



Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
Summer Research Program 2019

Supervisor/Project Information Form

Due February 20 2019 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

Supervisor Name: Dr. Charles Lim

Project Title: Feasibility of Remote Daily Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) Reporting in Ambulatory Oncology Patients Receiving Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy Treatment

Hospital/Research Institution: Peel Regional Cancer Centre, Credit Valley Hospital

Email: Charles.Lim@thp.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): Patient-reported outcomes, symptom management

Department: Oncology

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: If YES, please name:

Project Title: Feasibility of Remote Daily Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) Reporting in Ambulatory Oncology Patients Receiving Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy Treatment

Brief Project Description (< 300 words):

This project is being conducted at a large regional cancer center in Mississauga. There is a growing body of evidence to support routine proactive assessment of patient-reported outcomes in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy. Randomized studies have demonstrated improved quality of life, improved overall survival, and decreased health resource utilization when this approach is used. Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) currently collects patient-reported outcomes at hospital encounters through the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS). A key priority for CCO is to implement remote proactive symptom monitoring strategies in the real-world setting to improve the quality of care delivered.

Therefore, this project aims to implement a novel platform to allow daily remote collection of ESAS scores while patients are actively receiving chemotherapy. When symptom scores exceed a specified threshold, healthcare providers will be notified in real time, allowing them to make timely toxicity management recommendations. The immediate focus of this project is to examine the feasibility of implementing this novel platform. A baseline environmental scan will occur first by assessing current clinic practices that enable symptom monitoring and toxicity management. Subsequently, 20 patients with gastrointestinal cancer receiving concurrent chemoradiation will be recruited as a pilot cohort to test the platform.

The student will be expected to work closely with the lead nurse practitioner and supervising oncologist to help design and execute the project. The student will participate directly in the baseline environmental scan through shadowing in the symptom management clinic to collect time-in-motion provider resource utilization data. The student will then be involved in recruiting

patients to the pilot cohort and tracking their progress. Through these activities, the student will learn about fundamentals of designing implementation studies, overcoming implementation barriers and data analysis in quality-focused studies. Expected output from project involvement can include a poster presentation and preparation of a manuscript.