

# NATIONAL CANCER STRATEGY 2017-2026

## Implementation Report 2023

#	Recommendation	Lead Agency	2023
1	The Department of Health will ensure that policies under the <i>Healthy Ireland</i> framework are implemented in full and that opportunities to address cancer prevention measures under those policies are maximised. In particular, measures aimed at further reducing smoking levels will be pursued.	DOH	<p>The Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023 was enacted on 13 December 2023. Section 28, prohibiting the sale of nicotine inhaling products to those aged under 18, came into effect on 22 December 2023.</p> <p>The Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 was developed to address the high volumes and harmful patterns of consumption of alcohol prevalent in Ireland. Section 12 of the Act provides for health labelling on alcohol products and was commenced in May 2023 to come into effect 22 May 2026. The law provides for health information and health warnings of the risks associated with alcohol consumption to be presented on the labels of alcohol products and includes a warning of the direct link between alcohol and fatal cancers. In November 2023, the Broadcast Watershed provision of the Act was commenced restricting children's exposure to alcohol adverts on TV and radio, to come into operation on 10 January 2025.</p>
2	The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) will develop a cancer prevention function, working in conjunction with the broader <i>Healthy Ireland</i> initiative, and will lead in relation to the development and implementation of policies and programmes focused on cancer prevention.	NCCP	<p>In 2023, the NCCP cancer prevention function continued to actively support and collaborate with <i>Healthy Ireland</i> and HSE Health and Wellbeing priority programmes.</p> <p>Key developments included the delivery of 11 e-learning modules for health and social care professionals on 'Reducing Cancer Risk' through the HSE Learning and Development Hub, a social media cancer risk reduction awareness campaign, coordination of the Irish Cancer Prevention Network, including a quarterly newsletter with over 1,000 subscribers, world cancer day activities, supporting national awareness days, and in-person event on cancer prevention for health and social care professionals.</p> <p>The 2023 HSE, NCCP, and <i>Healthy Ireland</i> SunSmart campaign ran from April-September with a radio advert run on national and local stations, digital audio adverts, social media campaign and regular press activity.</p> <p>The second National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 (<a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2c16-national-skin-cancer-prevention-plan/">https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2c16-national-skin-cancer-prevention-plan/</a>) was launched in March 2023. Implementation has commenced with initiatives including: a baby sunhat in the Baby Bundle pilot run by the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY); a SunSmart art competition for primary school children with over 1,000 entrants; SunSmart content developed and included in a new unit – Making Healthy Choices - as part of SPHE for second year students; a Toolbox Talk for outdoor workers on skin cancer prevention; training of GAA Cúl Camps coaches on skin cancer prevention; a sunscreen dispenser pilot among community/voluntary groups involved in outdoor leisure activities; and research on the economic cost of melanoma skin cancer published in 2023.</p> <p>Six posts of Health Promotion and Improvement Officers – Cancer Prevention are being implemented in Health &amp; Wellbeing services, based on the HSE Health Region geographies, to implement health and wellbeing initiatives for cancer risk reduction, early detection initiatives and improve awareness among target populations in their region. As of the end of 2023, four of the six have been recruited.</p>
3	The Department of Health will develop a national skin cancer prevention plan and oversee its implementation as a priority. It will prioritise children, outdoor workers, sunbed users and those who pursue outdoor leisure activities.	DOH	<p>The National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 was launched in 2023. Meetings of the Prevention Plan's Implementation Group continued in 2023.</p> <p>SunSmart Campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SunSmart campaign 2023 ran from April-September. A radio advert was run on national and local stations, digital audio adverts, social media campaign and regular press activity.</li> <li>The campaign included the second year of the Get SunSmart art competition for primary school age children. In 2023, there were over 1,000 entries.</li> <li>The campaign partnered with GAA Cúl Camps in 2023 to provide information on SunSmart to parents of children attending camps.</li> <li>A guidance document on primary school uniforms was developed with the Department of Education and includes the recommendation for the inclusion of a wide-brimmed hat in the uniform.</li> <li>The SunSmart Toolbox Talk for outdoor workers was developed and made available online.</li> <li>Information resources were developed for sunbed users, adolescents, and young people target groups.</li> <li>SunSmart activity included in a new unit in the HSE Junior Cycle SPHE Resource - Making Healthy Choices 2 for junior cycle (1st-3rd year students).</li> <li>90 Sunscreen dispenser boards were piloted in outdoor recreation locations nationally from June to August 2023. Evaluation of the pilot was completed.</li> <li>Scoping was completed in relation to research in collaboration with Institute of Public Health on sunbeds.</li> </ul>
4	The NCCP will develop a systematic, evidence-based mechanism to ascertain the potential benefits and the cost-effectiveness of various initiatives (including chemoprevention) which will inform future cancer prevention programmes.	NCCP	<p>NCCP has developed a document and algorithm outlining systematic, evidence-based mechanisms in place to ascertain the potential benefits and cost-effectiveness of various initiatives, which is used to inform future cancer prevention programmes. Initiatives considered include: (1) identification and evaluation of potential carcinogenic agents, (2) guidelines concerning cancer-related health behaviours, (3) policies, programmes and awareness campaigns, (4) legislation, (5) screening, (6) vaccinations, (7) medication (chemoprevention), (8) models of care and clinical guidelines (including for prophylactic surgery).</p> <p>In 2023, the NCCP reviewed and disseminated current evidence in relation to cancer risk factors. Specific activities undertaken included the delivery of 11 e-learning modules for health and social care professionals on 'Reducing Cancer Risk' through the HSE Learning and Development Hub; a social media cancer risk reduction awareness campaign, coordination of the Irish Cancer Prevention Network, including a quarterly newsletter with over 1,000 subscribers, world cancer day activities, supporting national awareness days and in person event on cancer prevention for health and social care professionals.</p>
5	The HSE will ensure that the appropriate endoscopy capacity is provided in hospitals to allow for the expansion of BowelScreen to all aged 55-74 by end-2021.	HSE	<p>The BowelScreen programme extended the eligibility age range downwards to those aged 59 in 2023 and continues to work towards expanding the eligibility age range to those aged 55-74. The programme will extend age range gradually and in stages to make sure everyone continues to have access to onward testing and treatment, if it's found to be needed.</p> <p>The BowelScreen programme is working with the HSE Endoscopy Programme to build further endoscopy capacity to provide the additional level that will be needed as it continues to expand the programme.</p> <p>In 2023, approximately 6,225 endoscopy procedures were delivered (index, surveillance, planned/repeat procedures) by the BowelScreen Programme. This was an increase on the previous year (2022) figure of 5,088.</p>
