

Title: Addressing Hematologic Cancer Symptom Burden: The Co-Design of a Knowledge Translation Intervention to Support Symptom Management Guideline Use Among Outpatient Oncology Nurses

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Abstract

Problem Statement: Over 21,000 Canadians are diagnosed with hematologic malignancies (i.e., leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma) each year. Symptom burden from intensive outpatient treatments for these cancers can be severe, distressing, and negatively impact quality of life. Despite the availability of multiple evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to manage these symptoms with positive effects, oncology nurses do not consistently utilize them in practice. Prospective barrier identification, stakeholder engagement, and tailoring of strategies based on contextual factors are key to implementation success. To date, top-down, passive educational strategies have primarily been used in symptom management guideline (SMG) implementation. Limited efforts have been dedicated to supporting uptake among nurses caring for patients with hematologic malignancies, specifically.

Purpose: By engaging stakeholders in an outpatient hematology unit, this multi-phased study aims to improve symptom management for individuals with hematologic malignancies through the co-design of an evidence-informed, tailored knowledge translation (KT) intervention to support SMG implementation in outpatient oncology nursing practice.

Objectives & Proposed Methods: I) To identify existing implementation strategies that have been used to enhance the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of SMG among oncology nurses in cancer-specific outpatient settings and describe factors that have influenced implementation through a scoping review. II) To explore contextual determinants of guideline implementation within the project setting through a mixed methods evaluation of individual/organizational readiness for and potential barriers/facilitators to implementation. III) To engage key stakeholders through the experience-based co-design of a tailored KT intervention to support SMG implementation in outpatient oncology nursing care.

Anticipated Contributions: This study will result in the development of a contextually relevant, tailored KT intervention for successful guideline implementation within the project setting. Supporting the implementation of symptom management guidelines within outpatient oncology nursing practice is essential to mitigating distressing cancer symptom burden and improving quality of life for patients with hematologic malignancies.