

Poster # 19

Title of poster: Benchmarking End-of-Life Care Practices for the Elderly in Primary Care

Principal author: Joanna Pyke Project coordinator, TVN KT EOL project School of Health Information Science University of Victoria, Victoria BC Co-author: Julie Kim BSc, MEng PhD Candidate, School of Health Information Science University of Victoria, Victoria BC

Abstract

The overall objective of this research is to determine whether the learning resources promoted by the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) Practice Support Program (PSP) End-of-Life (EOL) learning module can be incorporated into the electronic medical record (EMR) of primary care providers to improve the quality of palliative/EOL care delivered. This research intends to explore whether the palliative approach that is integrated into the EMR of primary care physicians as a set of electronic tools based on the GPSC EOL PSP module can enhance EOL care in ways that can be measurable, scalable and sustainable. The GPSC EOL PSP learning module is considered the best practice approach to managing EOL patients; those enrolled in the BC Palliative Care Benefits Program or are currently at risk of dying due to a serious, life threatening illness within the next 12 months; and family members who have a relative who passed away within the last 12 months. This research has 4 stages over a 2-year period. Stage 1 is complete, where a small group of general practitioners (GPs) and medical office assistants (MOAs) were recruited to determine current EOL care practices. Stage 2 is complete, where EMR-supported tools based on the EOL PSP learning module were developed based on feedback from GPs and MOAs. Stage 3 is in progress, to disseminate the EMR EOL Care Module widely to physicians across BC through live learning sessions and the project website. Stage 4 is in progress concurrently with Stage 3, with the evaluation and impact of the EMR EOL Care Module provided by means of time-series evaluation. By focusing on identification, assessment and pro-active care planning of technology supports for EOL processes in primary care practices, more efficient use of health care resources and improvements to EOL care are being addressed.