

MCC Resource: Using Technology to Facilitate MCCs

The following case example is provided for demonstration purposes only. It highlights a tool that is being used at a hospital in Ontario.

Technological Solution Enhances Multidisciplinary Cancer Care

By optimizing the wealth of expertise at the Centre, the conferences are leading-edge tools for ensuring the best possible patient care. Now, with a simple technological innovation, Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa has found a way to make Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences (MCC) even more effective. Each Odette Cancer Centre disease site group or Cancer Care Team holds its own weekly conference, where the experts thoroughly examine new patients' cases before coming to a consensus on the best treatment. Depending on the cases for review, the specialties involved could include pathology, radiology, surgical oncology, nursing, pharmacy and occupational therapy – to name just a few.

The Innovation

Traditionally, the participants at a MCC would take individual notes on the meeting's discussions and clinical decisions. "Those untraceable sheets of paper could not facilitate the most successful quality improvement initiatives," says Dr. Khalifa, Pathologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Seeing there must be a better way, he developed a Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences database in 2006 that can be customized to meet the needs of different disease site groups.

The Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences database is the first of its kind in Canada and one of a handful in the world. It holds a secure archive of conference proceedings, allowing for easy monitoring of treatment recommendations and creating opportunities for quality improvement projects. "The system is user-friendly and allows us to quickly go back and check a permanent record when we need to," says Dr. Allan Covens, a surgical oncologist and lead, Gynaecological Cancer Care Team at the Odette Cancer Centre.

The database also enables a more efficient sharing of expertise among conference participants by generating a list of cases along with relevant diagnostic information in advance of each meeting.

"Everyone arrives fully prepared and ready to discuss the cases in depth," says Dr. Khalifa, a Professor in the Departments of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Toronto

On any given day at the Odette Cancer Centre, you will find cancer care professionals from diverse specialties sitting around a table discussing treatment plans for new patients.

These Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences may look like your average business meeting, but they are anything but.

The Tool

The current version of the tool is called MindMerge and is available as a web-based application. In addition to all the features of the original database, added advantages of the web-based solution are listed below.

- Built-in quarterly audit reports required by Cancer Care Ontario.
- Secure log-in access with passwords.
- Remote access by physicians and nurses from their offices or exam rooms to check on MCC decisions.
- QA reports and monitoring.
- Automatic generation of list to physicians with their respective patient's MCC decisions reminding them to dictate them in patient's chart.



Today, all Cancer Care Teams at the Odette Cancer Centre use MindMerge. This system has consolidated our multidisciplinary approach to patient care, making it more efficient and effective.

For more information about this tool, visit: mindmergeconsole.com