Oncology

This Learning Pathway contains training and tools to help oncology professionals meet ASCO clinical practice guidelines for palliative care concurrent with oncology care. It includes continuing education courses in how to communicate with cancer patients about their goals of care and support difficult decision-making, address caregiver burden, and when to refer to specialty palliative care.

Collaborating with Palliative Care Teams

'I Don't Want Jenny To Think I'm Abandoning Her': Views On Overtreatment

A narrative article providing perspective on why some clinicians may recommend treatments (DE Meier 2014).

Palliative Care Measures in Enhancing Oncology Model

Crosswalk of palliative care-relevant measures in the Enhancing Oncology Model that highlights how palliative care skills can mitigate risks for participating practices, as well as relevant CAPC resources.

Referral Criteria for Specialty Palliative Care

Checklist of triggers for referral to a specialty palliative care team.

Best Practice Models

Palliative Care and the Oncology Care Model (OCM)

Recommended clinician training to improve on OCM measures.

Case Study: Moffitt Cancer Center's Approach to Identifying Patients with High Symptom Burden

Use of screening to risk-stratify patients for palliative care based on need. CAPC and the Accountable Care Learning Collaborative.

[Overall Survival Results of a Trial Assessing Patient-Reported Outcomes for Symptom Monitoring During Routine Cancer Treatment](#)

Integration of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) into the routine care of patients with metastatic cancer is associated with increased survival compared with usual care. Basch, et. al. JAMA 2017.

[Impact of Interdisciplinary Outpatient Specialty Palliative Care on Survival and Quality of Life in Adults With Advanced Cancer: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials](#)

Patients with advanced cancer randomized to receive outpatient specialty palliative care lived longer and had better quality of life. Hoerger, et. al. Annals of Behavioral Medicine, September 2018.

Communication Skills

Discussing Serious News

Learn best practices for having patient-centered conversations about a serious illness diagnosis.

Discussing Prognosis With Patients and Caregivers

Learn how to effectively discuss prognosis with patients and their caregivers.

Clarifying Patient Goals of Care

Learn best practices for building trust, eliciting patient values, and having patient-centered conversations about goals of care.

Leading a Patient and Caregiver Meeting

Learn to effectively lead meetings that help patients and caregivers become aligned around the patient's goals.

Care Planning

Learn techniques to help patients and their caregivers plan for the future, both during the early stages of a serious illness and as a disease progresses.

Billing and Coding for Advance Care Planning (ACP) Services

Requirements, best practices, documentation requirements, and time thresholds for Advance Care Planning (ACP) services.

Pain, Symptom Management, Risk Reduction

Course 1: Pain and its Impact on Our Patients

Learn to define and characterize pain, recognize the prevalence of pain, understand disparities in pain management based on race, ethnicity, and gender.

Course 2: How to Perform a Comprehensive Pain Assessment

Learn the components of a comprehensive pain assessment and its importance in safe and effective pain management.

Course 3: Matching Treatment to Pain Type

Gain an overview of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic pain treatments, including risks and benefits, and learn how to match the analgesic to pain type.

Course 4: Prescribing an Opioid

Learn how to decide on an appropriate opioid, route of delivery, and dose, and understand how to prescribe for incident and breakthrough pain.

Course 5: Practice Prescribing an Opioid

Practice prescribing initial opioid doses for different pain types and characteristics. Learn to adjust dosing as needed to manage pain effectively.

Course 6: Creating a Pain Treatment Plan and Monitoring Effectiveness

Learn to develop a pain treatment plan with realistic goals and proper documentation, and implement universal precautions to help with the risk of opioid use disorder.

Course 7: Advanced Opioid Prescribing: Converting to Long-Acting Opioids

Learn how to convert from short-acting to long-acting opioids, and calculate rescue doses for breakthrough pain using updated equianalgesic tools.

Course 8: Problems with Opioid Prescribing: Is it an Opioid Use Disorder?

Learn how to identify and diagnose opioid use disorder (OUD) and practice communicating with patients about OUD and pain management.

Course 9: Using Buprenorphine for Chronic Pain and Opioid Use Disorder

Determine which patients may benefit from buprenorphine as a treatment for pain and opioid use disorder (OUD), and learn how to transition patients to buprenorphine.

Course 10: Managing IV Opioids

Learn how to convert patients back and forth from oral to IV opioid formulations, how to prescribe patient-controlled analgesia (PCA), and how to treat acute pain crises.

Anxiety

After completing this course, learners will be equipped with evidence-based strategies to identify and treat anxiety in patients living with a serious illness.

Constipation

Constipation occurs in at least 70% of patients living with a serious illness and often goes unrecognized. After completing this course, learners will have the tools to successfully identify and manage the impact of constipation.

Depression

After completing this course, learners will have the tools to accurately identify and treat depression in patients living with a serious illness.

Dyspnea

After completing this course, learners will have the tools they need to manage dyspnea, including the physical causes of shortness of breath and the emotional impact on the patient.

Nausea/Vomiting

Nausea and vomiting are common symptoms of serious illness and can cause dangerous complications. After completing this course, learners will be equipped with practical skills to identify, manage, and reduce these symptoms.

Safe and Age-Friendly Care for Older Adults

This course provides context and best practices for identifying older adults at risk for poor outcomes, including falls, delirium, and caregiving challenges.

Supporting the Caregivers of People with Serious Illness

This course offers tools and guidance for assessing and addressing the needs of caregivers of people with serious illness.

Coordinating Care and Planning Ahead

Guidance for all clinicians on improving communication and ensuring smooth transitions of care for patients living with serious illness.

CAPC Palliative Care Referral Criteria

Checklist of triggers for referral to a specialty palliative care team.

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