6	The NCCP will draw up a plan by end-2017 for the development of an integrated cancer control and surveillance service for defined population subgroups with an inherited familial predisposition to cancer (e.g. breast, ovarian and colorectal).	NCCP	<p>The Hereditary Cancer Model of Care was launched in June 2023. It provides the blueprint for improved access, quality and governance of hereditary cancer genetics services in Ireland. This Model of Care was developed by an NCCP-led multi-disciplinary advisory group. It is available at <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/hereditary-cancer-genetics/">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/hereditary-cancer-genetics/</a></p> <p>A number of condition-specific projects have progressed, including implementation support of guidance for a tumour testing pathway for Lynch syndrome; working group on patient information for Lynch Syndrome; breast family history pathway development, which includes patients with a suspected familial predisposition.</p> <p>E-learning modules to support mainstreamed testing are in development.</p> <p>During 2023, the NCCP collaborated with the National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) on the implementation of the National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland, including development of an overarching operating model and processes for agreement of testing guidance.</p>

7	<p>The NCCP and the HSE Health &amp; Wellbeing Directorate, in partnership with the voluntary sector, will develop a rolling programme of targeted multi-media based public awareness and education campaigns, aimed at the early detection of specific cancers and with particular focus on at-risk populations.</p>	NCCP	<p>The implementation report for first year of the NCCP Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Cancer Plan 2022-2025 was published in 2023 (<a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/prevention/nccp-early-diagnosis-plan-implementation-report-2022-23.pdf">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/prevention/nccp-early-diagnosis-plan-implementation-report-2022-23.pdf</a>). Data from the National Survey on Cancer Awareness and Attitudes was analysed to explore sociodemographic disparities in beliefs about cancer. Findings were disseminated to multiple stakeholders, including membership of NCCP Early Diagnosis of Cancer Steering Group (includes Irish Cancer Society and Marie Keating Foundation).</p> <p>National social media campaigns on cancer risk reduction and early detection were delivered in collaboration with HSE Communications.</p> <p>Targeted awareness initiatives were delivered in CHO 9 in collaboration with HSE Health and Wellbeing Senior Health Promotion and Improvement Officer – Cancer.</p> <p>The NCCP continues to collaborate with stakeholders on early diagnosis initiatives, e.g. the NCCP worked with the National Screening Service to develop an evidence based resource: 'Breast cancer prevention and early detection information from BreastCheck'.</p> <p>The NCCP continues to develop evidence-based resources, including 'know the signs of cancer' easy read posters.</p>
8	<p>The NCCP, working with the ICGP and the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee, will develop a three year plan to enhance the care pathways between primary and secondary care for specific cancers. The plan will set out criteria for referral to diagnostics and incorporate the requirements for additional Rapid Access Clinics.</p>	NCCP	<p>The NCCP GP referral guidelines provide evidence-based guidance on those patients who have symptoms most suspicious of cancer who require referral to secondary care. The NCCP continues to develop referral pathways in a prioritised way, working closely with the ICGP and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The NCCP works closely with the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) to ensure rapid access to the gynaecology service for women with suspicion of cancer.</p> <p>A Breast Cancer Family History GP referral guideline and e-referral form pathway from primary to secondary care was developed in 2023. Implementation planning is underway.</p> <p>A GP referral guideline for High Risk Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) was developed and approved for implementation in 2023. The development of an implementation plan including a pathway from primary care through tertiary care for high risk SCC services has commenced. An accompanying e-referral form is under development.</p> <p>The update of the National Lung Cancer GP referral guideline commenced in 2023.</p>
9	<p>The NCCP will ensure that cancer referrals from a GP into a hospital will be made electronically. Each Hospital Group will facilitate the phasing in of e-referral. This will be completed by the end of 2022.</p>	NCCP	<p>Electronic referral for Breast, Prostate and Lung cancer is available free for GPs via healthlink. GP Electronic Referrals provide access to cancer services and streamlines the cancer referral process by reducing communication difficulties. It provides automatic confirmation of receipt of GP referral and reduces delays in patient referral for suspected cancer.</p> <p>E-referral forms are being developed for Non Melanoma skin Cancer and for women with an increased risk of breast cancer due to their family history in conjunction with the development of GP referral guidelines and appropriate pathways. In addition, updated and new GP referral forms are developed in electronic versions only.</p> <p>A total of 78,000 (breast, prostate, lung, and pigmented lesion cancer e-referrals) electronic cancer referrals were received in 2023 (a 12% increase on 2022).</p> <p>In 2023, the Pigmented Lesion e-referral was expanded and is now available in 13 of 14 Pigmented Lesion Clinics nationally.</p>
10	<p>The Department of Health will liaise with the Health and Education authorities with a view to increasing places in Third Level Institutions for the training of radiographers and sonographers.</p>	DOH	<p>The training and recruitment of radiographers is an issue of ongoing concern for the Department of Health and the National Cancer Control Programme, and engagement to increase the number of places in Third Level institutions for these courses continues. In 2018, the number of places on the undergraduate degree programme on radiography provided by UCD was increased from approximately 45 to 100 per year. This, along with the introduction of two-year postgraduate Masters programmes, has increased the number of graduates from radiography courses in Ireland. In 2018, the number of graduates from Radiography courses was 65 graduates. This number rose to 115 graduates in 2022 in line with increasing demand. In the 2022/23 academic year there were 30 more graduates from radiography and sonography courses than in the 2021/22 year, a 20% increase.</p>
