

289: Networking for the development, implementation and evaluation of oncology clinical practice guidelines in the Netherlands

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Objective:

A model for the development, implementation and evaluation of oncology clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) within a national and regional network in the Netherlands.

Methods:

The ongoing development, implementation and evaluation of oncology CPGs, represent a cycle of "plan-do-check-act" processes for the quality of cancer care. The adequate use of oncology CPGs demands for an integration of these processes within a network of healthcare professionals. In the Netherlands, the multidisciplinary network of oncology professionals is well-organised by the Dutch Association of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (ACCC). This network includes the regional tumour working groups, which are organised around the 9 Comprehensive Cancer Centres, and 15 national tumour working groups, which consist of delegates of the regional working groups who are mandated by their Scientific Societies. The national working groups are supported by process coordinators of the Cancer Centres. The aim of the ACCC-program is the development, implementation and evaluation of oncology CPGs to improve the quality of cancer care. The regional and scientific basis of the ACCC-network allows for the conceptualisation of national guideline implementation and guideline evaluation from the start of the guideline development process.

In the "plan-do"-phase, guideline implementation runs parallel with guideline development. Since January 2004, oncology professionals are able to consult the new version of the on-line oncology guidelines database Oncoline (www.oncoline.nl). Also, tumour working groups can use the database for the on-line development of oncology CPGs.

In the "check-act" phase, guideline evaluation is carried out on both the national and regional level using data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry (NCR), which is hosted by the ACCC and receives input from the Regional Cancer Registries (RCR). But the main evaluation takes place by way of regional documentation projects by the Cancer Centres and regional working groups. These methods provide information for the next round of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle to improve the quality of cancer care.

Results:

The ACCC program provides a conceptual and practical model for effective oncology CPG development, implementation and evaluation. The following results (February 2004) of the program are presented:

Network	Guidelines development / implementation	Guidelines evaluation
9 Comprehensive Cancer Centres: 15 national working groups 80 regional working groups	Oncoline (www.oncoline.nl): 15 national guidelines for treatment 55 regional guidelines for treatment 33 guidelines for nursing care	Until June 2003: 74 documentation projects

103 Guidelines can be consulted through the Oncoline-database. In the period January-February 2004, the database has been consulted about 150 times per day. The evaluation of oncology CPGs has taken place by information from the NCR and 74 regional documentation projects.

Conclusions:

The results establish the ACCC program as a model for effective development, implementation and evaluation of CPGs. The number of guidelines developed and the number of guideline consultations through Oncoline confirm this. We also expect that the evaluation of oncology CPGs through the NCR and the documentation projects provide an example of how CPGs should be evaluated, as CPG evaluation remains a relatively unexplored territory of quality care.

Ray-Coquard I, Philip T, de Laroche G, Froger X, Suchaud JP, Voloch A, Mathieu-Daude H, Fervers B, Browman GP, Chauvin F. A controlled "before-after" study: Impact of a clinical guidelines programme and regional cancer network organization on medical practice. *British Journal of Cancer* 2002; 86: 313-321.