

General Practitioner in Oncology (GPO) Education Program

Mandate and Overview

The GPO Education Program is an eight-week learning opportunity for family physicians, particularly those from outside urban centres, who are keen to strengthen their oncology skills and enhance cancer care in their communities. Our aim is for all BC communities with 15,000 people or more to have at least one family physician who has completed this program and can support all aspects of cancer care for local patients and their families.

The program is offered in a flexible format that can be completed over six months. The full-time, two-week Introductory Module is offered every February and September at BC Cancer in Vancouver. This Introductory Module focuses on cancer types and treatments, medical and radiation oncology, surgery, oncological emergencies, diagnostic imaging and cancer management. The course also includes information about prevention, risk factors, genetics, screening, early diagnosis, staging, treatment modalities and management of side effects, follow-up and surveillance procedures, palliative care, future advances and methods to remain current and teach others.

Thirty days of Clinical Rotation are then completed at the Cancer Centre where participants' patients are referred. Participants are encouraged to tailor their learning specific to the needs of their communities.

If you have any questions about the GPO Education Program or would like more information, please e-mail Jennifer Wolfe: jennifer.wolfe@bccancer.bc.ca or call her directly at 604.219.9579.

Accreditation

The Introductory Module is accredited by the University of British Columbia Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) as detailed below. Participants completing the 30 days of rotation are eligible to claim 50 Mainpro+ Self Learning, Certified credits through their College of Family Physicians of Canada Member account plus additional Other Non-Certified credits.

*UBC CPD is fully accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME) to provide study credits for continuing medical education for physicians. This course (GPO Education Program: Introductory Module) has been reviewed and approved by the UBC Division of Continuing Professional Development. This Group Learning course meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by UBC CPD for up to **61.5 Mainpro+ credits**. Each physician should claim only those credits he/she actually spent in the activity.*

Learning Objectives

By the end of the program participants will have demonstrated an understanding of:

1. The diagnosis and management of various malignancies, including adult and pediatric cancers;
2. Optimal cancer screening guidelines (e.g. for breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancer);
3. Hereditary cancer guidelines, referral process, and forms;
4. The use of various diagnostic imaging modalities;
5. The principles of systemic therapy and related toxicities;
6. The principles of radiation therapy and radiation toxicities;
7. The principles and management of palliative and end-of-life care;
8. The clinical picture and diagnostic tools used to monitor tumour response to systemic therapy;
9. How to recognize disease progression;
10. Late effects of cancer treatment, including second malignancies;
11. How to access research literature and continuing education;
12. Resources available to patients related to clinical trials, survivorship, and complementary/alternative medicines.

By the end of the program participants will be able to:

13. Collaborate in the management of patients with curable and non-curable malignancies, as part of a multidisciplinary team;
14. Explain the concept of adjuvant, neo-adjuvant, and non-curative systemic therapy to patients and their families;
15. Explain the goals of treatment for advanced cancer;
16. Discuss serious news with a patient using empathetic communication techniques;
17. Assess and record the ECOG performance status of a patient with cancer;
18. Write an order for systemic therapy safely using a pre-printed order, with awareness of how best to use the corresponding protocol;
19. Prescribe the supportive care medications required for specific treatment protocols;
20. Anticipate and recognize treatment toxicities, grading, and how to adjust treatments doses accordingly;
21. Monitor tumour response to systemic therapy using appropriate tools;
22. Be confident and comfortable about contacting an oncologist for advice about continuing, changing or stopping treatment;
23. Recognize life threatening complications of cancer and/or its treatment;
24. Access essential information from the BCCA website;
25. Navigate and optimally use the resources available on Information Systems, including the Cancer Agency Information System (CAIS), Health Authority Information Systems, CareConnect, and Dictation Systems;
26. Access and refer to BC Cancer Agency and community-based supportive care resources.