



Australian Government

Cancer Australia

CanNET

Cancer Service Networks
National Demonstration Program
Linking regional and metropolitan
cancer services for better
cancer outcomes

CanNET – Glossary

Term	Definition
ACCREDITATION	Public recognition of achievement by a health care organisation, of requirements of national health care standards (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality).
CANCER CONSUMER OR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER	Patients and potential patients; carers; organisations representing cancer consumer interests; members of the public who are targets of cancer promotion programs; and groups affected in a specific way as a result of cancer policy, treatments or services.
CANCER JOURNEY	An individual's experience of cancer, from screening and detection, diagnosis and treatment, to recovery or 'living with cancer' through to palliative care.
CanNET	Cancer Service Networks National Demonstration Program
CARE COORDINATION	The delivery of services by different providers occurs in a coherent, logical and timely manner, consistent with the person's medical needs and personal context
CARE PATHWAY	A care pathway describes the management and its sequence of a well-defined group of patients during a well-defined period of time.
CLINICAL PATHWAY	A clinical pathway explicitly states that the goals and key elements of care are based on clinical guidelines, and best available evidence. It acknowledges patients expectations by facilitating communication, coordinating roles and sequencing the activities of the multidisciplinary care team, patients and their families; by documenting, monitoring and evaluating variances; and by providing the necessary resources and outcomes. The aim of a clinical pathway is to improve the quality of care, reduce risks, and increase patient satisfaction and increase efficiency in the use of resources.

Term	Definition
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	Clinical guidelines are a graded set of recommendations to assist clinical decision-making or service planning based on best available research. Ideally all clinical guidelines are developed according to international quality criteria, such as the AGREE Collaboration Guidelines (2001). Some clinical guidelines may contain a systematic review of the research on which the recommendations are based.
CLINICAL LEADER	Clinicians driving service improvement and the effective management of teams to provide excellence in care delivery.
CONSUMER PARTICIPATION	The involvement of consumers in decision-making processes. There are many ways consumers can participate in health decision-making, from working with health care providers to improve their own health to contributing to the development and management of health services as a consumer representative. (Also see consumer)
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)	Continuous learning through which an individual maintains and extends their knowledge and skills for life-long professional competence. CPD is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a part of professional recognition in any field • ongoing and continuous • structured and transparent • essential to maintaining up-to-date technical skills and knowledge of processes, technology and legislation
CREDENTIALING	It is a formal process for defining the clinical responsibilities of medical practitioners and other health care providers within a particular health care institution or wider service. It serves to verify that clinicians are qualified and competent to undertake specific practices within explicit settings.
DIRECTORY OF SERVICE	The Directory of Service to be developed for CanNET will provide information on locating the nearest initial cancer multidisciplinary assessment team for a particular cancer type and/or population group within a defined geographical area. It is designed primarily for use by consumers and health care providers living and operating within the geographical area of the network.
GOVERNANCE	The set of responsibilities and practices, policies and procedures, exercised by the project or program steering committee, to provide strategic direction, ensure objectives are achieved, manage risks and use resources responsibly and with accountability.
MANAGED CLINICAL NETWORKS	Clinical networks are linked groups of health professionals and organisations from primary, secondary, and tertiary care working in a coordinated manner, unconstrained by existing professional and [organisational] boundaries to ensure equitable provision of high quality effective services.

Term	Definition
MENTORING	A developmental partnership through which one person shares knowledge, skills, information and perspective to foster the personal and professional growth of another person.
MODELS OF CARE	A model that explains the manner in which health care is provided and usually describes what care is provided, where it is provided and who provides it. It identifies a standard or example, for imitation or comparison, combining concepts, belief and intent.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE	Multidisciplinary care (MDC) is an integrated team approach to health care in which medical and allied health care professionals consider all relevant treatment options and develop collaboratively an individual treatment plan for each patient.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETING	Multidisciplinary meetings are a regularly scheduled meeting of core and invited team members for the purpose of prospective treatment and care planning of newly diagnosed cancer patients as well as those requiring review of treatment plans or palliative care. (Also see Tumour Board)
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CLINIC	A multidisciplinary clinic is held in a setting such as an outpatient clinic, where several clinicians/health practitioners are available for a patient to see at one visit. Multidisciplinary clinics and meetings may be linked, where a clinic may precede or follow a multidisciplinary meeting.
NEEDS-BASED APPROACH TO CANCER CARE	<p>Within the population there are essentially three distinct patient groups whose differing levels of cancer care needs will determine the degree to which they will be able to access treatment and care in rural Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who can be diagnosed, assessed and treated locally. • People who need to be assessed elsewhere but can be treated locally. • People who need to be diagnosed elsewhere and whose complex care needs and/or multi-modal treatment requirements necessitate ongoing treatment provided by a major cancer service
NETWORK MEMBERS	All health professionals, services and consumers in the cancer network's geographical region
NETWORK PARTNERS	The organisations or services that have partnered with the lead agency responsible for CanNET in each jurisdiction.

