowel Cancer Screening <http://www.laverty.com.au/lamaDoctor/ConnectivitySolutions/ElectronicDownload.aspx>
- ✓ Enter a recall to ensure patient has attended for colonoscopy. The ideal maximum waiting time is up to 30 days, but average public hospital wait may be up to 60 days.
- ✓ Post colonoscopy, enter recall to ensure recommended follow-up

### **Breast cancer screening**

- ✓ Download electronic BreastScreen NSW referral forms for MD and BP from *HealthPathways*
- ✓ Enter appropriate recall interval into EMR when patient result is received