



Population Oncology

Question & Answer

1. What is the primary focus of the Population Oncology goal area?

Population Oncology is one of six Quality and Safety goal areas – or categories – we are focusing on for Accreditation 2009. The Population Oncology goal is to deliver a population based cancer control program across the continuum of care, from prevention to end-of-life care.

Our cancer control activities are fully integrated through a partnership framework of regional cancer centres, community cancer centres and clinics, and provincial networks.

2. How does this goal differ from BCCA's Population Oncology department?

The definition of Population Oncology has traditionally referred to our work in cancer prevention, screening, epidemiology and surveillance. However, we have expanded it to match Accreditation Canada. This definition is used more broadly to illustrate our expertise and impact across the spectrum of cancer control.

3. What are the other goal areas?

In addition to Population Oncology, our Accreditation program focused on:

- Work Life/Workforce – Create a work life and physical environment that supports the safe delivery of care/service
- Safety – Create a culture of safety throughout the BC Cancer Agency
- Infection Prevention & Control – Reduce the risk of site-acquired infections & their impact across the continuum of care/service
- Medication Management – Ensure the safe use of high risk medications
- Communication – Improve the effectiveness and coordination of communication among care/service providers & recipients across the continuum

4. What Required Organizational Practices and Standards are covered in the Population Oncology goal area?

While the Population Oncology goal area is the only category without Required Organizational Practices (ROPs), it contains more than 70 standards. Those standards are organized under the themes of leadership, partnerships, teamwork, community, best practices and information management. Examples of the standards include:

- collaborating with partner organizations to deliver programs & policies for populations with cancer
- gathering input from community partners & stakeholders to make resource allocation decisions
- identifying interdisciplinary teams, based on the needs of the population we serve
- using the information we collect to classify populations according to the need for programs & services
- sharing benchmark and best practices information with our partners and other organizations



POPULATION
ONCOLOGY



WORK LIFE/
WORKFORCE



CULTURE
OF SAFETY



INFECTION
PREVENTION
& CONTROL



MEDICATION
MANAGEMENT



COMMUNICATION

5. How do we comply with those 70+ standards?

We are proud of our demonstrated success in meeting the Population Oncology standards. In fact, most of the 70 some standards were classified in our self-assessment survey as “green flags,” which is the highest mark of achievement. For a full listing of the Population Oncology standards, descriptions and evidence of compliance, please visit the Accreditation folder on the H:Drive at H:EVERYONE\Accreditation 2009\Population Oncology.

6. I see a number of the standards refer to the Agency’s strategic plan.

What are our key strategic directions?

The underpinning of the Population Oncology goal area is the Agency’s Strategic Plan, and our four key directions, which are to:

1. Maintain and enhance an advanced system of cancer control
2. Enhance translational research within the provincial cancer control system
3. Refine and enhance cancer outcomes through an integrated, interdisciplinary primary care, community and tertiary provincial cancer control program
4. Enhance BCCA’s capacity to meet its cancer control and translational research mandate

7. What is the Population Oncology Recommendation and how are we complying?

One Recommendation from Accreditation 2005 falls under the Population Oncology goal. That recommendation is for an agreement to be formed between the host hospitals and the regional cancer centres for the provision of diagnostic services to ensure clear accountability and reporting mechanisms for planning, implementation and evaluation of diagnostic services.

Compliance: We have formal agreements in place for diagnostic services between the Centre for the Southern Interior and Kelowna General Hospital; Fraser Valley Centre and Surrey Memorial Hospital; and, Abbotsford Centre and Abbotsford Regional Hospital. An agreement is currently being finalized between Vancouver Island Centre and the Royal Jubilee Hospital, and a plan will be in place by June, 2009.

8. How will the Population Oncology Recommendation and Standards be evaluated?

Surveyors will use the traditional methods to assess compliance with standards, including team interviews, patient interviews, staff interviews, documentation review, tours, and review of indicator data. While they are on-site, surveyors will:

- *Review* records and documents
- *Talk & listen* – via individual interviews/discussions and group discussions
- *Observe* – visit departments and will ask to speak to employees in the workplace
- *Record* – what they read, hear and see at work

9. Who needs to be aware of our Population Oncology Recommendation & Standards?

Surveyors will meet with teams, individual physicians and staff, students and volunteers, so everyone should be aware of our six Quality and Safety goals and their associated ROPs and/or standards.

10. When will we find out more about the other five goal areas?

Between now and June, we will focus on each of the Quality & Safety goal areas. Population Oncology is the first goal area to be profiled. We will provide information and training materials on the remaining goals – one goal area profiled every two-three weeks.

11. Where can I get more information?

To find out more about Accreditation and our Population Oncology goal, please speak with your manager or visit the Accreditation folder on folder on H:\EVERYONE\Accreditation 2009, or email accreditation@bccancer.bc.ca.

About Accreditation 2009

From May 31-June 4, 2009, the BC Cancer Agency will host Accreditation Canada surveyors at each of our care and research centres.

By participating in the Accreditation program, we are able to showcase our population-based cancer control program and demonstrate our commitment to continuous quality improvement, patient safety, improved efficiency and accountability.

Learn more at H:\EVERYONE\Accreditation 2009 or email questions to accreditation@bccancer.bc.ca.