Clinical Pathways in Oncology Video Series (Part 2): Implementing and Measuring Outcomes





Panel

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Background

The majority of large health systems and oncology provider groups use clinical pathways in their efforts to standardize cancer treatment, improve patient outcomes, and control costs. According to a recent survey, 70% of healthcare decision-makers use clinical pathways at their organization,[1] and pathway adherence rates of ~80% are reported by one of our panelists.

In this 4-episode video series, Dr Evan Slater and Dr Sophia Humphreys share their perspectives on implementing clinical pathways and measuring the impact.

Key Highlights

1. **Episode 1: Shared decision-making is an important part of value-based care**, and while pathways are designed to provide guidance, they are not mandated and physicians are free to tailor their treatment approach as needed for their patients
2. **Episode 2:** Adherence, tolerability, time on treatment, and overall survival are some of the **metrics evaluated to measure the impact of clinical pathways**
3. **Episode 3:** Organizations look to industry partners to **provide education and information about treatments** in development to inform pathway committee decisions
4. **Episode 4:** The future of clinical pathway development and implementation may be **impacted by technologies such as artificial intelligence**

"**The end game is always the patient** and, ultimately, what the patient and provider support and how they feel best about moving forward for that patient's journey."

— Dr Evan Slater

The Future of Clinical Pathways

Artificial intelligence may have a role to play in the future of clinical pathways. Our panelists agree there are a number of ways the emerging technology could be applied, including:



Driving pathway performance



Treatment selection



Tracking pathway adherence/usage

"If you have an AI tool to track pathway usage at each step, then you can differentiate at which steps physicians did not follow the pathway and **find opportunities to improve your pathway**."

— Dr Sophia Humphreys

"**Being able to truly leverage AI to support patient identification and treatment initiation** is going to get patients on therapy quicker and hopefully help deliver the better drug at the best time for that particular patient."

— Dr Evan Slater

Reference: 1. Odera G, Brixner D, Biskuplak J, Harnett J, Chen CI, Quek RGW. Evolving oncology care management trends in the United States: a survey among health care decision makers. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2024;30(8) (suppl):18-20.

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