

Project Title	Optimal Cancer Care Pathway for People with Melanoma Audit Project
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Lead discipline (please select one)

Nursing

Allied Health

Medicine

Pre-clinical

Health Economics

Biostatistics

Value-based Healthcare

Epidemiology

Outline of the project

This project will support the implementation of the Optimal Cancer Care Pathway for people with Melanoma. It will examine the level of compliance that Canberra Region Cancer Centre achieves against the pathway and draft recommendations to facilitate the Optimal Care Pathway implementation.

Optimal Cancer Care Pathways (OCP) are national guides to the best cancer care for specific tumour types. The pathways describe the key stages (7 Steps) in a patient's cancer journey and the expected optimal care at each stage to ensure all people diagnosed with cancer get the best care, regardless of where they live. The OCP are being implemented nationally across all cancer services and are endorsed by the National Cancer Expert Reference Group, Cancer Australia and Cancer Council Australia. There are currently 15 OCP published with more pathways being made available in the near future. More information on the OCP can be found at <https://www.cancer.org.au/health-professionals/optimal-cancer-care-pathways>.

To date, CAS has undertaken an audit on the Lung, Colorectal, Head and Neck Cancer, Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Optimal Cancer Care Pathways.

These projects will continue as it is CAS intention to review its performance against all of the OCPs over time.

Proposed research methods

Utilising existing audit tools already developed, the student would be required to

familiarise themselves with the OCP for Melanoma and modify the audit tool to meet the specific indicators that are identified for optimal care within the OCP.

The student will be required to verify the audit tool with the relevant clinicians (medical, nursing and allied health) and refine the document to address any site-specific variations or additional parameters that clinicians may wish to be reviewed.

Auditing of clinical files will be the source of information. This may require the student accessing multiple electronic client record and clinical systems. The student will be required to undergo training to access these systems so that they can interrogate the data.

The number of files for auditing will be determined during the planning phase.

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

This project would benefit students from any discipline who have an interest in cancer care.

Potential benefits to the student and to the department

This project will

- expose the student to clinical pathways that are aimed at ensuring that the patients receive optimal care.
- provide the student with an opportunity to analyse a pathway, develop a tool that will assess performance against that pathway and also to factor in site specific indicators that contribute to the overall assessment.
- Improve their understanding of cancer care and its complexities
- Contribute to service improvement within the division.
- Work with clinicians directly on discussing the complexities of care.

Department within ACT Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services where the student will be based

CHS, Division of Cancer and Ambulatory Support.

Please submit form to preclinical.research@act.gov.au