

ATTACHMENT 15
Formative Research to Assess Factors Affecting the
Translation of Research into Cancer Care Practice



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Colleague in Cancer Care:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is actively working to improve the dissemination and implementation of cancer research findings. We believe that by doing so we may improve the quality of cancer care and treatment outcomes. Accordingly, NCI is asking healthcare practitioners to identify factors that influence their access to and implementation of new and more effective research-based cancer care practices.

You can help guide NCI's dissemination efforts by completing the enclosed survey. We hope that you will take this opportunity to inform NCI on how it can advance the delivery of cancer care innovations into clinical practice to benefit all cancer patients.

NCI is conducting this survey under contract with the University of Massachusetts, Donahue Institute. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. All your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of NCI or its contractor the Donahue Institute, except as required by law. Your identifying information will be kept in a separate database from your survey response and data will be reported in aggregate form only, so there will be no association between your responses and your personal information.

This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and you may skip questions that you prefer not to answer. **Please mail your completed survey in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope no later than [TBD], 2005.** If you have questions regarding this study, please contact Jeff Swarz at (413) 587-2401 or jswarz@donahue.umassp.edu.

Thank you for helping to direct NCI's ongoing efforts to assist healthcare practitioners in their efforts to provide cancer patients with the highest possible quality of care.

Sincerely,

Lenora Johnson
Director
Office of Education and Special Initiatives
National Cancer Institute

Steven Ellis
Senior Manager
Donahue Institute
University of Massachusetts

National Cancer Institute
**Survey to Determine Factors
Affecting the Translation of Research
Into Cancer Care Practice**

Thank you for participating. This survey is designed for health care professionals who spend at least a portion of their time in direct patient care.

Please fill bubbles in completely. You may use pencil or black or blue ball point pen. Do not use a felt tip pen.

1. Do you spend any of your professional time in direct patient care?

- Yes No **If no, your survey is complete. Please return it in the enclosed envelope.**

This survey is intended only for health practitioners who spend some portion of their time in direct patient care.

2. In addition to your professional role as a practitioner, do you also act in any of the following capacities?

(Please choose all that apply.)

- Administrator Researcher or academic Other _____

I. Introductory questions

The following questions focus on your perceptions and behaviors with regard to the implementation of current research findings into your practice of cancer care. Throughout this survey, the word "research" refers to reliable studies published by widely respected sources, such as peer reviewed journals. In this context, "research" does not include less formal observations of patient outcomes or response to treatment.

From your perspective as a practitioner, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know or N/A |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. There is a gap between the cancer care that patients receive and the care indicated by current research. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. When research findings contradict my professional experience, I tend to rely upon my experience as the basis for patient care. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

II. Accessibility of current research findings

| | Yes | No | Don't Know or N/A |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5. I have adequate access to the research I need to keep my practice current. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. I have adequate time available to access the research I need to support my practice. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

7. How often do you rely on each of the following resources to obtain information regarding current research-indicated practices in cancer care?

| | Frequently | Occasionally | Rarely or Never |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Colleagues or experts from <u>within</u> your organization | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| B. Colleagues or experts from <u>outside</u> your organization | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| C. HMO provided guidelines | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| D. Clinical practice guideline web sites | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| E. Professional society web sites | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| F. Federal agency web sites | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| G. Systematic reviews & evidence summaries (e.g., Cochrane Collection, journal clubs) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| H. On-line courses/programs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I. Peer-reviewed journals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| J. Non-peer reviewed journals or other publications | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| K. Trainings or meetings within your organization | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| L. Professional society meetings/conferences | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| M. Programs or publications sponsored by pharmaceutical or medical device companies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| N. Other topic-specific events (such as Grand Rounds, presentations of research findings, special speakers, et cetera) Please Specify _____ | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

8. From the above list of resources, please rank the top three resources in order of importance to you.

Enter letter code A-N.

1. Most important resource
 2. Second most important resource
 3. Third most important resource

III. Organizational factors that may affect implementation of research-indicated practices

The following questions relate to organizational factors that may affect your implementation of new research-indicated practices.

9. Which of the following organizations best describes your primary practice setting?

Is it a... (choose one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> University affiliated or teaching hospital | <input type="radio"/> Independent office |
| <input type="radio"/> Cancer center | <input type="radio"/> Health Maintenance Organization |
| <input type="radio"/> Community hospital | <input type="radio"/> Veterans Administration hospital or clinic |
| <input type="radio"/> Community clinic | <input type="radio"/> Some other type of organization (please specify) _____ |

References to "your organization" in the remainder of the survey refer to the primary practice setting you identify in question 9. All questions relate to the care and treatment of cancer.

