Frequently Asked Questions  
**Your Symptoms Matters-Prostate questionnaire: A Resource for Health Care Professionals**

1. ***What is the Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer questionnaire?***

Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer is a 17 item questionnaire that asks patients about symptoms commonly associated with treatment for localized prostate cancer, including:

* Urinary incontinence
* Urinary irritation/obstruction
* Bowel function
* Sexual function
* Vitality and hormonal health

The questionnaire was validated for use with this patient population under the name *Expanded Prostate Cancer Index Composite for Clinical Practice (EPIC-CP).* EPIC-CP is a 16-item questionnaire, but cancer centres across Ontario will include a 17th item to allow patients to report issues with rectal bleeding.

1. ***How is it different from Your Symptoms Matter – General Symptoms (also known as the Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale or ESAS)?***

* As a provider of care in the oncology setting, you may have become familiar with discussing ESAS scores with your patients or their families. ESAS is a useful tool for initiating discussions about how your patients are feeling regarding their cancer symptoms and treatment effects. ESAS is a general symptom screening tool.
* Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer, however, is a validated clinical tool for capturing outcomes and using them to inform decision making in the clinical setting. Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer, detects the symptoms that are most commonly experienced by this specific patient population.

1. ***What is the patient population?***

* Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer is intended for men with early-stage prostate cancer, as well as patients with locally advanced disease who are being managed with Androgen Deprivation Therapy. As such, the decision has been made to administer Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer to all prostate cancer patients who are not on chemotherapy.

1. ***How have we defined ‘early stage?’***

* Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer is most relevant for localized prostate cancer
* All patients receiving chemotherapy as part of their treatment for prostate cancer will be excluded from the target population. These patients will continue to receive ESAS.
* All prostate cancer patients who are not on chemotherapy, will receive Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer. This will include patients with locally advanced disease or metastatic disease who are receiving adjuvant Androgen Deprivation Therapy.

1. ***How will this population be identified?***

In order to be administered the correct questionnaire, patients will be asked to self-identify using the Your Symptoms Matter (formerly ISAAC) kiosks at your centre. The self-identification process will include two questions. A third question will allow patients to skip the questionnaire if they have completed it within the last 13 days, and have no change in symptoms:

1. Is the main focus of your visit related to prostate cancer?
   1. If patient answers ‘Yes’, go to ii;
   2. If patient answers ‘No’, ESAS will be administered.
2. Are you currently taking chemotherapy as part of your prostate cancer treatment?
   1. If patient answers ‘Yes’, ESAS will be administered;
   2. If patient answers ‘No’, EPIC will be administered OR go to iii if within 13 days of last assessment
3. Our system shows you completed Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer questionnaire on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date).  If your symptoms have changed since then, would you like to do the questionnaire today?
   1. If patient answers ‘Yes’, Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer will be administered;
   2. If patient answers ‘No’, neither Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer nor ESAS will be administered.
4. ***When will patients be asked to fill in Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer?***

* Ideally, each patient with early stage prostate cancer will have their symptoms screened prior to treatment (baseline), following treatment, and regularly during follow-up care. This frequency was agreed upon by the clinical experts of the project team.
* *Radiation prostate cancer patients* will be able to fill in the questionnaire at every review. If it has been 13 days or less since completing the questionnaire last, they will have the ability to skip it.

1. ***How long will the survey take to complete?***

* Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer, should take about 5 minutes to complete
* The volunteers at your centre have been provided with a resource package that will help their efforts to navigate patients through this process.

1. ***What about patients who don’t come to the cancer centre?***

* Many patients receive all of their care outside of the Ontario cancer system. For example, in most Regions, radical prostatectomy surgeries are performed by urologists who do not always link their patients with their local cancer programs
* In order to reach these patients, Cancer Care Ontario will be executing a two-phased Provincial implementation:
  + Phase I will launch Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer in all 14 Regional Cancer Centres as well as partner sites
  + Phase II will launch Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer into urology practices

1. ***What resources will I have to respond to scores?***

* Cancer Care Ontario, in partnership with a series of expert advisory panels, has developed **Clinical Guides** that synthesize the best available evidence for interventions in response to each of the symptoms captured by Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer
* These Guides are available through your local project lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert OCSMC lead name and email) or online at http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ysm\_resources.
* Your local lead will also be posting the Guides in meeting and conference areas throughout clinics where prostate cancer patients are seen.

***10. What resources will my patients have to manage their symptoms?***

* Cancer Care Ontario, in partnership with its community of Patient and Family Advisors, has developed **Patient Guides** that give evidence-based advice on how to self-management their symptoms
* These Guides are available through your local project lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert OCSMC lead name and email) and hard copies will also be stocked in your cancer centres patient education areas or resource hubs

1. ***How can I give feedback on this program and others like it from CCO?***

In order to report issues or concerns, or give general feedback on how you feel Your Symptoms Matter – Prostate Cancer could be improved to help you deliver high quality, person-centred care, please contact Dr. Lisa Barbera, Clinical Lead, Patient Reported Outcomes and Symptom Management at [lisa.barbera@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:lisa.barbera@cancercare.on.ca).