

Improving the follow-up of cancer patients at home: How to design a Cancer Care Coordination Program?

M. Ferrua¹, F. Yatim², M. Lacaze¹, A. Fourcade¹, B. Lalloué^{1,2}, M. Di Palma¹, E. Minvielle^{1,2}

²Gustave Roussy, 114 rue Édouard-Vaillant, 94805 Villejuif, FRANCE
²Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique – Management des Organisations de Santé (EHESP-MOS)

BACKGROUND

- ✓ An increase of oral cancer therapies raises new organizational challenges:
- As Hospital visits become less frequent, primary healthcare professionals become highly sought after.
- Patients receive less support and symptom monitoring.
- → A need to ensure adherence of patients to treatment.
- A change in the way cancer patients are treated, moving toward a chronic-disease model, increased need for better coordination between all treatment stakeholders.

✓ Significant interest in Cancer Care Coordination Program (CCCP), especially those combining Nurse Coordinators (NC) and the use of health technologies.

✓This type of intervention involves a number of interacting components which can make it difficult to model, therefore it is necessary that a project phase of CCCP be devoted to the **design of the intervention.**

OBJECTIVES

Design and model an organizational intervention based on Tele health and NC using **mixed methods** to:

- ✓ Analyze care coordination needs from the perspectives of patients, hospital and primary care providers.
- ✓ Identify NC activities and skills needed.
- \checkmark Choose the most appropriate technological tool and select key features.

Part of the **CAPRI research project** (Cancer, Parcours de Soins, Région IIe de France) at Gustave Roussy (Villejuif, France) includes design, implementation and evaluation of CCCP.

| DEVELOPING CCCP INTERVENTION – METHODS AND RESULTS | | | |
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| Studies | Objectives | Methods | Principal Findings |
| Use of internet- based technologies by patients(1) | Understand the current level of patients' use of internet technologies (IT) Assess their intention to use IT for their health | Patient survey Outpatient department Questionnaire : 3 parts Use of IT through computers, mobile phones and tablets Willingness to use IT for their health Perceived ease of use of IT | n= 1371 questionnaires (participation level = 85%) Access an use : ✓ 93% of patients had access to the Internet from home, 71% used a mobile phone everyday, while most patients reported never using tablets. Willingness to use IT for their health, perceived usefulness of IT applications : Having an access to electronic records, filling out a self-test regarding their thealth status, communicating via email with their physician, scheduling appointments, and getting information about their disease Chat with peer patients, communicate via video Perceived ease of use ✓ Patients were not reluctant to use IT tools, 84% confirmed they were able to use computer, tablet and/or smartphone. |
| Care coordination needs | Understand care operational processes, coordination needs and define how telehealth and NC could prevent difficulties and facilitate coordination | Semi-structured interviews ✓Patients ✓Hopsital Practitioners ✓Primary Healthcare providers | 43 interviews conducted The qualitative analysis enabled to refine the features the CCCP could offer: collecting and monitoring side effects, having a warning system, sharing data, scheduling appointments, and receiving access to information. The analysis highlighted the importance of collecting data on a flexible basis for the patient and the need for NC to develop decision support tools to have appropriate responses for each situation of care. |
| Home care coordination activities and skills(2) | Analysis of home care coordination practices to identify the necessary skills and tasks of a NC | Analysis of phone calls requests received via telephone platform of COC (Coordinating Outpatient Care) department | n=543 phone calls received via telephone platform of COC Other primary care providers 20% Home care nurses 3% Managing technical problems Collecting and transmitting patient's medical records information Collecting and transmitting patient's medical records information |

CCCP INTERVENTION DESIGN

Key findings from mixed studies

Patient's needs and expectations

- Being informed and supported.
- Being accompanied along the care pathway.
- Having an representative identified at the hospital.
 Taking in consideration specific aspects of their personal background.

Main expectations on web application

Facilitating contact, sharing data, accessing information.
Managing follow-up.

NC should have a role as a **Case Manager** to maintain the link with the patient and all healthcare providers, ensure the clinical monitoring and continuity of care in order to prevent critical situations.

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CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

These preliminary studies has allowed an **overview of coordination needs** and modeling intervention components, as well as assisting **involving Health Care Professionals** in the program which should facilitate the adoption of the intervention. This step has enabled to test the **feasibility** of the CCCP intervention before its implementation.

- Moving forward, the next steps are to measure the impact of CCCP, evaluated by:
 Randomized trial(3) : 1,000 patients beginning oral cancer treatments (150 patients are
- currently enrolled since November 2016)
 Process evaluation : Describe the use of the web portal, assess user's satisfaction and needs and analyze NC activities