A New Educational Tool Helps Doctors Provide Consistent, Evidence-Based Care [1]

Quality Care Symposium
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A new joint initiative between Moffitt Cancer Center and QURE Healthcare, LLC, that uses an online training tool for doctors or nurse practitioners may improve patient care by ensuring all patients consistently receive high-value, high-quality cancer care. This online training tool uses virtual patient scenarios (called Clinical Performance and Value CPV® vignettes) to test a doctor?s knowledge and use of clinical cancer care pathways. Clinical cancer care pathways are approaches to cancer care that are based on research and recommendations from professional cancer organizations, as well as other standards for quality care. These pathways begin at diagnosis and provide all the treatment options a patient might need throughout his or her cancer care.

As part of these scenarios, a doctor or nurse practitioner takes a medical history of a virtual patient, recommends the tests needed for a diagnosis, and provides the treatment options. Afterward, the doctors receive feedback on their results, highlighting areas where they followed the clinical cancer care pathways and areas where they could improve.

The researchers regularly measured how well the doctors did on these tests to watch how they improved over time. Performance was then compared to information from actual patients to find out if improved performance on the tests led to improved care for real life patients.

What this means for patients

According to the study co-author, Karen K. Fields, MD, Medical Director of Moffitt Oncology Network, continually evaluating the most appropriate care means patients can be assured that they are not only receiving the most cost-effective treatments but the ones that are most likely to treat the cancer successfully, based on the current research and standards of care.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- What type and stage of cancer do I have? What does this mean?
- What are my treatment options?

- Are these treatment options based on the latest research and standards of care?
- What treatment option would you recommend? Why?
- What are the risks and benefits of this option?

For More Information

Guides to Cancer [2]

ASCO Care and Treatment Recommendations [3]

Making Decisions About Cancer Treatment [4]

Managing the Cost of Cancer Care [5]

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/new-educational-tool-helps-doctors-provide-consistent-evidence-based-care
[2] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types
[3] http://www.cancer.net/publications-and-resources/asco-care-and-treatment-recommendations-patients
[4] http://dev-cancernet.asco.org/node/24582
[5] http://dev-cancernet.asco.org/node/24865