

Exemplars of evidence-based care in practice

Advocating with the MDT for a business case to establish a new clinical service

<p>WHAT did the initiative involve?</p>	<p><i>Development of a business case to advocate for implementing a Nutrition service for Chemotherapy outpatients - Who does it benefit and how?</i></p> <p><i>Key components of business case included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Gap in service</u> – overview of current Alfred Health outpatient oncology service with analysis of attendance and growth rates; completion of benchmarking with other health services; data on rates of malnutrition using results from malnutrition point prevalence study.</i> • <i><u>Evidence base</u> – outline of current evidence-based guidelines highlighting the importance of nutrition intervention throughout the whole trajectory of a patient’s cancer journey (including pre/during/post treatment). This included: Optimal cancer care pathways (OCPs), ESPEN guideline on nutrition in cancer patients, and The National Institute of Clinical Excellence guidelines for haematological cancers.</i> • <i><u>Consequences and risk involved if no change is made</u> - increased mortality/infections/serious complications, reduced muscle mass and poor physical function, increased length of hospital stay and admissions, increased healthcare costs, and increased treatment-related toxicity, reduced response to treatment and increased relapse rates.</i> • <i><u>Predicted benefits of new service</u> - reduced incidence of malnutrition/sarcopenia/cancer cachexia; improved recovery from the side-effects of chemotherapy; enhanced recovery post cancer surgery; reduced length of stay and prevention of readmissions due to nutrition failure; improved clinical outcomes, mortality and morbidity; improved patient satisfaction and quality of life.</i> • <i><u>Proposal</u> – outline of proposed changes including what the new allocated nutrition service would include, expected outcomes and recommended actions.</i> • <i><u>Financials</u> – breakdown of staffing (EFT) and other financial requirements</i>
<p>WHO was involved in the initiative?</p>	<p><i>Dietitian led initiative</i></p>
<p>WHERE did the initiative occur?</p>	<p><i>Outpatient Haematology and Oncology Centre (HOC) Alfred Health, Melbourne</i></p>

WHO was the target of the initiative?	<i>Adult patients (>18 years) with cancer attending the haematology and oncology outpatient centre</i>
WHEN was the initiative performed?	<i>April 2019</i>
HOW was the initiative undertaken?	<i>Business case presented to Alfred Cancer executives to advocate and request for future funding to establish a new clinical service.</i>
OUTCOMES	<p><i>0.6EFT (Grade 3) requested, 0.3EFT (Grade 3) received</i></p> <p><u>Next steps :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Design and implement a model of care based on international best practice guidelines and OCPs to provide a collaborative and effective nutrition service to oncology outpatients.</i> ▪ <i>Collect ongoing data to advocate for additional EFT</i>
REFERENCE	

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