Term	Definition
PATIENT CENTRED CARE	Patient-centred care considers patients' cultural traditions, their personal preferences and values, their family situations, and their lifestyles. It makes patients and their families an integral part of the care team who collaborate with health care professionals in making clinical decisions. Patient-centred care provides an opportunity for patients to decide important aspects of self-care and monitoring. Patient-centred care ensures that transitions between providers, departments, and health care settings are respectful, coordinated, and efficient. When care is patient centred, unneeded and unwanted services can be reduced.
PRIMARY CARE	Primary Care is a sub-component of the broader primary health care system. Primary care is provided by a health care professional who is a client's first point of entry into the health system. Primary care is practised widely in nursing and allied health, but predominately in general practice.
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE	First level of health care, outside of hospitals. Primary Health Care (PHC) incorporates personal care with health promotion, the prevention of illness and community development. The philosophy of PHC includes the interconnecting principles of equity, access, empowerment, community self-determination and intersectoral collaboration. It encompasses an understanding of the social, economic, cultural and political determinants of health.
PRIMARY CARE PRACTITIONER	A primary care practitioner includes for example, a general practitioner, the practice nurse, community nurse, and community based allied health workers.
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICE	Primary health care services involve continuity of care, health promotion and education, integration of prevention with illness and/or disease management, a concern for population as well as individual health, community involvement and the use of appropriate technology.
PROTOCOL	Detailed written instructions about how to complete a specific task. Describes how, when, where and who should be involved in the task. Protocols may refer to a clinical care process or the working relationship between agencies.
PROTOCOL-BASED CARE	Protocol based care relates to standardising specific clinical care processes. It applies to both: (a) standardising care in generic settings by using tools, such as protocols and/or care pathways and/or clinical guidelines; and (b) specialist, expanded roles and new ways of delivering services where health care providers work within agreed boundaries for decision-making and action. This involves training, assessment and verification of competence to undertake extra responsibilities – see credentialing.

Term	Definition
QUALITY ASSURANCE	A formal methodology designed to assess the quality of products or services provided, often in relation to quality standards and procedures. Can include formal review of care, problem identification, corrective actions to remedy any deficiencies and evaluation of actions taken (Quality assurance is recognised by the international standard ISO 9000).
REFERRAL PATHWAYS	A referral pathway is a series of steps, including clinical intervention to be taken by health care providers in response to people newly diagnosed with cancer or with recurrent or progressive disease. Its aim is to ensure more appropriate referral of patients to specialist cancer services, including the multidisciplinary team. A referral pathway is a process as much as a product or tool. Ideally it is developed via a comprehensive and inclusive approach between cancer services and relevant health care agencies to establish relationships and a shared understanding and agreed ways of working together to better address the cancer care needs of a defined population.
ROLE REDESIGN	Redesigning existing roles as well as creating new roles. It can involve expanding the depth and breadth of roles, moving tasks up or down a traditional single-discipline ladder, and crossing traditional discipline boundaries. Redesign may affect a whole healthcare team from support workers to the medical workforce, and may build on other initiatives which have attempted to extend or redesign the roles of particular clinical professions.
SCOPE OF CLINICAL PRACTICE	The scope of clinical practice follows on from credentialing and involves delineating the extent of an individual health professional's clinical practice within a particular organisation based on the individual's credentials, competence, performance and professional suitability, and the needs and the capability of the organisation to support the health professional's scope of clinical practice (Adapted from ACSQHC).
SECONDARY HEALTH CARE	A service provided by specialists who don't normally have first contact with a patient.
SERVICE MAPPING	The process of identifying all the organisations available to the community to support a particular type of service provision, e.g. cancer services. This involves identifying where specialist and diagnostic and primary care services are used, as this will be important for continuity of care. It also involves working out how and when they can be accessed and linked to provide continuity of care. (Also see process mapping).
STANDARDISATION	The adoption of generally accepted uniform procedures, parts, dimensions, or materials that directly affect the design of a product, project or a service.
TERTIARY HEALTH CARE	Care provided in a centre that has the personnel and facilities required for specialist investigation and treatment.

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www.canceraustralia.gov.au/cannet-homepage.aspx

Term

Definition

TUMOUR BOARD

A treatment planning approach in which a number of doctors who are experts in different specialties (disciplines) review and discuss the medical condition and treatment options of a patient. Similar to a multidisciplinary team meeting, but tends **not** to consider the patient's psychological and social needs.