On behalf of the co-principal investigators, Denise Bryant-Lukosius and Greta Cummings, below is an update on the research study "Improving Cancer Pain and Symptom Management Through Knowledge Translation". Please feel free to distribute this e-Blast to interested colleagues in your network.

Recap: Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute Grant

This two-year project is funded by the Canadian Cancer Society (grant # 701907) to evaluate the Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative's (OCSMC) knowledge translation strategies to improve pain and symptom management. Click here for more information on the OCSMC and symptom assessment and management tools.

Improving cancer pain and symptom management is a national priority for patients, providers, and decision-makers. The proposal to the Canadian Cancer Society was ranked highly in its peer review, and letters of support and agreement to participate in the study were received by regional cancer centres and from national partners and collaborators.

Research Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of this study is to promote the uptake of evidence-informed pain and symptom management practices among health providers in ambulatory cancer care settings through improved understanding of knowledge translation activities. Specific study objectives are to:

1. Compare the context and characteristics of regional knowledge translation plans, interventions and outcomes for promoting symptom management guideline/algorithm use in Ontario regional cancer centres.
2. Examine health provider perceptions of regional knowledge translation interventions, symptom management guideline/algorithm implementability, and how symptom management guidelines are integrated in their practice.
3. Determine the strengths/limitations of regional knowledge translation interventions and impact on symptom management guideline use and outcomes.
4. Generate recommendations about effective knowledge translation for improving pain and symptom management that are relevant to cancer centres in Ontario and other jurisdictions.

Research Team

The research team includes:

McMaster University/Escarpment Cancer Research Institute
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Research Progress

The project is comprised of 3 phases.

Phase 1 - completed
Phase 1 involved document analysis of the regional knowledge translation plans and interviews with the regional pain and symptom management leads. This phase is now complete.

Phase 2 - in progress
In this phase interviews with nurses and allied health providers from 7 regional cancer centres will be conducted to learn about their experiences in using symptom management guidelines. Currently recruitment is taking place at the Juravinski Cancer Centre.

Phase 3 - under development
In Phase 3, stakeholders from across Canada will take part in a deliberative dialogue to examine the study results and generate recommendations for effective knowledge translation strategies for improving pain and symptom management.

Next Steps

• Complete all healthcare provider interviews for Phase 2 by December, 2014. Recruitment and conduction of interviews will be an ongoing process over the fall.
• Establish an advisory committee to plan the deliberative dialogue and dissemination of study results.

Information

If you require more information on any of the items above, or have other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

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