

ALLIANCE TO ADVANCE PATIENT-CENTERED CANCER CARE

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

Improving Transition of Care with Technology

Health System & Policy Changes



Technology
Solutions



When a patient's cancer goes into remission, treatment doesn't end. Patients need to monitor their health for signs of cancer recurrence, or they may have to continue managing cancer treatment side effects or comorbidities. If clinicians struggle to manage this transition, patients may experience preventable health problems. Some may even require hospitalization.

The Epic Transition of Care Plus (ToC+) tool was developed to improve the quality of life of cancer patients from cancer treatment to primary care. ToC+ pulls data from patients' medical records, then runs them through an algorithm to generate recommendations according to approved guidelines. ToC+ aims to standardize transitions of care, define expectations and responsibility, and identify high-risk patients. The tool can help physicians by complementing their decision-making process, without taking over.



... Within just four ... five ... eight weeks of pilot testing, we applied to make it the default tool, and it was approved because the clinicians saw an immediate value for it.



Effective Strategies

- ✓ Investigators sought early clinician buy-in
- ✓ Feedback used to tailor ToC+ to different disciplines
- ✓ ToC+ used as a virtual tool during the pandemic
- ✓ Worked closely with Epic to include software in EMR library



Health System and Policy Changes

- ✓ ToC+ was chosen by the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center administrators as the preferred tool for survivorship care planning
- ✓ Launched ToC+ in the lung cancer clinics and is now expanding to other cancer
- ✓ ToC+ appears in the EPIC EMR library for use at several medical centers, and could potentially be used in other health systems
- ✓ Clinician training and widespread implementation



... I think it makes a big difference when the message is coming from somebody who's actually going to be using the tool themselves, like on their own patients ...

