



Topic Talks

Pain management: Cancer

Management of pain for patients in our care is a constant challenge for all health professionals. While the experience of pain is unique to each individual, the assessment of pain can be influenced by subjectivity. Cancer pain is no less impacted by this. For this week - we will focus on management of pain related to cancer.

"Pain in people with cancer is common but often under-recognized and under-treated...Pain is experienced by more than half of people with cancer and can have serious impacts on everyday functioning and quality of life".
Lovell et al, 2019

Barriers to effective cancer pain care:

- **Health-care system issues:** e.g. lack of coordination
- **Service related issues:** e.g. confusion regarding multidisciplinary roles
- **Clinician related issues:** e.g. lack of knowledge and time
- **Resource issues:** e.g. lack of evidence based assessment tools
- **Patient related issues** e.g. reluctance to report pain

Let's talk

Suggested questions to ask yourself or your peers this week



How would you rate your level of understanding of this topic?

Watch a webinar, listen to a podcast, look at the websites. Learn something new.

If a patient with cancer related pain presented to your organisation, do you have a clear management pathway?

What is the current process for cancer pain management in your health service? Could it be improved? How?

What is your method for assessing cancer related pain? Is it specific for this cohort of patients?

Based on what you learn this week, reflect on your pain assessment processes - do they need to be modified for this cohort of patients? What tools are available to you?

What are 2 new pieces of information you have learned about the topic this week?

Think about what you have learned. How can you use this learning going forward?

Loddon Mallee Activities and Resources



What's on the Web?



References:



Tuesdays@2 Webinar Series

Tuesday 20th July 2pm : Join the webinar via the [Bendigo Health Website](#)

or via zoom <https://bendigohealth.zoom.us/j/93324155450?pwd=Nm9iSUZmSEI4enJHWFRheWRtaTdaUT09>

Speaker:

- Kellie Jeffries - Clinical Educator Oncology

Topic: Pain management for cancer patients

E-Learning:

- Cancer Council Victoria: [eLearning modules for health professionals](#)
- Pain Australia: [Better Pain Management Program](#)
- CareSearch Palliative care Knowledge Network: [Palliative Care eLearning](#)
- NPS Medicinewise Learning: [Learning & CPD](#)

Webcasts:

- NPS Medicinewise: Living with pain: Consumers and health professionals talk about their experience with chronic non-cancer pain and opioids. <https://www.nps.org.au/pain>
- ANZCA (2021) Managing Chronic Pain <https://www.anzca.edu.au/patient-information/pain-medicine-information-for-patients-and-carers>
- Cancer Council WA: PaSCE video resources. <https://www.cancerwa.asn.au/professionals/pasce/pasce-video-resources/>

Podcasts:

- Cancer Council NSW: Managing Cancer Pain [33:49] <https://www.cancerCouncil.com.au/podcasts/episode-13-managing-cancer-pain/>

Web Sites:

- [Cancer Council Victoria](#)
- [Oncology Nurses Society](#)
- [Palliative Care Australia](#)
- [Peter McCallum Cancer Centre](#)

- Lovell, M., Birch, M., Lockett, T., Davidson, P., Agar, M., Boyle, F. (2019) Screening and Audit as Service-Level Strategies to Support Implementation of Australian Guidelines for Cancer Pain Management in Adults: A Feasibility Study. Pain Management Nursing. 20: 113-117
- Lockett, T., Newton-John, T., Phillips, J., Holliday, S., Giannitripani, K., Powell-Davies, G., Lovell, M., Liauw, W., Rowett, D., Pearson, S., Raymond, B., Heneka, N., Lorenz, K. (2020) Risk of opioid misuse in people with cancer and pain and related clinical considerations: a qualitative study of the perspectives of Australian general practitioners. BMJ Open. 10:e034363
- Phillips, J., Heneka, N., Hickman, L., Lam, L. (2018) Self-Perceived Pain Assessment Knowledge and Confidence (Self-PAC) Scale for Cancer and Palliative Care Nurses: A Preliminary Validation Study. Pain Management Nursing. 19(6):619-626