

Audit tool for achieving age equality in health and social care

B1.2: Cancer services

B1.2.1: Provision of cancer services by age

RED

Local audits of waiting times and intervention rates for a range of procedures and tests available in local cancer care services indicate variations in access rates and outcomes by age.

AMBER

Age awareness and equality training is embedded in the competencies and training of commissioners, managers and the healthcare workforce, but there is evidence that not all cancer services are responsive to the needs of different age groups, or those likely to experience multiple discrimination.

GREEN

The principles and practice guidance for good equality working set out by the National Cancer Equalities Initiative have been fully implemented for all age groups and a continuous improvement cycle is in place.

B1.2.2: Access to breast, cervical and bowel cancer screening services by age

RED

All three local screening services are currently failing to meet the standards required for the designated age groups. No plans for delivering the extensions set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2010-2011 for breast and bowel cancer screening have been drawn up.

AMBER

The three local screening services deliver the current quality standards, and plans have been drawn up to meet the nationally set extensions but not yet agreed. Differences in uptake between age groups have been analysed but no action has yet been taken.

GREEN

Screening services meet the standards and plans are agreed on the extensions set out in the Operating Framework. Action plans are in hand to address differences in uptake between age groups within the screening programmes and age appropriate promotional materials have been produced, such as work to enable older people to access the screening programmes.

B1.2.3: Speed of diagnosis by age

RED

Access to and time taken for completing diagnostic tests for cancer vary by age, and no analysis of these differences has been undertaken.

AMBER

Access to and speed of diagnostic tests for cancer vary by age, and an analysis of these differences has been undertaken. Plans for ending unjustifiable differences are in place but have not yet been implemented.

GREEN

Action plans are in place to address unjustifiable differences in access to or speed of diagnostic tests for cancer and good progress is being made in moving towards ending these differences.

B1.2.4: Access to cancer treatments by age

RED

Local audits reveal that older people are less likely than younger people to receive standard management of cancer, less likely to have surgery for operable cancer, and less likely to receive adjuvant therapies.

AMBER

Information about the range of treatment options is available but this is not targeted at people in mid and later life and there is evidence that access to and take up of treatments varies by age.

GREEN

Differences in access between people of different ages to the same diagnostic and treatment procedures and management of cancer are regularly reviewed and action has been taken to remove unjustifiable differences