**Community Head and Neck Team (CHANT) – Providing a Specialist Rehabilitation Service Locally**

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**Introduction**

The CHANT service was officially launched in March 2010 with the remit to deliver specialist and dedicated care of the highest quality to Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) patients across South East London, as a response to the Improving outcomes Guidance.

The team is comprised of a clinical team leader, clinical nurse specialists, dieticians, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, and admin support staff. All members of the team are specialists in Head and Neck Cancer support and rehabilitation, and are part of the Head and Neck Multidisciplinary Team at Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Hospital Trust. The team in supported in the community by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust. This model of care provides a seamless delivery of service from tertiary to primary setting and allows patients to receive timely input in a setting appropriate to them. The provision of a community support team outside of hospital such as CHANT aims to benefit patients as well as hospitals.

**Method**

Community health service data was extracted for the first 24 months of the service (2010–2012). CHANT was evaluated based on demography of HNC patients in South East London, uptake of services by HNC patients was evaluated as well as rate and reason for discharge. Qualitative analysis was conducted on the first 40 patients satisfaction surveys conducted by CHANT.

**Results**

A total of 453 patients were referred and assessed during the 2 year period - 81% of HNC in SEL over the 2 years. This correlated well with the distribution of diagnoses across South East London with the exception of thyroid cases where overall rehabilitation needs were not as great.

228 patients were discharged from CHANT over this period - 28% due to completion of rehabilitation.

**Conclusion**

CHANT provides a community based service for the rehabilitation of the majority of HNC patients that is increasingly used as part of the care pathway in South East London.

It is well received by patients and further work is being undertaken on exit surveys, and including ICD-10 codes within our database to allow further analysis of specific needs within the Head and Neck population.

**References**


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