10. Does your organization have a department or staff member explicitly responsible for the development, update, or implementation of guidelines for clinical practice?

- Yes No Unsure

11. Does your organization have a person responsible for identifying patients eligible for clinical trials?

- Yes No Unsure

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know or N/A |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 12. My organization effectively disseminates new research-indicated practices to staff. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 13. My organization's leadership is committed to implementing new research-indicated practices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 14. My organization has information management systems that effectively support implementation of new research-indicated practices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 15. My organization allows me to decide whether to change my practice in response to new research. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

IV. Potential barriers to the implementation of research-indicated practices

The following questions consider factors that may impede the implementation of new research findings into practice.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know or N/A |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 16. My organization's quality improvement efforts are driven by the need for cost reduction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 17. Insurance reimbursement rules often discourage me from implementing new practices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 18. Implementation of new practices is often hindered by a lack of available staff time. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 19. Providing state-of-the-art care is often not possible for under-insured patients. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 20. Within my organization, practitioners are encouraged to perform a diagnostic evaluation of any patient with an abnormal cancer screening test regardless of ability to pay. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know or N/A |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 21. Implementation of new practices is often hindered by a lack of specialized medical equipment/devices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 22. Research findings are often presented in a manner that makes them difficult to implement "at the bedside" or in the office. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 23. The available literature on cancer care is often contradictory, which discourages practitioners from making related changes regarding clinical practice. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 24. The value of guidelines is limited by their lack of specificity when applied in a clinical setting. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 25. Guidelines for cancer care are generally too broad and complex to be implemented effectively. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

26. In general, what factor is most likely to determine whether you change your clinical practice based on something you learned through translational research?

V. Suggestions to improve the translation of research into practice

Following are some suggestions to improve the accessibility and implementation of new research-indicated practices.

Please rate each of these suggestions based on their potential to positively impact the translation* of research into practice. (*The process through which research is acquired and implemented in a clinical setting.)

| | Excellent Suggestion | Good Suggestion | Fair Suggestion | Poor Suggestion | Don't Know |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 27. Increase practitioner input to the process for establishing cancer research funding priorities. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 28. Increase the availability of research focused on symptom management in cancer care. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 29. Increase the availability of summary evidence reports, such as systematic literature reviews, that clarify current consensus regarding best practices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 30. Provide web links to the original studies cited in clinical guidelines and evidence summaries. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 31. Provide tools to help organizations adapt clinical guidelines and evidence-based information for use at the point of patient care (e.g., practice flow charts, reminders placed in patient charts, reminders sent via PDA). | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 32. Increase access to facilitators who are trained to assist practitioners as they try to implement changes in practice. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 33. Increase the availability of train-the-trainer programs, through which selected practitioners are trained as facilitators and then return to their organizations to train others on the latest practices. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 34. Develop a website that offers a free comprehensive collection of up-to-date cancer-related clinical guidelines and research studies. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 35. Develop a website that allows practitioners to identify relevant research topics and sends email notification of breaking research in those topical areas. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 36. Increase the availability of successful practice implementation strategies or "how to" plans that might serve as models to other organizations/practitioners preparing to adopt a change in practice. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 37. Focus national dissemination efforts on a select number of new treatments based on their potential to improve patient outcomes and quality of life. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

38. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the efforts of the National Cancer Institute to support the dissemination of new research findings that impact cancer care.

- Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Don't Know or N/A

39. To what extent do you agree that professional organizations along with the National Cancer Institute must increase their efforts to support the dissemination and implementation of new research- indicated practices?

- Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know or N/A

40. Please identify one thing that you would like NCI or other national organizations to do in order to improve the translation of scientific research into practice.

VI. Practitioner and organizational profile

Finally, we have a few important questions that will help us to understand you and the organization for which you work.

41. In what year did you enter practice? (e.g., 1997) _____

42. What is the five digit zip code for your business address? _____

| | 0 - 25% | 26%-50% | 51%-75% | 76%-100% | Don't Know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 43. Please estimate the proportion of the patients you serve who are economically disadvantaged. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 44. Please estimate the proportion of the patients you serve who are ethnic or racial minorities. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

45. Among your patients, what are the most common ethnic or racial minority groups. (List up to three.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

**Please mail your completed survey in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.
Thank you for your valuable time.**