

INNOVATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN PALLIATIVE CARE IN EUROPE

Development and implementation of patient-centred care models - Innovative digital pathways for lifelong care of patients diagnosed with cancer

Nicoleta Mitrea^{1,2}, Oana Predoiu², Daniela Moșoiu^{1,2}

¹Universitatea Transilvania Brașov, România

²Fundația HOSPICE Casa Speranței, Brașov, România

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Introduction

In current practice in Europe, in the care of cancer patients, the main focus is on treating the tumour. The optimal plan of care for these patients is determined by many factors other than medical ones, leading to a wide variety of individualised case management plans.

Research in palliative and supportive care has demonstrated the benefits of a patient-centred approach, with greater patient involvement in their treatment decisions.

Background

MyPath is a new multi-stakeholder research project funded by the European Union (grant agreement no. 101057514) that aims to integrate patient-centred care into routine care of patients diagnosed with cancer by developing innovative digital Palliative Care Clinical Pathways (PCCP) configured on a user-friendly digital platform for both, patients and professionals.

This innovative digital solution will facilitate communication between healthcare providers, patients and caregivers.

Research hypothesis

Innovative digital patient-centered care (PCCP) trajectories are pathways to significantly improve quality and access to treatment and care that reduce variations of empirical/traditionalist interventions in favor of evidence-based clinical practice of palliative and supportive care and optimization of resources within family, community and care settings. This new and revolutionary state of work will reduce both the physical, emotional, spiritual suffering of the patient, family and professionals and the economic burden of caring for cancer patients.

Expected results

- Development of digital and dynamic patient-centred care modalities that integrate PROMs (patient reported outcomes measurements) and PREMs (patient reported evaluation measurements) for use in clinical settings.

- Successful implementation of innovative digital palliative care clinical pathways in nine European cancer and palliative care centres.
- new knowledge in implementation theory, oncology, clinical psychology, sociology and health economics.
- clinical guidelines to facilitate the integration of innovative digital palliative care clinical pathways, addressing cultural, social and organisational barriers.
- Training facilitators in 9 clinical sites and end-users with the toolkit for implementing and using innovative digital palliative care clinical pathways.

Results to date

After conducting systematic literature reviews in the areas of (1) pain assessment and management and (2) nutrition, so far two innovative palliative care clinical pathways have been developed: MyPath PAIN and MyPath NUTRITION.

Conclusions

Innovative digital palliative care clinical pathways encompass two innovative approaches: (1) the development of the pathways and (2) the implementation and use of these pathways in clinical practice in oncology and palliative care. The wider adoption and use of innovative digital palliative care clinical pathways will ensure the delivery of evidence-based quality care.