

Word count: 288

Title: Canadian Team to Improve Community-Based Cancer Care along the Continuum (CanIMPACT)

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Background: Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are the first and most frequent point of contact for cancer patients within the healthcare system. Coordination of care between PCPs and cancer specialists is vital to improve the quality and outcomes of care. Yet, this coordination of care is known to be problematic. PCPs must concurrently provide comprehensive care to cancer patients who are at different points along the continuum. Tools to remain current in this rapidly changing area and a framework to improve coordination of care could improve quality of care and patient outcomes.

Research Objectives: CanIMPACT is a multidisciplinary pan-Canadian team of researchers, PCPs and cancer specialists. The overall goal of CanIMPACT is to elucidate gaps in care, and develop and test strategies to enhance the capacity of PCPs to provide care to cancer patients and improve integration and coordination of care along the cancer care continuum. Using a mixed methods approach, CanIMPACT is comprised of three lines of inquiry currently underway: 1) population-based studies using administrative health databases to describe variations and gaps in care; 2) qualitative studies to understand context; and 3) an environmental scan through key-informant interviews and review of the grey and published literature to catalogue existing evidence, programs and tools. The culmination of this will form the evidentiary underpinnings to inform an intervention that will be pilot tested. The organizational structure of CanIMPACT, which includes a Patient Advisory Committee, is designed to facilitate collaboration across the various streams of inquiry within and external to the team.

Impact: This presentation will provide an update on CanIMPACT's activities and review the structure of the team and the processes that have been put in place to ensure coordination amongst team members in this large and complex research program.