11	<p>The NCCP, working with the other Directorates in the HSE, will develop criteria by end-2018 for the referral of patients with suspected cancer, who fall outside of existing Rapid Access Clinics, for diagnostic tests. The NCCP will ensure, through these criteria, that GPs will have direct access to cancer diagnostics within agreed timelines.</p>	NCCP	<p>Criteria for referral of patients who fall outside RACs continue to be developed by the NCCP in a prioritised way. For example, GP referral guidelines and accompanying e-referral forms are being developed for non-melanoma skin cancer and for women with an increased risk of breast cancer due to their family history.</p> <p>The resourcing of diagnostics across the health service in general, through the Enhanced Community Care programme, has enabled direct access to MRI, CT, X-Ray, and DEXA scans for GPs. This continued throughout 2023 and is relevant to colorectal, head and neck, sarcoma, and CAYA cancers. A service for High Risk Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is being developed utilising the existing pigmented lesion clinics.</p> <p>The NCCP continues to engage with the National Women and Infants Health Programme in relation to the referral pathway for those with possible gynaecological cancers, as Ambulatory Gynaecology services are established nationally.</p>
12	<p>The NCCP will further develop the model of care for cancer to achieve integration between primary care and hospital settings at all stages of the cancer continuum, from diagnosis to post treatment care.</p>	NCCP	<p>The implementation report for the first year of the NCCP Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Cancer Plan 2022-2025 was published in April 2023.</p> <p>The NCCP continues to deliver initiatives, including Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions and publications in periodicals, to support primary healthcare professionals to recognise and act on symptoms of cancer, towards improving early diagnosis of cancer in Ireland.</p> <p>The Model of Care for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults (CAYA) was launched by the Minister for Health in May 2023. This Model of Care covers the age range from 0 to 24. The aim of the Model of Care is to provide a blueprint for psychosocial and psychological support service for this age cohort.</p> <p>The Psycho-Oncology MDM (multi-disciplinary team meetings) SOP was rolled out during 2023.</p> <p>A Stratified Self-Managed Follow Up Framework was published during 2023 to support services in the design, development and implementation of the stratified self-managed follow up pathways. This framework describes the components of care that need to be considered when setting up stratified self-managed follow up protocols and aims to provide a standardised approach for implementing these protocols in cancer services.</p> <p>The Alliance of Community Cancer Support Centres and Services (The Alliance) continued during 2023 to provide a collaborative framework for community-based cancer support centres and services.</p> <p>During 2023, the NCCP commenced development of an eLearning Programme to enable community nurses to safely provide care to individuals in the community with cancer at all stages of the cancer trajectory.</p> <p>The implementation of the HSE Health Regions is a fundamental element of the integration envisaged by the Oireachtas SláinteCare Report. During 2023, the NCCP continued to contribute to the planning process for the implementation of the regions in relation to the organisation of cancer services in line with the National Cancer Strategy.</p>

13	Patients diagnosed with cancer will have their case formally discussed at a multi-disciplinary team meeting. The NCCP, working with the Hospital Groups, will oversee and support MDT composition, processes and reporting of outcomes.	NCCP	<p>All tumours are discussed at tumour conferences (multi-disciplinary team meetings (MDMs)) in the public cancer service. The National Cancer Information System (NCIS), a standardised platform for the management of tumour conferences, is being rolled out to the cancer centres and SACT (systemic anti-cancer therapy) hospitals, and this system capability is available to these hospitals for their tumour conferences. NCIS is now live in 16 of a total of 26 hospitals including five of the nine designated cancer centres. NCIS will be rolled out to the remaining designated cancer centres in 2024. In 2023, NCIS was rolled out to the South Infirmary-Victoria Hospital, Connolly Hospital, Mercy University Hospital, Cavan General Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, and St. Vincent's University Hospital.</p> <p>A standard Tumour Conference Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Guidance was finalised in 2022 for use in all cancer centres and implementation of this proceeded in 2023. This will ensure a standardised approach to tumour conferences (MDM) processes, composition, and reporting of outcomes. Tumour conference co-coordinators and data managers were allocated to hospitals through funding provided in the National Service plan 2021 and 2022 to support the tumour conference process.</p> <p>Several tumour-specific conference SOP guidance documents were developed in 2023, for CAVA, skull base, colorectal, lung, gynaecological, and skin cancers. There is also an SOP for haemato-oncology and medical oncology. These were developed by the relevant NCCP Clinical Leads Groups and are available on the NCCP webpage to all cancer centres for implementation in line with their designation for the treatment of particular cancer types.</p>
14	The NCCP, working with the other Directorates in the HSE and with the Department of Health, will develop a rolling capital investment plan, to be reviewed annually, with the aim of ensuring that cancer facilities meet requirements.	NCCP	<p>The HSE Capital Plan 2023 included the continuation of a number of capital projects for cancer services. In radiotherapy, this included the completion of NPRO Phase II facilities at University Hospital Galway, the planning and design of expansion of St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) facilities at Beaumont Hospital, and the equipment (linear accelerators) replacement programme for SLRON.</p> <p>In systemic therapy, developments included the day ward and aseptic compounding unit (ACU) at Cork University Hospital, ACU at Tallaght University Hospital, day ward and ACU at Letterkenny University Hospital, day ward and ACU at University Hospital Kerry, day ward at Naas General Hospital, day ward and ACU at Cavan General Hospital, and day ward at St Vincent's University Hospital. An NCCP-Estates Working Group is in place to review ACU developments.</p> <p>A number of hospitals have or are preparing project proposals in relation to day wards and/or ACUs, including Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore (day ward and ACU), Sligo University Hospital (day ward), and University Hospital Waterford (day ward and ACU).</p> <p>Major cancer centre capital projects are under review for University Hospital Galway and St James's Hospital. Early-stage proposals for cancer infrastructure development have been developed for Beaumont Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and planning is underway for similar for Cork University Hospital.</p> <p>The NCCP, working with partners in the HSE, is considering the best approach to determining the long-term infrastructure needs for cancer services nationally.</p>
15	The Department of Health will ensure that investment in infrastructure, facilities, personnel and programmes in the designated cancer centres will have a goal of ultimately developing at least one comprehensive cancer care centre that will optimise cancer prevention, treatment, education and research during the Strategy period.	DOH	<p>The development of at least one comprehensive cancer care centre has always been seen as a matter for the latter part of the Strategy period. It is included in the National Development Plan 2018-2027. In 2023, Ireland continued its involvement in European Joint Actions under the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on the development of national comprehensive cancer centres and networks across the EU (CraNE and EUNetCCC), which complement ongoing work regarding the development of a comprehensive cancer centre in Ireland over the coming years.</p>
