



## **Annual Report: November 2023**

### **About the UK Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Board**

The UK SACT Board (originally known as the UK Chemotherapy Board) was established in 2013, following the closure of the former National Chemotherapy Implementation Group, to provide an ongoing, multi-professional forum for supporting the delivery and development of high quality SACT services for cancer patients in the UK.

It is a partnership between The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), the Association of Cancer Physicians (ACP), the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) and the UK Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS).

Its wider membership includes representatives from the four UK nations and from other organisations closely involved in SACT services, including the Royal College of Pathologists, the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, NHS England, the National Institute for Health Research, the UK Acute Oncology Society and the Immuno-Oncology Clinical Network. It also has a lay representative.

The UK SACT Board meets three times a year and chairmanship rotates annually between the professional partner bodies. The strategic themes to which it contributes include:

- producing national guidance
- commissioning of SACT services at national and regional/local levels
- multi-professional workforce development
- reducing unnecessary variation in practice
- ensuring equity of access to safe, high-quality SACT services
- supporting and encouraging research.

### **Activities in 2023**

During 2023 the UK SACT Board has:

- Published [General principles to support SACT aseptic capacity pressures](#). The UK SACT Board recognises that demands on SACT services in the UK are increasing annually and aseptic services in particular are severely challenged. It produced this guidance to support the management and delivery of SACT aseptic services. SACT capacity management more generally remains a major concern across the UK and was highlighted at the Board's annual conference on 28 November (see below).

- Produced guidance on [Prescriber competencies for reviewing and prescribing SACT](#). This contains recommendations for recording and assessing competencies for SACT prescribing, with suggested templates for how such competencies could be recorded. Aimed primarily at healthcare providers wishing to develop the roles of oncology and haematology pharmacists, nurse and other Allied Health Professional Non-Medical Prescribers, it can also be used to demonstrate and record competency for medical prescribers working at Specialty Training level and above.
- Prepared new guidance to support the **management of hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis** in adult patients receiving SACT for solid-tumour cancers. National evidence suggests that the management of anaphylactic reactions in patients receiving SACT is poor. This guidance is intended to safeguard patients and staff by providing a framework of best-practice principles for systemic therapy provision. It is close to completion and should be released in the coming months.
- Continued to maintain and expand the popular suite of [national SACT Regimen-Specific Consent Forms](#). With oversight from a dedicated Steering Group, work has continued throughout 2023 both to develop new consent forms in response to the growing number of drug approvals and to conduct reviews of existing consent forms to ensure they reflect changes in regimen-usage over time. There has been a review and update of the guidance on consent for SACT and work has been undertaken to examine the feasibility of developing the consent forms in a fully-electronic format.
- Begun work to review and update previously archived guidance on **intrathecal chemotherapy standards**. This will provide support for Advanced Nurse Practitioners to administer this form of treatment. It is hoped the new standards will be available by spring/summer 2024.
- Undertaken – jointly with the Immuno-Oncology Network - a review and update of its **Good Practice Guideline for immuno-oncology (IO) medicines**. First published in 2018, this guidance was produced in response to concerns that patients may not correctly be triaged when presenting with serious side-effects from IO medicines to staff who were unfamiliar with the management of these adverse events. Since then, the identification of IO-specific side-effects has become even more complex and it is hoped the updated edition of the guidance will support the safe management of patients. It is due to be published in late 2023/early 2024.
- Hosted its [2023 annual conference](#). Held on 28 November, this year's event included sessions on SACT capacity in the UK, innovations in SACT practice, a forward look to the next decade in cancer care and digital supportive care. The UK SACT Board was delighted to welcome over 300 delegates to this very popular annual conference, which provided a fascinating day of learning, discussion and debate, combined with essential networking across the SACT community.

## Find out more about the UK SACT Board

Further information about the work and activities of the Board - including its full terms of reference, membership, its publications and its annual conference – is available on the [UK SACT Board website](#) (supported and maintained by BOPA).

For any queries about the UK SACT Board or if there are any issues that you feel the Board could assist with, please get on touch via this [Contact Us form](#) or by emailing: [uksactboard@bopa.org.uk](mailto:uksactboard@bopa.org.uk).