

# Guidance for the Development of a Provincial Approach to Toxicity Management

## Summary of Recommendations from the Toxicity Management Advisory Committee

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

### **Introduction:**

Cancer patients are often treated with radiation and systemic therapy; while outcomes are improved, both these treatment modalities carry risks of toxicities, many of which are expected and, in some cases, preventable. The lack of alternative models for timely toxicity management support have resulted in the ED becoming the default setting for addressing symptoms during treatment, despite its unsuitability for this purpose. For instance, within the ED, there is an increased risk of immunocompromised patients being exposed to infections and illnesses, as well as limited side-effect management expertise among care providers. Effective management of treatment-related side effects and symptoms in care settings other than the ED may contribute to optimizing acute care utilization and improving the quality of life for patients.

### **Approach:**

Recognizing the need for appropriate toxicity management for Ontario's patients with cancer, a Toxicity Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) was established in December 2016 to provide guidance on the recommended areas of focus for formulating the provincial approach. The primary responsibility of TMAC was to develop the recommendations that would serve as the foundation for CCO to build a comprehensive, system-level approach to toxicity management across the province. These recommendations will serve as a guiding framework for future toxicity management planning and implementation by CCO and the Regional Cancer Programs, which will tailor the operationalization of recommendations per regional/local contexts. This report summarizes the approach undertaken to develop the TMAC recommendations, and the interventions for implementation.

### **Recommendations:**

To enable the development of a standardized and comprehensive approach to toxicity management across the province, TMAC formulated eight recommendations for executive review by CCO. These consensus-based recommendations address focus areas such as implementing solutions for engaging patients and families, improving access to timely support, targeting high-risk patients for additional toxicity management support, and enabling effective & coordinated multidisciplinary teams.

1. Patients should be provided with ongoing self-management training and support tailored to their own needs. Providers should receive training to deliver self-management support to patients based on provincial self-management standards.

2. Patients and their caregivers should be provided with evidence based and up-to-date patient education. This education should be provided in a health literate manner, using proven adult education techniques.
3. Patients should have the option to capture and report their symptoms and/or side effects with the expectation of a timely response and guidance from a knowledgeable provider specific to their needs should the severity of their symptom report require it.
4. Patients should have access to remote toxicity and symptom management advice from a knowledgeable provider (e.g. tele-triage).
5. Facilities providing systemic and/or radiation therapy should have an urgent care process in place for patients who require an urgent assessment during regular clinic hours, extended or after hours, or on weekends/holidays.
6. CCO should develop a standardized process/tool for stratifying patients by toxicity risk. High risk patients should be offered the opportunity to participate in standardized proactive toxicity management protocols (e.g. call-back program).
7. The roles and responsibilities of team members should be defined and communicated to patients and team members both within and outside of the cancer program such as oncology, ED, and Primary Care Providers.
8. CCO should provide tools for providers (including Primary Care and ED) to support the dissemination of best practices in symptom and toxicity management.

### **Future Direction:**

These final recommendations are intended to serve as a guiding framework for a provincial approach to toxicity management. As such they are not intended to be prescriptive, but rather allow for regional adaptation based on local and contextual needs. Next steps will involve executive review and approval by CCO and prioritization of recommendations for development and implementation. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of appropriate toxicity management for Ontario's cancer patients, CCO's toxicity management initiative, which stemmed out of a System Treatment Provincial Plan (2014-2019) strategic priority, grew into a multi-program quality improvement initiative (MPQII). The recommendations developed by TMAC will serve as the foundational pieces for the MPQII and guide the direction and prioritization of deliverables.

## Appendix B: TMAC Membership List

Name	Role
Dr. Monika Krzyzanowska (Chair)	Clinical Lead, Quality Care and Access, Systemic Treatment, Cancer Care Ontario
Dr. Lisa Barbera	Provincial Lead, Patient Reported Outcomes, Cancer Care Ontario
Christine Black	Manager, Radiation Therapy, Central East
Colleen Campbell	Advanced Practice Clinical Coordinator, North Simcoe Muskoka
Dr. Catherine de Metz	Radiation Oncologist, South East Cancer Centre
Dr. Patricia Disperati	Malignant Hematologist, Toronto Central North
Jeannie Faubert	Patient Representative, North West
Dr. Leta Forbes	Provincial Head, Systemic Treatment, Cancer Care Ontario
Derek Finnerty	Patient and Family Advisor, Mississauga Halton Central West
Daniela Gallo-Hershberg	Group Manager, Systemic Treatment Program, Cancer Care Ontario
Chris Girolametto	Radiation Therapist, Waterloo Wellington
Dr. John Goffin	Medical Oncologist, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant
Gurpreet Grewal	Patient Education Lead, Mississauga Halton Central West
Tamara Harth	Provincial Lead, Patient Education, Cancer Care Ontario
Mark Hartman	Regional Vice President, North East
Dr. Doris Howell	Self-Management Researcher, Toronto Central South
Dr. Vishal Kukreti	Clinical Lead, e-Tools and Technology, Cancer Care Ontario
Dr. Michael Lock	Radiation Oncologist, South West
Lorraine Martelli	Provincial Head, Oncology Nursing, Cancer Care Ontario
Dr. Robin McLeod	Vice President, Clinical Programs and Quality Initiatives, Cancer Care Ontario
Elaine Meertens	Director, Diagnosis and Treatment Clinical Programs
Dr. Ralph Meyer	Regional Vice President, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant
Lesley Moody	Director, Person Centred Care, Cancer Care Ontario
Mark Pasetka	Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator, Toronto Central North
Colleen Reaume	Regional Director, Erie St. Clair
Jillian Ross	Director, Cancer System Quality Improvement Initiatives, Cancer Care Ontario
Dr. Pdraig Warde	Provincial Head, Radiation Treatment, Cancer Care Ontario
Meaghan Wright	Functional Manager, Cancer System Quality Improvement Initiatives, Cancer Care Ontario
Jane Yao	Senior Specialist, Systemic Treatment Program, Cancer Care Ontario