

A Cancer Workforce in Crisis

Repository on Best Practices and Innovations

WORKFORCE TIME EFFICIENCY

Intro: With the growing complexity of cancer treatments and increasing patient caseloads, optimising the use of time in clinical settings becomes essential to ensure prompt and precise interventions, enhance patient outcomes, and meet the pressing demands of a continuously evolving healthcare landscape.

Title: At home chemotherapy

Publication date: All.Can Efficiency Hub

Link: <https://www.all-can.org/efficiency-hub/at-home-chemotherapy-offering-treatment-outside-hospital-in-argentina/>

Example: Provision of chemotherapy treatment to cancer patients in the comfort of their homes. Eligibility criteria included a complication-free history of prior chemotherapy, a caregiver's presence, and access to essential amenities like electricity and running water. Chemotherapy medications were prepared at a dedicated center, and skilled nurses administered treatments at patients' homes, with remote doctor support available. The initiative, carried out between February 2018 and May 2020, successfully delivered 1,018 home-based chemotherapy treatments to 147 patients, achieving a remarkable over 90% success rate without serious adverse reactions. Patients expressed a sense of safety and comfort comparable to hospital settings, highlighting the potential for widespread adoption of this patient-centric approach.

Title: Management of Cancer and Health After the Clinic Visit: A Call to Action for Self-Management in Cancer Care

Publication date: PubMed 2021

Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32525530/>

Example: The Global Partners on Self-Management in Cancer has identified six priority areas for action to enhance patient involvement and self-management in cancer care:

Action 1: Prepare patients and survivors to actively engage in their care.

Action 2: Shift the care culture to foster patient partnerships, integrating self-management support into routine healthcare practices and care pathways.

Action 3: Equip the healthcare workforce with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective self-management support, establishing consensus on core curricula.

Action 4: Establish and agree upon a patient-reported outcome system to measure the impact of self-management support and ensure performance accountability.

Action 5: Advance the evidence base and stimulate research on self-management and self-management support within cancer populations.

Action 6: Expand the reach and access of self-management support programs across diverse care sectors, tailored to individual needs, and encourage research to deepen understanding.

Title: Innovation for sustainable cancer care: Addressing urgent workforce shortages

Publication date: EFPIA Oncology Platform.

Link: in the repository as PDF

Example: One notable innovation is the Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) system pioneered by Huma, which shifts the treatment paradigm by extending care beyond conventional settings. This groundbreaking approach enables hospitals to reduce the strain on resources by allowing patients to receive treatment at home, supervised by dedicated nurses. Simultaneously, Umberto I University Hospital has optimized the hematology care pathway,

ensuring seamless continuity of care for individuals with blood cancer by strategically shifting care delivery to patients' homes, thereby alleviating the workload on hospital staff.

Supporting the healthcare workforce is equally pivotal, as demonstrated by initiatives like the Embracing Carers global effort. This initiative recognizes and empowers informal carers, providing them with the knowledge and networks necessary to collaborate effectively with doctors and nurses, thereby enhancing the overall quality of cancer care. In addition, the Recognizing European Cancer Nursing (RECaN) initiative aims to acknowledge the value of cancer nursing across Europe by offering comprehensive support, training, and recognition, mitigating turnover and burnout rates. Furthermore, innovations in medical training and education, such as the WesFit prehabilitation program, focus on reducing the impact of surgery on cancer patients. By prioritizing pre-surgery preparation, WesFit aims to expedite post-surgery recovery, ultimately lessening the burden on the healthcare workforce in hospitals. In conclusion, these innovative approaches collectively represent a significant shift toward a more patient-centered, efficient, and sustainable future for cancer care. Embracing technology, recognizing the essential role of informal carers, and prioritizing the well-being of healthcare workers are integral components of this transformative vision.