16	The NCCP will ensure that consultant appointments for radiology, endoscopy and histopathology, where necessary, are made in conjunction with appointments in other disciplines such as surgery and medical oncology.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP continues to engage with the HSE's Consultant Appointment Advisory Committee (CAAC) to ensure that the needs of cancer services are appropriately considered in consultant workforce planning and recruitment for consultant appointments.</p> <p>In 2023, through funding provided in the National Service Plan 2022, the NCCP allocated positions in radiology and pathology in conjunction with other allocations to support cancer services, including those for breast and skin cancers.</p>
17	The NCCP will appoint a National Lead for Cancer Molecular Diagnostics for solid and liquid malignancies.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP Cancer Molecular Diagnostics Advisory Group oversees Cancer Molecular Diagnostics for solid and liquid malignancies. This is now an embedded NCCP programme and meets the requirement of this recommendation.</p>
18	The NCCP will establish a Steering Group for Cancer Molecular Diagnostics, chaired by the National Lead. This Steering Group will set out the framework for the organisation, location and delivery of cancer molecular diagnostic services.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP established a Cancer Molecular Diagnostics (drugs) Advisory Group in 2017, comprising representatives from pathology, haematology, medical oncology, genetics, and laboratory science, to advise on the relevant cancer molecular diagnostic testing requirements.</p> <p>In 2023, direct ordering of BRCA testing to support prescribing of PARP inhibitors in prostate cancer and HRD testing in ovarian cancer was introduced in parallel with reimbursement approval. NTRK gene fusion testing was introduced to support prescribing of the tumour agnostic therapy larotrectinib in line with reimbursement approval.</p> <p><b>Work commenced on the development of a national Genomic Test Directory for Cancer.</b></p>
19	The NCCP will further develop the Programme for Hereditary Cancers to ensure that evaluation, counselling, testing and risk reduction interventions are available as appropriate, and that services are available to patients on the basis of need.	NCCP	<p>An NCCP-led multi-disciplinary advisory group agreed a Hereditary Cancer Model of Care (launched in June 2023; available at <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/hereditary-cancer-genetics/">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/hereditary-cancer-genetics/</a>), as the blueprint for improved access, quality and governance of hereditary cancer genetics services in Ireland.</p> <p>A number of condition-specific projects have progressed, including implementation support guidance for a tumour testing pathway for Lynch syndrome; working group on patient information for Lynch Syndrome; breast family history pathway development, which includes patients with a suspected familial predisposition.</p> <p>E-learning modules to support mainstreamed testing are in development.</p> <p>During 2023, the NCCP collaborated with the National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) on the implementation of the National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland, including contribution to the ongoing work on the development of an overarching operating model and processes for agreement of testing guidance.</p>
20	The HSE will ensure that the existing cancer genetics services are amalgamated into one National Cancer Genetics Service and will identify the most appropriate site for its location.	HSE	<p>The HSE National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) was established in 2023 following the publication of a National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland at the end of 2022. The NGGO is collaborating with the NCCP on the future organisation and delivery of cancer genetics services in Ireland.</p>
21	The NCCP will draw up a plan setting out the number/location of designated cancer centres in which surgery will take place for the various tumour types. Timescales for the implementation of the plan will be included for each tumour type.	NCCP	<p>Centralisation of cancer surgeries is ongoing, with centralisation confirmed and communicated on 13 of the 19 tumour-sites.</p> <p>Planning for the designation of cancer centres for surgery for specific tumour types and monitoring of surgical activity data continued throughout 2023. Implementation planning was advanced during the year in relation to centralisation of tumour conferences (MDMs) and surgery, as appropriate, for sarcoma, skull base, gynaecological cancer, and bladder cancer surgery (radical cystectomy). Work on planning the centralisation of a number of the remaining tumour types to be addressed is underway.</p> <p>Most cancer surgeries (84.6%) were carried out in designated centres in 2023. The numbers of patients who underwent cancer surgery to year end 2023 was at 109% of 2019 level.</p>

22	In line with the National Plan for Radiation Oncology, public sector radiation oncology facilities in Dublin, Cork and Galway will be expanded to meet patient demand and a planned National Programme of Equipment Refreshment and Replacement will be implemented across the Strategy period.	NCCP	<p>The new radiation oncology centre in Galway, costing €70.7m, was completed in 2023 and formally opened by the Minister for Health in October. The investment provided by Government and overseen by the NCCP's National Programme for Radiation Oncology (NPRO) and the Saolta Hospital Group included resources for the building itself, equipment and associated technologies, and new staffing. The site also contains an operating theatre and state of the art radiation oncology equipment.</p> <p>Other developments in 2023 to support the ongoing implementation of the NPRO included the completion of the Beaumont Strategic Assessment Review (SAR) enabling the investment to develop Phase 2 Radiotherapy at Beaumont and the renewal of the service contract with UPMC in Waterford.</p> <p>During 2023, radiation oncology services continued to experience challenges with staffing, particularly in relation to radiation therapists. It is hoped that the implementation of the recently convened SIPTU/HSE National Review of Radiation Therapists will help to address some of these challenges in 2024.</p> <p>In 2023, there was continued development, with colleagues in Northern Ireland, of the North Western Cancer Centre in Derry, with radiotherapy for skin cancer due to open in 2024 at the site for patients from Ireland.</p>
23	The NCCP will examine the model of care for patients receiving oral anti-cancer medicines and recommend steps to ensure that all patients receive such medicines in a safe and effective manner, with appropriate and proportionate supports, both in the hospital and community setting.	NCCP	<p>In 2023, new development funding was allocated for improving systemic anti-cancer therapy services in Ireland, including through strategic investment in pharmacy resources, recruitment of nursing posts, and additional support to the 26 SACT centres.</p> <p>The NCCP is engaged with the Irish Institute of Pharmacy Practice in progressing the "NCCP Cancer Champion" project. It is envisaged that this will empower community healthcare professionals to support patients undergoing cancer treatment with oral anti-cancer medicines (OAMs).</p>
