**Update for key stakeholders
23 June 2023**

**Colorectal Oncology Service**

This update should be read in conjunction with the previous briefings

A national colorectal oncology co-ordination group met today and an outline plan for NHS Highland and Western Isles patients has been agreed. NHS Lothian, NHS Tayside and NHS Grampian will now work together to support the service and we are grateful for their help.

A key priority is to give patients assurance and to give certainty about dates of next treatment or reviews. We aim to go live with this national co-ordinated approach from the 3rd of July.

We realise this will have caused distress to our patients and should they need to discuss this further then support is available through Maggie’s on 01463 382900 or highlands@maggies.org who have dedicated psychologists and groups.

This national approach may mean some patients will need to travel to other Boards for clinical reasons but this will be kept to a minimum through use of local NHS Highland staff and NearMe approaches. Our clinical teams will communicate directly with patients on the allocation of appointments and review dates. Your patience whilst we work through this is very much appreciated.

We want to dedicate as much time to restarting our services as quickly as possible but should our patients have an urgent clinical query then they should contact the Colorectal Cancer Nurse Specialist on 01463 705057 or 01463 704309 during normal office hours or email nhsh.oncology@nhs.scot.

**Feedback**

If you have comments or queries please contact nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot