



Cancer Action Team  
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Dear Colleague,

**Re: National Programme for Cancer Peer Review**

You will be aware that a second round of cancer peer review is due to start at the end of this year. I am writing to ask for your support by encouraging relevant staff to put their names forward to be reviewers and in giving approval for those staff to have time away from their normal duties to undertake this important role.

I appreciate that there are increasing demands on staff time. However, feedback from the last round of peer review is that the process brought significant benefits not only for the services and individuals being reviewed, but also for the individuals carrying out the reviews, together with the organisations that they came from. Discussions are taking place with all the Royal Colleges with a view to securing agreement that participation in peer review will attract CPD recognition.

Peer review will provide an important mechanism for cancer services to demonstrate that they are meeting NICE Guidance (a current PPF target) and the recently published *Standards for Better Health*. There is an active relationship between the Healthcare Commission (formerly CHI) and the National Cancer Peer Review Programme. Information will be provided to the Healthcare Commission which will include:

- Progress on the implementation of NICE guidance
- Co-ordination of care and leadership across organisations
- Patient experience
- Remedial action agreed following visits

I hope that you will be able to give the Cancer Peer Review programme your full support, both to teams as they prepare for visits and in allowing individuals time to review other networks.

If you would like to discuss any matters of detail arising from this letter then please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Parsons, National Co-ordinator for Cancer Peer Review, who can be contacted on 0207 188 0896, or by e-mail at [Stephen.parsons@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Stephen.parsons@gstt.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Professor Mike Richards  
National Cancer Director