24	The NCCP will develop appropriate MDT, centralisation and treatment arrangements to meet the diverse needs of patients with haematological cancers.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP National Clinical Leads for Haemato-oncology are in place and are key drivers of Recommendation 24.</p> <p>During 2023, data gathering was undertaken to inform centralisation and support the objective of better meeting the diverse needs of patients with haematological cancer.</p> <p>A service specification for hospitals delivering SACT services for haemato-oncology patients, aligned to the SACT Model of Care 2022, has been published. A survey is underway with all haemato-oncology hospitals to ascertain alignment to requirements.</p> <p>Staffing resources were allocated in the NCCP National Service Planning 2021 and 2022 to support data collection and coordination of tumour conferences. In July 2023, the NCCP Haemato-oncology Tumour Conference - SOP Guidance (v2) was published. This was revised and aligned to the generic NCCP guidance.</p> <p>Work is progressing on NCCP Patient Pathways for haematological malignancies. In July 2023, the NCCP Patient Pathway for Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia/Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (v1) was published. The Pathway for Acute Myeloid Leukaemia is in draft, and the next pathway to be drafted will be high grade lymphomas.</p> <p>As a further development of the CAR-T treatment model implemented in 2021/2022 in CHI at Crumlin (paediatrics), St James's Hospital (AYA and adults) and University Hospital Galway (AYA and adults, designated as the 3rd centre in October 2022), in July 2023, the NCCP Service Specification for CAR-T services (v1) was published. This is a generic specification which will apply to all centres.</p>
25	The NCCP will develop a systematic, evidence-based mechanism to prioritise the establishment of MDTs for further rare cancers. The centralisation of diagnosis, treatment planning and surgical services for these cancers will be organised in line with best international practice.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP published its Tumour Conference - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Guidance document in 2023. Following this, tumour-specific SOPs have been developed for a number of common cancers (breast, lung, colorectal, and gynae-oncology), as well as an SOP for medical oncology and psycho-oncology. In relation to rare cancers, tumour conference SOPs have been developed for skull base cancer and children, adolescents, and young people with cancer.</p>
26	The HSE will ensure that an age appropriate facility is designated for adolescents and young adults with cancer within the new children's hospital.	HSE	<p>There is now a full complement of staff allocated to each of the three National AYA Cancer Units at St James's Hospital, Cork University Hospital, and University Hospital Galway and services are being implemented.</p>
27	The HSE will develop closer links, on a hub and spoke model, between the National Centre for Child and Adolescent Cancer and the other designated cancer centres to provide appropriate and flexible transition arrangements for adolescents/young adults. This will include the joint appointment of adolescent/young adult oncologists and haemato-oncologists and the provision of age-appropriate psycho-social support for these patients.	HSE	<p>A National AYA MDM commenced in February 2023.</p> <p>The collection of data on a pilot basis for the new key performance indicators (KPIs) for the CAYA Programme commenced in one of the three AYA units.</p> <p>During 2023, work continued on the implementation of the Framework for the Care and Support of Adolescent and Young Adults (AYA) with cancer in Ireland 2021 to 2026.</p>
28	Links between cancer services and geriatric services will be strengthened, facilitated by the appointment of a National Clinical Lead in Geriatric Oncology in the NCCP.	NCCP	<p>During 2023, the NCCP sought the appointment of a National Clinical Lead in Geriatric Oncology in the NCCP and a recruitment process is expected to be completed early in 2024. During 2023, the work of the geriatric oncology nursing forum continued.</p>

29	The NCCP will appoint a National Clinical Lead for Psycho-oncology to drive the delivery of networked services.	NCCP	<p>The National Clinical Lead for Psycho-Oncology continued to drive the implementation of Psycho-Oncology services in 2023.</p> <p>The Model of Care for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults (CAYA) was completed and launched by the Minister for Health in May 2023. This Model of Care covers the age range from 0 to 24. The aim of the Model of Care is to provide a blueprint for psychosocial and psychological support service for this age cohort.</p> <p>Funding was allocated for five Psycho-Oncology MDT posts via NSP 2023 and recruitment is underway. As at the end of 2023, there were a total of 59 posts, of which 45 are NCCP funded. Of those, 40 are filled and the outstanding ones are in various stages of recruitment.</p> <p>MDMs are taking place in all cancer centres based on the agreed Psycho-Oncology MDM SOP which was devised by a representative group led by the NCCP. The Psycho-Oncology programme devised a set of guiding principles for the operation of the MDTs in Psycho-Oncology.</p> <p>A set of metrics was agreed and planning for data collection is well advanced, with a view to full data collection in 2024. The first set of metrics for the last quarter of 2023 has been requested and will be collected in early 2024.</p> <p>A national scoping exercise to review current needs for Psycho-Oncology in SACT hospitals was undertaken in 2023. There is a commitment to provide services to these hospitals as soon as resources permit.</p> <p>The Psycho-Oncology programme worked on developing the Integrated Patient Pathway between cancer centres and Cancer Support Centres with a view to incorporate it in the revised Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology. It is hoped that, if resources allow, the Model of Care will be reviewed in 2024.</p> <p>A follow-up self-assessment and peer review pilot on the Best Practice Guidance was undertaken in 2023 and the report on this is expected to be published in 2024.</p>
30	Each designated cancer centre will establish a dedicated service to address the psycho-social needs of patients with cancer and their families. This will operate through a hub and spoke model, utilising the MDT approach, to provide equitable patient access.	NCCP	<p>MDMs are taking place in all cancer centres using the Psycho-Oncology MDM SOP.</p> <p>Funding was allocated for five Psycho-Oncology MDT posts via NSP 2023 and recruitment is underway. As at the end of 2023, there were a total of 59 posts, of which 45 are NCCP funded. Of those, 40 are filled and the outstanding ones are in various stages of recruitment.</p> <p>A national scoping exercise to review current needs for Psycho-Oncology in SACT hospitals was undertaken in 2023. There is a commitment to provide services to these hospitals as soon as resources permit.</p> <p>A set of metrics was agreed and planning for data collection is well advanced, with a view to full data collection in 2024. The first set of metrics for the last quarter of 2023 has been requested and will be collected in early 2024.</p> <p>The Psycho-Oncology programme worked on developing the Integrated Patient Pathway between cancer centres and Cancer Support Centres with a view to incorporate it in the revised Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology. It is hoped that, if resources allow, the Model of Care will be reviewed in 2024.</p> <p>The Alliance of Community Cancer Support Centres and Services (The Alliance) continued its work in 2023 to provide a forum for the development of community-led support, which includes opportunities for information and education, collaboration and networking among its members. An annual report for The Alliance activities in 2022 was published.</p> <p>A follow-up self-assessment and peer review pilot on the Best Practice Guidance was undertaken in 2023 and the report on this is expected to be published in 2024.</p> <p>Grant aid of €541,000 was awarded to 19 Cancer Support Centres in 2023. Grant aid call to associate members of the Alliance to apply for once-off project funding was also made available during 2023.</p>
