

## SMICS FUNDING PROGRAM

The SMICS funding program provides time limited funding for projects that support improvements in cancer patient care. The focus areas of the program align with the statewide priorities of the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services and the Victorian Cancer Plan. Monash University has been awarded funding to develop real-time patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs) and patient-reported experience measures (PREMS) in oncology.

### **Real-time patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs) and patient-reported experience measures (PREMS) in oncology: enhancing inclusivity and toward a new standard of care.**

PROMs and PREMs are validated self-report questionnaires that allow patients to report the severity of their cancer-related symptoms and concerns, quality of life and their experience of care in a structured manner.

The benefits of using PROMs in routine cancer care are well-established. Multiple systematic reviews have demonstrated that using PROMs can improve symptom detection, patient-provider communication, and patient satisfaction.

From a health system perspective, routine use of such measures is associated with a reduction in emergency department (ED) attendances, and in perhaps the most important outcome, both randomised trials and real-world implementation data have demonstrated improvements in overall survival when patients are given the opportunity to utilise PROMs in a routine fashion.

Equally, PREMs are proven to provide services with important feedback on quality care and patient's unmet needs.

### **Project objectives**

1. To implement and assess the impact of phased translational rollout of real-time PROMs and PREMs on:
  - a. reporting of cancer-related physical and psychological symptoms, side effects of treatment and health-related quality of life

- b. unmet supportive care needs
  - c. referrals to allied health and supportive care services
  - d. emergency department presentations and inpatient hospital admissions
2. To confirm our preliminary findings that implementation of routine PROMs and PREMs did not adversely impact the length of clinical consultation when implemented into a larger outpatient oncology facility
3. Assess the feasibility and acceptability of the collection and clinical use of translated PROMs and PREMs among patients and survivors whose preferred language is not English, their interpreters, clinicians, and other staff
4. Identify the barriers and enablers to broader implementation of PROM and PREM collection and use among patients and survivors who communicate in languages other than English.

Outcomes of interest will be assessed for the cohort overall, and with a focussed comparison between patients speaking a language other than English and those confident to complete PROMs questionnaires in English.

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