**Cellular pathology audit template**

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| **Date of completion** | (To be completed by the author) |
| **Name of lead author/ participants** | (To be inserted) |
| **Specialty** | Cellular pathology/gastrointestinal |
| **Title** | **An audit of colorectal carcinoma reporting standards** |
| **Background** | Datasets published by The Royal College of Pathologists define the core data items that are to be included in the histology reports of different cancers to ensure that all necessary data is provided.  The 2018 *Dataset for Histopathological Reporting of Colorectal Cancer (4th edition)* introduced specific reporting standards for three important prognostic factors: the number of lymph nodes attained, the number of cases showing extramural venous spread and the number of cases showing peritoneal/serosal involvement in colonic cancer and in rectal cancer. These criteria have been slightly in subsequent revisions, including in this latest 5th edition. |
| **Aim & objectives** | To determine whether individual pathologists and/or departments are able to fulfil the below reporting standards embodied within the *Dataset for Histopathological Reporting of Colorectal Cancer (2023, 5th edition).* |
| **Standards & criteria** | **Criteria range**  To determine whether, in a series of at least 50 colorectal cancer resection specimens from symptomatic (i.e. non-screening) patients, who have not undergone preoperative therapy:   * the median number of lymph nodes examined is at least 15. The previous standard of 12 has been increased, reflecting improved modern surgical and pathological practice * the frequency of peritoneal involvement is at least 20% for colonic cancers * the frequency of venous invasion, including intramural (submucosal and intramuscular) and extramural, is at least 30%. |
| **Method** | **Sample selection:** (To be completed by the author)   * Retrospective selection of all cases for a specified time period. * Review of the complete histology reports of ……. on the laboratory information system. * Review concluding diagnosis and summary information on a sequential ……. of ……. against recommended terminology in the Royal College of Pathologists colorectal cancer dataset.   **Data to be collected on proforma (see below).** |
| **Results** | (To be completed by the author)  The results of this audit show the following compliance with the standards:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Results (no. retrieved)** | **Compliant (Yes/No)** | | Median number of lymph nodes retrieved (≥ 15) |  |  | |  | **Results (% present)** | **Compliant (Yes/No)** | | Peritoneal involvement for colonic cancers (present in at least 20% of cases) |  |  | | Intramural (submucosal and intramuscular) and/or extramural venous invasion (present in at least 30% of cases) |  |  |   **Commentary:** |
| **Conclusion** | (To be completed by the author) |
| **Recommendations for improvement** | Present the result with recommendations, actions, and responsibilities for action and a timescale for implementation. Assign a person(s) responsible to do the work within a time frame.  **Some suggestions:**   * highlight areas of practice that are different * present findings. |
| **Action plan** | (To be completed by the author – see attached action plan proforma) |
| **Re-audit date** | (To be completed by the author) |
| **Reference** | Loughrey MB, Quirke P, Shepherd NA. *Dataset for Histopathological Reporting of Colorectal Cancer (5th edition).* Royal College of Pathologists, 2023. Available at:  <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/guidelines/cancer-datasets-and-tissue-pathways.html> |

**Data collection proforma for colorectal carcinoma reporting standards**

**Audit reviewing practice**

Patient name:

Hospital number:

Date of birth:

Consultant:

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|  | **1**  **Yes** | **2**  **No** | **3** If no, was there documentation to explain the variance?  **Yes/No** plus  free-text comment | **4** Compliant with guideline based on ‘Yes’ from column 1 or an appropriate explanation from column 3. **Yes/No** |
| Peritoneal involvement for colonic cancers |  |  |  |  |
| Intramural (submucosal and intramuscular) and/or extramural venous invasion |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Number** | |  |  |
| Number of lymph nodes retrieved |  | |  |  |

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| **Audit action plan**  An audit of colorectal carcinoma reporting standards | | | | | | |
| **Audit recommendation** | **Objective** | **Action** | **Timescale** | **Barriers and constraints** | **Outcome** | **Monitoring** |
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