31	Designated cancer centres will have a sufficient complement of specialist palliative care professionals, including psycho-oncologists, to meet the needs of patients and families (such services will be developed on a phased basis to be available over seven days a week).	NCCP	<p>The NCCP provided input into the development of the Palliative Care Policy, which was completed in 2023. A proposal to develop Palliative Care Guidelines is under review.</p> <p>The Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology for Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults (CAYA) was completed and officially launched by the Minister for Health in May 2023.</p> <p>The Psycho-Oncology MDM SOP is being implemented across all the adult Psycho-Oncology services.</p>
32	Oncology staff will have the training and education to ensure competence in the identification, assessment and management of patients with palliative care needs and all patients with cancer will have regular, standardised assessment of their needs.	HSE	<p>The NCCP continued in 2023 to engage in close collaboration with the HSE Palliative Care Programme on the implementation of the Palliative Care Model of Care, continuing a partnership approach for the development of clinical guidelines for patients with palliative care needs.</p>
33	The HSE will oversee the further development of children's palliative care to ensure that services are available to all children with a life limiting cancer.	HSE	<p>The NCCP works closely with colleagues in the HSE Paediatric Palliative Care programme who are represented on the NCCP CAYA Clinical Leads Group. Input from the HSE Paediatric Palliative Care Programme was incorporated into the CAYA Psycho-Oncology Model of Care which launched in May 2023.</p>
34	The NCCP will ensure that each hospital has a clearly defined framework for cancer patient safety and quality.	NCCP	<p>Scoping was underway in 2023 for a national framework for cancer patient safety, which will incorporate the new health regions and which will be advanced further in 2024. As part of ongoing patient safety and quality attainment measures, a number of cancer centres have engaged with international cancer centre accreditation bodies. These centres have completed or are undergoing accreditation of their cancer control activities. International options for national accreditation of cancer services are under review.</p>
35	The NCCP will define focused cancer patient experience surveys to incorporate treatment and survivorship in line with HIQA's standard approach for the National In-Patient Acute Care Patient Experience Survey.	NCCP	<p>The National In-Patient Acute Care Patient Experience Survey is conducted in May each year in a partnership involving HIQA, the HSE, and the Department of Health. Cancer treatment and survivorship was selected for inclusion in the National Care Experience Programme for 2022-2024.</p> <p>Work commenced in 2023 on the development of the Cancer Patient Experience Survey.</p>
36	The NCCP will develop, publish and monitor a programme of national quality healthcare indicators for cancer care, involving both process and outcome measures, in line with international standards.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP works to ensure that the established programme of national quality healthcare indicators for cancer care enable the NCCP to assess services, to make comparisons between centres, and identify areas for improvement. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are an important component of the NCCP monitoring programme and a core suite of KPIs are published regularly as a component of the HSE's Performance Assurance Report.</p> <p>In 2023, the NCCP continued early development of additional quality indicators to support monitoring of cancer services for adolescents and young adults with cancer, gynaecological cancer services, and pigmented lesion clinics. New KPIs are only added if their benefits clearly outweigh any data collection challenges and costs. KPIs are regularly reviewed to ensure that they still provide useful information and are in line with international standards.</p>

37	The NCCP will develop further guidelines for cancer care in line with National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) Standards. Audits will also be developed in accordance with the NCEC Framework for National Clinical Audit.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP has published two National Clinical Guidelines, on "Treatment of patients with breast cancer: Radiation Oncology" (May 2023) and the "Surveillance of prostate cancer patients post-treatment" (June 2023). The NCCP also commenced an update of "Treatment of patients with prostate cancer: Active Surveillance" and "Diagnosis and staging of patients with breast cancer". A new guideline under development is "Post-treatment follow-up (Radiological and clinical) of patients with breast cancer".</p> <p>A new national clinical guideline was developed "Staging and surveillance of patients with cutaneous melanoma" and has undergone national and international review prior to finalisation for publication.</p> <p>These national clinical guidelines for cancer will provide evidence-based recommendations for patient care that integrate the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patients values with the aim of reducing variation in practice and improving patient outcomes and experience of their care. An audit of a recommendation in "Diagnosis and staging of patients with prostate cancer" is being designed.</p>
38	The Department of Health will ensure that patient representatives are involved in policy making, planning, practice and oversight of cancer services at local, regional and national levels.	DOH	<p>The Department of Health strives to ensure that patient representatives are included in the oversight of the development and implementation of all cancer policies and services, particularly through the Cancer Patient Advisory Committee. At a local level, Patient Advisory Liaison Services (not limited to cancer) have been established to offer support, advice, and information on hospital services to patients, family members, the general public and hospital staff.</p> <p>The NCCP has reviewed current practices around patient and public engagement and has developed proposed actions to ensure that the NCCP's practice is aligned with the HSE Better Together Patient Engagement Roadmap.</p>
