



AHA Circle of Life Awards, Citation of Honor

Department of Supportive Care Medicine



H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER & RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
AN NCI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER – Tampa, FL
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The Challenge

To innovate and collaborate to support integration of comprehensive palliative and supportive care in the care of patients living with cancer.

The Goal

“Intergrowth” of the expanding and evolving fields of oncology and supportive/palliative care.



- To form a more robust and functional system for personalized cancer care.
- To ensure equitable access to palliative care (PC) that is culturally and spiritually sensitive.
- To promote a PC approach by all Moffitt clinicians.

Department of Supportive Care Medicine

- Provides specialty level palliative care to Moffitt’s patients throughout the course of cancer care.
- Delivers inpatient consultation and outpatient clinic services including symptom management, goals of care discussion, advance care planning and transitions to comfort care/hospice.
- Supervises and instructs learners from various disciplines.
- Participates in quality improvement and research activities.

METHODS

Seek opportunities for PC to provide needs-based support from the time of diagnosis throughout the spectrum of cancer care.

Innovation

- **Pathways driving integration of PC in Oncology:** Moffitt Oncology Clinical Care Pathways are care algorithms to guide evidence-based treatments by disease state. We have embedded routine PC within these Pathways to standardize integration of PC in Oncology. PC team members are included in pathway development.
- **New Technologies:** We co-developed a tablet to EHR electronic patient-reported ESAS tool to identify sources of distress and promote symptom intervention. We created customized PC care plans and IDT notes for the EHR.
- **Cancer Anorexia Cachexia Syndrome (CACS) Clinic:** We formed a collaborative PC, Nutrition, and Rehabilitation clinic to support patients with CACS and their caregivers.
- **HART (High Risk Alert Team) program:** We instituted a unique IDT process and structure to support patients at risk for controlled substance misuse in the PC clinic.
- **Early PC for Thoracic Oncology patients:** We embedded PC nurses in the Thoracic Oncology clinic to identify patients who can benefit from PC, introduce services and coordinate expedited care.

Education & Collaboration

- **Communication Skills:** We provide VitalTalk®-based communications skills training for fellows, residents, APPs and faculty members from many oncologic disciplines. We offer the COMFORT Curriculum™ and ELNEC for RNs and others.
- **Moffitt Oncology-specific ACO contract leaders/PC Partnership:** A PC referral process was instituted for ACO patients identified as high risk or need.
- **Supportive Care Tumor Board:** We created a collaborative care planning and discussion forum for several specialties engaged in cancer symptom palliation.
- **Advance Care Planning:** We adopted a structured approach to help patients express and document wishes for care based on Respecting Choices®. We collaborate with Diversity and other programs to monitor ACP and AD completion.
- **Engagement in national Oncology & Palliative Care Quality Endeavors:** We participate in the Global Palliative Care Quality Alliance, Alliance for Dedicated Cancer Care QOL & PC Workgroup, and Comprehensive Cancer Center Consortium for Quality Improvement EOL Workgroup.

RESULTS

- PC has been incorporated as an integral part of cancer care in our center.
- Services encompass 2 interdisciplinary clinics and inpatient consultation teams, including a pharmacist, psychiatrists, psychologists, and integrative medicine specialists.
- Social workers and chaplains of the department of patient and family services successfully integrate with the supportive care consultative teams for every patient seen.

CONCLUSIONS

Moffitt’s interdisciplinary Supportive Care Medicine Department has progressively intergrown palliative and cancer care by focusing on patient and family-centered innovations, education, and partnerships