Abstract Form

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Title of abstract: Using national linked data to report cancer outcomes for people with cancer in New Zealand

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Background

In 2013 New Zealand clinicians put an enormous amount of effort and resource into developing draft standards of service provision for most cancer groups. Attempts to use data from our 20 district health boards to measure the standards resulted in a long list of data requirements, regional reports that used variable methods and a few tumour specific registries with varying levels of completeness.

Aims

We wanted to trial a new clinically lead, collaborative approach to select a small set of quality performance indicators with strong evidence that they could drive better outcomes for patients, help achieve equity and contribute to Māori health gain.

The data to develop the indicators would be drawn from existing national data and involve no new data collection.

Method

The work was carried out as a partnership between the Ministry of Health and the National Bowel Cancer Working Group which includes clinicians across a range of disciplines including surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, radiology, pathology, along with consumer and Māori representation.

We started with identifying clinical indicators for bowel cancer diagnosis and treatment from a literature review and environment scan.

Data was drawn from the New Zealand Cancer Registry linked to data sets held in the Ministry of Health including bowel screening, death records, hospital admissions and outpatient data. We also used data available from our newly established Radiation Oncology Collection.

Results

An initial list of 134 indicators identified through a literature search was reduced to 21 indicators following a workshop and series of clinical group meetings and wider health sector review.

We used existing data to develop six indicators for people with cancer who received publicly funded treatment and published the first report in March 2019. We identified a number of areas where we need to improve our data collections.

Implications

We have projects underway to identify clinical indicators for prostate, lung cancer and neuroendrocrine tumours (NETS). We are now improving our data platform to enhance the use of our linked national datasets for quality improvement. Future indicators will include private provider data and patient reported outcomes.