Shared Decision-Making Attitudes and Practices in Multidisciplinary Cancer Care Teams

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Partners: 

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A survey of multidisciplinary cancer team members

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) conducted a survey to explore multidisciplinary team attitudes and practices around shared decision-making (SDM) and health literacy.

Key Takeaway

SDM is commonly accepted amongst cancer care team members as essential to patient engagement, but clarity in terminology, sufficient training and resources, and formal integration of SDM into practice is limited.
SDM: accepted as essential to patient engagement, but limited formal integration

89% of respondents always or sometimes engage in conversations about treatment decision-making

I encourage my patients to actively participate in the decision-making process. (n=269)
- 87% Strongly Agree
- 10% Somewhat Agree

SDM is a top priority. (n=301)
- 21% Strongly Agree
- 29% Somewhat Agree

There are efforts to formally integrate SDM into clinical workflow/service lines. (n=301)
- 11% Strongly Agree
- 22% Somewhat Agree

According to respondents, basic SDM training is not commonly provided cancer programs (n=194)
- Basic training about SDM 15%
- Using patient decision aids 17%
- Coaching on communicating treatment risks and benefits 27%
- Training on eliciting patient values, goals, and priorities 31%

PRESENTED BY: Christie Mangir, MS
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Perceived barriers and resources needed

Perceived barriers to engaging patients in SDM
n=272

- Patient is overwhelmed by the decision(s) 53%
- Patient wants their clinicians to make the decision(s) 46%
- Patient has limited health literacy 46%
- I haven’t been adequately trained to engage in SDM 32%
- I don’t have enough time to engage in SDM 13%

What resources or supporting mechanisms do you wish existed to support you with SDM?

- “An evidence-based tool for SDM would be very welcome. Training sessions for providers and support staff.” - Administrator
- “SDM is not specific enough. It's a process but one that takes training to give clinicians the language and mindset needed to reframe what they do to be inclusive.” – Oncology Nurse
Suggested strategies to improve integration of SDM into practice

- Educational initiatives and tools to overcome barriers to SDM, including patient decision aids and SDM training
- Psychosocial support for patients whose emotional upset is a barrier to SDM
- Initiatives to address health literacy related patient and caregiver engagement in decision-making
- Healthcare policies that encourage and incentive providers to engage in SDM.