

Enhancing Pain and Symptom Management for Individuals Living with Cancer in the Thompson Region



Need

Community-based pain and symptom management services for non-palliative patients struggling with pain and symptoms caused by their cancer and/or cancer treatment.



Intervention

Implementation of an outpatient Pain and Symptom Management Clinic.



Contributing Factors

- Unattached patients: receiving primary care, including pain and symptom management, from specialized providers through the Cancer Clinic.
- Attached patients: challenged with access to pain and symptom management from their primary care provider due to provider's hesitancy and/or competency to adequately manage their pain and symptoms, and/or issues with timely access.



Goal

The goal is to reduce the pain and symptom management workload of the hospital-based Cancer Clinic

Pain and Symptom Management Clinic

- Help to control pain and symptoms related to the patients' cancer or the treatment of their cancer by quickly stabilizing their pain and symptoms.
- Patients with a primary care provider will return to their primary care provider once stabilized.
- Patients that do not have a primary care provider will continue to be followed by the clinic until they are discharged from the cancer clinic or move to the palliative care physician team.
- Interior Health owned and operated.



Formal Evaluation

Launched in March 2024 and currently in progress. Gathering feedback from Cancer Clinic physicians, and the physicians delivering care at the Pain and Symptom Management Clinic.

Key indicators of note include:

- Quality
- Access
- Care Coordination
- Workload



Next Steps

- Improvements based on evaluation results.
- Expansion of referral criteria to include patients with life-limiting illnesses from Home Health.



Thompson Region
Division of Family Practice
An FPSC initiative



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