39	The Department of Health will establish a Cancer Patient Advisory Committee to provide input into the development of programmes for patients with cancer. Membership of this committee will reflect the diverse nature of patients living with the effects of cancer, and will ensure that the needs of patients living in more remote areas are represented.	DOH	<p>The Cancer Patient Advisory Committee (CPAC) was established in line with Recommendation 39 of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 and in recognition of the fact that cancer patients are in a position to provide a unique perspective on the development of cancer services at a local, regional and national level. This commitment arose in part from the very beneficial impact that the Cancer Patient Forum had on the development of the Strategy.</p> <p>The CPAC provides patient input into the oversight of the implementation of the Strategy and into the development of cancer services and programmes.</p> <p>The Cancer Patient Advisory Committee met four times in 2023. In 2023, the Committee provided input on issues including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs Assessment for Patients with Non-Specific Signs and Symptoms of Cancer.</li> <li>• National Cancer Information System.</li> <li>• Alliance of Community Cancer Support Centres and Services.</li> <li>• Acute Oncology Nursing Service, including contribution to the service development workshop in September 2023.</li> <li>• Development of a National Cancer Experience Survey.</li> </ul>
40	All hospitals will offer patients a Patient Treatment Summary and Care Plan as part of their support. These plans will allow patients to store information about their cancer, their cancer treatment and their follow-up care. The plans will also inform future healthcare providers.	NCCP	<p>Patient Treatment Summary and Care Plan development is ongoing. To date, the NCCP has developed, finalised, and rolled out the Patient Passport for patients with colorectal cancer. This Passport is in use in cancer centres. Development is ongoing for other tumour sites. This includes the following developments in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development in 2023 of a tumour site-specific minimum dataset of the essential components for inclusion on the Treatment Summary &amp; Care Plan;</li> <li>• the introduction of a Treatment Summary &amp; Care Plan for patients with prostate cancer as part of the stratified self-managed follow-up pathways at phase 1 hospital sites, which are the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, University Hospital Limerick, and University Hospital Galway; and</li> <li>• development of the first draft of the Patient Passport for patients with lung cancer, for which a Working Group is being set up to finalise the design.</li> </ul> <p>Treatment summary template designs and collection methods are under review at a number of cancer sites for prostate, breast, lung, lymphoma, and upper GI cancers.</p> <p>A consensus statement on the standardised national follow up and surveillance protocol for colorectal cancer has been finalised and published on the NCCP website.</p> <p>Standardised national follow-up recommendations were finalised for post-surgery and post-radiotherapy patients with prostate cancer and are published on the NCCP website.</p>
41	The NCCP, in conjunction with the ICGP, cancer centres, the Irish Cancer Society and cancer support centres, will conduct a Cancer Survivorship Needs Assessment to ascertain the most suitable model of survivorship healthcare. The Needs Assessment should be completed by the end of 2018.	NCCP	<p>The National Cancer Survivorship Needs Assessment (August 2019) was used in 2023 to inform the development and implementation of policy and services to meet patient needs. The needs assessment includes a model of care for Cancer Survivorship and details actions to develop cancer survivorship care in the lifetime of the National Cancer Strategy and beyond.</p>
42	The NCCP, in conjunction with the cancer centres, will develop shared care protocols for patients with cancer following treatment. These protocols will span the hospital and primary care settings.	NCCP	<p>A Stratified Self-Managed Follow Up Framework was developed and published by the NCCP to support services in the design, development and implementation of these new follow up pathways.</p> <p>Stratified self-managed follow up pathways and process documentation were developed for post-surgery prostate cancer patients and patients being recruited onto the new pathways at the phase 1 hospital sites Galway, Limerick and the Mater.</p> <p>Standardised national follow-up recommendations were finalised for post-surgery and post-radiotherapy patients with prostate cancer and are published on the NCCP website.</p> <p>During 2023, the Treatment Summary &amp; Care Plan for patients with prostate cancer was introduced with the stratified self-managed follow up pathways at the phase 1 hospital sites.</p> <p>Set-up is progressing at the remaining prostate cancer sites and work is also commencing to consider these pathways for patients post radiotherapy.</p>

43	Designated cancer centres working with the NCCP, the ICGP, primary care services, patients and voluntary organisations will develop and implement survivorship programmes. These programmes will emphasise physical, psychological and social factors that affect health and wellbeing, while being adaptable to patients with specific survivorship needs following their treatment.	NCCP	<p>During 2023, the Cancer Thriving &amp; Surviving (CTS) programme was delivered in-person and virtually, with a total of 300 participants attending 33 CTS Programmes nationally during the year.</p> <p>A total of 17 CLIMB programmes (aimed at families affected by a cancer diagnosis) were delivered in 2023. Fifty nine participants attended eight CLIMB programmes nationally in cancer support centres, both online and in-person.</p> <p>The Life And Cancer – Enhancing Survivorship (LACES) workshop, developed in collaboration with the Irish Cancer Society, was again delivered online and in-person. LACES is an end of treatment workshop which provides information and signposting to services to help improve the quality of lives for cancer patients after active treatment has ended. In 2023 48 sessions were delivered with a total of 146 attendees.</p> <p>A commissioned scoping review of the physical activity and exercise programmes available for cancer patients in Ireland is in the final stages of completion, with a date for publication in Q1 2024. The review will inform implementation of the National Survivorship Needs Assessment actions and National Cancer Strategy recommendations.</p> <p>Also in 2023, the NCCP commenced a scoping review and research to design, develop, pilot, and evaluate a programme to better address the needs of people with significant mental health difficulties with a cancer diagnosis undergoing treatment and post-treatment care in the Irish public system (30 year gap mortality project).</p> <p>The Alliance of Community Cancer Support Centres and Services (The Alliance) continued its work in 2023 to provide a forum for the development of community-led support, which includes opportunities for information and education, collaboration and networking among its members. An annual report for The Alliance activities in 2022 was published.</p> <p>Grant aid of €541,000 was awarded to 19 Cancer Support Centres in 2023. Grant aid call to associate members of the Alliance to apply for once-off project funding was also made available during 2023.</p>
