

National Cancer Strategy



What does it mean for the cancer patient?

1



Appointment of a Clinical Lead in Psycho-oncology



TARGET: Appoint a Clinical Lead in Psycho-Oncology.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: With 150,000 people living beyond cancer in Ireland, there is a growing demand and urgency for psychosocial supports. A Clinical Lead in the area will develop national psychological supports. This will help improve the integration of psychological care with treatment plans.

2



Introduce cancer awareness campaigns for specific cancers



TARGET: 15% increase in the % of lung cancers diagnosed at Stage I and II.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: Increasing this gradually will make for much better outcomes for lung cancer patients and ensure the focus is on early diagnosis.

3



Ensure that GPs have direct access to diagnostics for patients meeting referral criteria



TARGET: 90% of patients accessing imaging/diagnostics/endoscopy within agreed timelines by 2020.



Meaning for Cancer Patient: Timely diagnosis for people with cancer. People with cancer who are diagnosed early have a better chance of surviving their cancer and of having a good quality of life.

4



Reduce the proportion of cancer detected in Emergency Departments



TARGET: 50% decrease in cancers diagnosed in EDs by 2025.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: Cancer patients diagnosed in EDs are more often than not presenting with advanced cancer – this will reduce that proportion.

5



Maintain target uptake rate for BreastCheck



TARGET: 70% uptake rate for BreastCheck screening population.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: Breast cancer screening reduces the number of deaths from breast cancer, because it means it's found and treated early.

6



Offer patients with cancer a treatment and summary care plan



TARGET: 95% of patients will receive a Treatment and Summary Care Plan.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: Having a clear treatment and summary care plan gives patients confidence in their plan and could reduce anxiety in the long run.

7



Increase proportion of patients receiving specialist palliative care



TARGET: 90% of cancer patients with Stage IV disease will receive a specialist palliative care assessment.



MEANING FOR CANCER PATIENT: This gives cancer patients the appropriate palliative care to allow them to fulfil their wishes, where possible.