

SMICS Grant Funding

New electronic supportive care screening tool at Cabrini Health

All patients undergoing treatment for cancer at Cabrini Health will now have an opportunity to provide real time feedback about their health care experience and needs, thanks to the development of an electronic supportive care screening tool.

The impact of cancer can negatively affect one's quality of life during and following treatment, with physical deconditioning and psychological symptoms being reported, along with reduced functional capacity, muscle weakness, fatigue, pain, anxiety and depression¹.

Care given to improve the quality of life of patients who have a serious or life-threatening disease is defined as supportive care². Supportive care embraces all symptom management through the cancer trajectory from diagnosis, treatment, survivorship to end of life care, to ensure that patients are equipped with information, resources and services they may need following a diagnosis of cancer³. Supportive care encompasses physical and functional, psychological, social and spiritual well-being aimed to improve quality of life⁴.

Appropriate cancer supportive care requires timely screening for a number of symptoms using appropriately validated tools for patients to report their outcomes. Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) enable patients to provide direct, timely feedback about their health-related outcomes and experience, thereby directing the need for opportune healthcare interventions and services that can positively impact on a person's day to day life.

The development of the eCAPTIS platform, a secure cloud-based software tool that has been designed to capture and report PROMs to enable timely supportive care screening, has the capacity to greatly influence the supportive care needs of Cabrini patients. This is particularly significant in light of the COVID-19 pandemic where electronic PROMs can assist in maintaining a connection between Cabrini and its patients. Whilst patients may not be able to participate in face to face programs, they are able to communicate their outcomes and experiences from the comfort of their own home and have Wellness Coordinators monitoring and actioning their responses.

It is anticipated that this project will not only increase the completion rates of supportive care screening tools for Cabrini cancer patients, but will further ensure that unmet supportive care needs are identified and met in timely fashion to maximise patient outcomes and empowerment.

¹ Segal, 2017

² National Cancer Institute, 2021

³ We Can, 2021

⁴ Olver et al, 2020