

# Innovations in Oncology Care: Survivorship Nurse Practitioner

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Family Nurse Practitioner  
Primary Care & Oncology  
Provincial Survivorship Program

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**BC Cancer Agency**

CARE + RESEARCH

*An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority*

# Problem

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- ~ 700 unattached cancer survivors in the Vancouver area
- Oncologist attending to primary care needs
- Surveillance recommendations not followed
- Survivorship issues not addressed

# Family Nurse Practitioner

## Primary Care & Oncology

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- NP4BC Campaign
  - Proposal to Ministry
- Initiated February 2013
- Location: UBC Family Practice Centre
  - 400-750 West Broadway, Vancouver

# Patient Referral

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- Referral Process
- Patient Criteria

# Supportive Practices

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- Established Primary Health Care Facility
  - 8 Physicians
  - 2 Nurse Practitioners
- Education
  - GPO Training Program
  - Clinic time with Oncologists
- Networking
  - Health Care Professionals (Dieticians (811), PFC, Nursing staff, MSJ Breast Clinic, Social Worker, etc)
  - Adverts/E-mails/Presentations
- Quick and easy referral process
- FAQ e-mail

# Case Study

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- 70yr old female- hx of right breast cancer
- Presenting with an ipsilateral breast tumor
- Hospital admission in Feb for PE- started on Warfarin
- Moved from Ontario to Vancouver in July/13
- INR levels not followed
- Oncologist monitoring INR levels and Warfarin dosage changes
- Referred to NP for ongoing primary care
- Seen within one week

# Practice Barriers

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- New Role
- Awareness
- Communication

# New Role

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## ● Role clarification

- LPN vs RN vs NP
- NP scope of practice
- Primary Care
- Oncology Care
  - Surveillance
  - Survivorship



# Awareness

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- Health Care Professionals
- Public
  - Patient
  - Family members

# Communication

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- Patient Status
  - Active patients
  - Discharged patients
- General consults- telephone/e-mail
- Dictation
- Different EMR systems
- Double charting

# Eliminating Barriers

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- Role Clarification
- Role Awareness
- Communication Strategies

# Role Clarification

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- Nurse Practitioner scope of practice
- Primary Care services
- Oncology training

*“We need to consider the expectation that the Survivorship NP should be an expert in oncology. She is a primary care provider with training related to post-treatment surveillance and monitoring. The role is not the same as a GPO. The primary purpose of the Survivorship NP is to provide primary care.”*

-Director, Clinical Operations - Systemic Therapy, BCCA Vancouver Centre

# Awareness

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- In-person/over the phone
- Rack Cards
  - Mail out
  - BCCA
- Newsletters
  - Brain Tumor Foundation of Canada- E-news
  - Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada- Patient Services Newsletter
  - BCCA Survivorship E-brief
- Press release

# Communication

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- Oncologist preferences
- Current communication between GPs and Oncologists
- Dictation
- Degree of communication required

# Case Study

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- 44yr old female
- Recent diagnosis of CLL with splenomegaly
- Requiring splenectomy
- Need for specific immunizations immediately
- Referred to NP for ongoing primary care and preparation for surgery
- Seen within one week and immunizations given

# Questions

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