

## Finding and recommendations

<b>Finding</b>	<b>82</b>
That St Vincent's Hospital Sydney failed to prevent and to respond effectively to the off-protocol prescribing of chemotherapy that occurred in the hospital. However, it has since taken responsibility for these failures and is addressing them appropriately.	
<b>Recommendation 1</b>	<b>95</b>
That the Western NSW Local Health District:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure that its review of medical specialist outreach service arrangements encompasses all of the Western NSW Local Health District, with a strong focus on fly-in fly-out medical specialists</li> <li>• establish proper governance structures to ensure fly-in fly-out medical specialists are subject to the same safeguards as locally based clinicians.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<b>107</b>
That the Cancer Institute NSW:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure that, in the interests of transparency, all evaluations of the outcomes for patients who received an off-protocol flat dose of 100 mg carboplatin or reduced dose capecitabine be independently evaluated and published, subject to patient confidentiality</li> <li>• keep the affected cohort of patients informed as to the capacity of the evaluation dataset to shed light on their health outcomes</li> <li>• continue to monitor and assess the morbidity and mortality rates of the affected patient cohort and compare and contrast with expected ranges until at least 2022.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<b>108</b>
That the NSW Ministry of Health, in the interests of transparency and building the community's trust in the health system, publish the results in detail of its audit of public cancer patients, subject to patient confidentiality.	
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<b>134</b>
That the Cancer Institute NSW examine whether, beyond allowable individualised dose adjustments, a model for oversight of significant variations to chemotherapy protocols should be adopted statewide.	
<b>Recommendation 5</b>	<b>135</b>
That the Cancer Institute NSW ensure that all local health districts and specialty health networks have a functioning oncology management information system in place by early 2018.	
<b>Recommendation 6</b>	<b>135</b>
That the NSW Ministry of Health and Cancer Institute NSW develop and implement an action plan to ensure that all people diagnosed with notifiable cancer in New South Wales have their care overseen by a multidisciplinary cancer care team that includes all relevant medical, nursing, pharmacy and allied health staff.	

**Recommendation 7****137**

That the NSW Ministry of Health and the Cancer Institute NSW undertake and publish a review of best practice in multidisciplinary cancer care teams that considers the evidence about:

- the benefits of ongoing team oversight of individual patients
- the role of the team with respect to oversight of chemotherapy dosing decisions
- team membership
- whether clinician attendance should be compulsory.

The review should then form the basis for NSW Health policy in respect of multidisciplinary cancer care teams across New South Wales.

**Recommendation 8****138**

That NSW Ministry of Health:

- continue to build the capacity of all health professionals to fulfil their ethical and legal obligations with regard to informed consent
- with the Cancer Institute NSW, implement further strategies to empower patients to fully exercise informed consent.

**Recommendation 9****138**

That the NSW Ministry of Health implement improved patient consent procedures which include that:

- all patients are provided with a copy of the NSW Cancer Institute's eviQ chemotherapy protocol at education sessions ahead of their first treatment
- when consent is obtained after a non-eviQ plan is recommended, patients are provided with information about the proposed protocol, including the clinical rationale for it, and a completed patient consent form is scanned into the patient information system.

**Recommendation 10****138**

That the NSW Ministry of Health ensure that all key clinical staff are educated in expectations regarding valid informed consent.

**Recommendation 11****139**

That the NSW Ministry of Health consider establishing a system of independent patient advisor-advocates in hospital cancer services, based on the official visitor model, as a means of empowering patients.