



Palliative Care Early and Systematic (PaCES) Automatic Study – For Lung Cancer patients

Information for Family Physicians – No action required

Your patient is part of an automatic referral process being trialed by the Palliative Care Early and Systematic (PaCES) team in Calgary Zone. We are testing the **acceptability** of **automatically offering a supportive and palliative care consultation** to all **new stage IV lung cancer** patients, as an added layer of support. This innovation is exploring a novel way to address common delays in meeting patients' palliative care needs early after diagnosis with advanced cancer.

What is the study doing? We are testing for about 6 months, an **automatic supportive and palliative care referral process, co-designed by patients and providers**, that functions independently of oncology and family practice clinicians. Eligible newly diagnosed stage IV non-small cell lung cancer patients are called directly by a palliative care nurse, who is skilled at communicating about palliative care. They will offer a supportive and palliative care consultation shortly after the first oncologist appointment at the Calgary cancer centre. After this phone call, a researcher calls the patient with a survey about the acceptability of being automatically offered that supportive and palliative care referral.

How might this study impact your patient's care and relationship with you? We hope that patients completing an initial consult will feel supported with their illness understanding and coping, symptom and function concerns, advance care planning and in coordinating care with you as their family doctor and their oncological team. During the consult we encourage the patient to continue their primary relationship with you as their "medical home" and to follow closely with you throughout their lung cancer care. Potential follow-up with the rural palliative consult team will be adapted to your patient's needs.

A consult note with information about your individual patient will follow, after the patient has been seen. **Early palliative care resources** for healthcare professionals can be found at: www.ahs.ca/guru under "Palliative and Supportive Care."

We are also keen to hear how acceptable this automatic referral process is to you. If you have ideas, concerns or feedback about this study please do contact the PaCES study co-lead Dr.

_____.

For more information about the PaCES Project, you can visit: <http://www.pacesproject.ca/>



© 2022 by the Palliative Care Early and Systematic (PaCES) Project (www.pacesproject.ca). The PaCES Automatic Information for Family Physicians is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.