

Conference: BCPSQC Quality Forum 2019

Title: Bringing the voice of primary care to BC Cancer: Expanding support for family physicians caring for their patients with cancer in BC

Ideas Category

Authors: Laura Beamish, Brenna Lynn, Dawson Born, Kelly Little, Cathy Clelland, Jennifer Wolfe

Background: The prevalence of cancer in British Columbia (BC) is growing by approximately 3% per year and the survival rate for all cancers continues to increase. With this increase in prevalence coupled with improved survival rates, there is a need to leverage the expertise of family physicians (FPs) to ensure the increasing demands on the cancer care system in BC are met. BC Cancer aims to facilitate this system-level change by establishing a more robust Provincial Primary Care Program. To inform the development of this program, a province-wide primary care oncology needs assessment was completed to understand the needs of FPs providing care for their patients with cancer.

Methods: The needs assessment was conducted in three phases, with results from each phase informing the next. The phases consisted of nine key informant interviews, followed by a comprehensive online survey, and five focus groups. Each phase of the needs assessment was designed to collect information pertaining to the core issues surrounding the current and future landscape of cancer care and the role that the FPs can play in supporting their patients living with cancer.

Results: Analysis found that FPs see shared care and team-based care as key for the sustainability of high quality cancer care for patients. FPs identified that current communication channels between community FPs and cancer providers are limited and information about their patient's cancer treatment is difficult to access, which impacts care. They identified the need for a centralized data sharing platform that is up-to-date and accessible to all care providers at any point along the cancer journey.

We are seeking ideas and feedback on how to best facilitate a system-level change to leverage the expertise of FPs in the province to provide high quality care to their patients with cancer.

Key Words: Needs Assessment, Primary Care, Oncology

(393 words)