National Cancer Strategy

What does it mean for the cancer patient?

1. Appoint 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 fulfill their wishes, where possible.