44	The central role of the NCCP in ensuring that the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 is implemented across the health service will be strengthened, including through the use of Service Level Agreements, and through a direct role in financial allocations to Hospital Groups under Activity Based Funding.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP is engaged with and contributing to the re-design of the HSE Centre and the relationship with the new Health Regions. The NCCP's role in national strategy, oversight, commissioning, assurance, and coordination of cancer services is to continue. The relationship and interaction between the NCCP and the Health Regions for the organisation, delivery, and reporting of cancer services at regional level is being developed. The use of SLAs to specify service levels, commitments, and responsibilities in relation to cancer services will be considered in that context.</p> <p>SLAs are currently in place with private radiotherapy providers in Limerick and Waterford to provide radiation therapy for public patients.</p>
45	The NCCP will work with the private sector providers to achieve voluntary participation in cancer data collection, audit, compliance with guidelines and reporting of outcomes.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP has commenced engagement with private providers to explore areas of potential engagement, including encouragement on the voluntary participation in data collection/publication and use of national clinical guidelines and SACT regimens.</p>
46	The NCCP will establish a National Cancer Research Group by end-2017 to improve the coordination of cancer research, to foster a supportive environment for research within the health service and the universities, to set research priorities in line with the overall cancer strategy, to seek to ensure that funding allocation is linked to these priorities and to work to achieve continuity of funding.	NCCP	<p>In 2023, the NCCP appointed a National Clinical Lead for Cancer Research, including responsibility for chairing the National Cancer Research Group. The Group met twice in 2023. The work of the group focussed on data collection to better understand current cancer research funding activities, as well as initial consideration for the development of a National Cancer Mission Hub, in line with the ECHO5 project funded by the European Commission in 2023.</p>
47	The HSE will ensure that clinical cancer research, and the staff who deliver it, become a fully integrated component of cancer care delivery.	HSE	<p>The NCCP continues to work with the central research function in the HSE and HSE HR to promote an increased focus on research and is endeavouring to ensure the inclusion of time for the pursuit of research interests in contracts for relevant health service staff.</p>
48	The NCCP and the National Cancer Research Group will examine mechanisms to ensure that newly appointed cancer consultants and Advanced Nurse Practitioners have protected time to pursue research interests in their new posts.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP continued to work in 2023 to ensure that protected time is available for those with the expertise and interest in cancer research to pursue such research in line with policy. Time for the pursuit of research interests has been included in the job specifications of relevant consultant and ANP posts. The cancer nursing education grant for €160,000 was again open for applications in 2023.</p> <p>The NCCP is an active member of the CAAC committee who oversee all new Consultant appointments applicable to cancer services across all diagnostic and treatment trajectories. The NCCP monitors and supports all NSP-allocated consultant posts in collaboration with the speciality leads.</p>
49	The NCCP will appoint a National Clinical Lead for Cancer Nursing. This person will work with other Directorates in the HSE and with the Department of Health to determine an integrated nursing leadership infrastructure for cancer nursing services at national, regional and local levels to support practice and research.	NCCP	<p>The NCCP Nursing Lead and team continued to make significant progress nationally in developing oncology nursing and enhancing patient care in 2023, working with MDT members and patients as partners. This has included engagement opportunities with nurses in clinical and managerial roles in acute and primary care services.</p> <p>The Acute Oncology Nursing programme continued in 2023, allowing patients to have access to specialist telephone advice and support and where possible avoid the requirement to attend an ED for assessment and management. In 2023, approximately 1,000 patients availed of this service monthly, across 26 hospitals providing systemic anti-cancer therapy. This is a conservative figure as the service is not staffed when the AOS CNS is on leave. Proposals have been submitted to build resilience in this service to ensure patients have 24/7 access to this service. Metrics on this service are being captured through NCIS since October 2023.</p> <p>The National SACT Nursing Competency Programme continued to be delivered in 2023, with 100 nurses completing the programme during the year.</p> <p>Work on the three-year EU DigiCanTrain project commenced in 2023 to develop a digital programme for MDT and non-clinical personnel working in cancer care.</p> <p>In 2023, the NCCP commenced discussions with the Northern Ireland Cancer Nursing Lead to explore possible areas of collaboration. Opportunities to collaborate will be explored further in 2024.</p> <p>A number of initiatives related to cancer workforce planning were advanced during 2023.</p>
50	The NCCP, aided by a cross-sector group, will draw up a comprehensive workforce plan for cancer services. This will include an interim assessment of staffing needs at medical, nursing and health & social care professional levels by mid-2018.	NCCP	<p>The HSE National Genetics and Genomics Strategy and the Hereditary Cancer Model of Care were published and the composition of the cancer genetics teams has been developed.</p> <p>The SACT Model of Care, Radiation Oncology Workforce Planning, National Framework for CAYA, and Psycho-oncology Model of Care are informing service and workforce planning.</p> <p>Cancer nursing continues to assess nursing staffing levels within services, service readiness and nursing grades. Expansion of the Acute Oncology service has been targeted.</p> <p>Submissions from hospitals to consolidate or expand specific services, especially with regard to establishing and consolidating regional and national services, have been assessed.</p> <p>Allocations of positions under Service Planning have been guided by the identified requirements from these planning initiatives.</p>

51	The HSE will ensure that all hospitals provide the National Cancer Registry with data related to cancer in an appropriate timeframe to allow for sufficient surveillance of cancer rates and outcomes in Ireland.	HSE	<p>A Data-Sharing Agreement between the HSE and the National Cancer Registry is in place covering all public hospitals. Individual data-sharing agreements are also in place with the majority of voluntary and private hospitals (98%), and work was progressing at end-2021 to finalise the outstanding cases.</p> <p>In the years 2020-2023 there were significant advances in electronic data transfer. From mid-2020, the NCRI has been collecting data remotely from all public hospitals. This facilitated the continued collection of data during the COVID-19 pandemic and has increased the completeness and timeliness of NCRI data.</p>
52	The Department of Health will review the scope of the National Cancer Registry with a view to increasing and optimising the use of available data to drive improvements in cancer care for patients.	DOH	<p>A new National Cancer Registry Strategic Plan was developed over 2023 through consultation with a range of stakeholders, including patient representative groups, and will be launched in 2024. The Plan contains actions across 5 strategic objectives to strengthen the role of the Registry and improve the use of data in cancer service development.</p>