ClinicalPath

UPMC International

Exporting and standardizing an advanced approach to oncology treatment
Background:

UPMC International is a global network whose vision is to positively transform the way healthcare is provided, attracting the best physicians, nurses, researchers, and staff for the benefit of its patients and partners.

The UPMC (the University of Pittsburg Medical Center) network includes over 60 cancer centres in the U.S. and across Europe, offering quality care to more than 113,000 patients every year.

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at Villa Maria, Italy, is one such center, providing innovative radiotherapy treatments for oncology diseases. The team at Villa Maria shares daily experiences and clinical cases with the UPMC San Pietro Fatebenefratelli in Rome and UPMC in Pittsburgh.

Situation:

Core to the UPMC’s vision is an ability to deliver the same, high quality care irrespective of whether a patient be treated at the UPMC central US location, or in a facility 50 miles or 5000 miles away.

“Our goal is to ensure that physicians, regardless location, have access to the same care protocols and that these protocols are both standardized and reflective of the most current, evidence-based practice.”

states Magali Abadie, Senior Director, International Oncology Operations and Quality

This is an objective that must be achieved whilst acknowledging the challenge of international roll out and adoption, with drugs and recommended pathways varying according to geographic location.

Solution:

ClinicalPath is a solution developed by UPMC Pittsburgh and commercialized by Elsevier. As a point-of-care reference tool for oncologists, it offers evidence-based, clinical pathways for multiple disease scenarios. The solution synthesizes the most current medical evidence and expert knowledge, delivering information on treatment options based on a cancer’s staging and disease characteristics.
By enabling their cancer centres across the globe to adopt ClinicalPath, UPMC has found a means of exporting knowledge internationally, standardizing a most advanced approach to treatment irrespective of location. Access to ClinicalPath reference solution allows physicians to refer to pathways that are updated every quarter by disease committees reviewing most recent evidence.

Clinicians in Italy can now see how physicians at Hillman Cancer Center, US, treat a disease scenario and decide how to adapt in accordance with national cancer guidelines and local clinical decision making.

Benefits:

Users at UPMC Villa Maria report use of ClinicalPath multiple times a week for both standard and more complex cases.

“For standard cases we consult ClinicalPath to quickly confirm our thinking, whilst for more complex diseases we use it to acknowledge the standard and provide rationale for our treatment plan options prior to meeting with our Chief Oncology Lead in Rome or colleagues in Pittsburgh.”

states Dr. Sara Antonia Allegretta, Radiation Oncologist at Villa Maria

Features of most benefit to user at UPMC Villa Maria include:

- The ability to confirm the already known schedules (dose/fraction) or alternative schedules, in the context of delivering hypofractionated treatments.
- The TNM staging calculator providing easy access to the latest staging version, preventing physicians having to frequently search for this information.
- An ability to deliver a primary treatment option and then present an alternative treatment option depending on the disease scenario. This enables oncologists to adapt treatment to the unique cancer presentation in the context of a patient’s’ age, preferences, kidney function, etc.

Users at Villa Maria see value not only as a support to clinical decision-making but also as an aid for training, recommending to fellow oncologist and residents at the university hospitals.
Conclusion:

For Magali Abadie, the success of ClinicalPath is measured first and foremost by the physicians using the platform.

“Licensing of ClinicalPath reference solution is very much the decision of our international clinical leads. It is the physicians who are telling us just how valuable the resource is to them.”

UPMC International collates feedback every six months to ensure they deliver information resources that are of value and meet the needs of their clinicians. Feedback from Italy has been particularly positive in regard to ClinicalPath.

“ClinicalPath saves us time. It is easy to use and reduces the time spent consulting books and papers. It supports rationale for treatment plan options with supporting evidence, helping us stay abreast of latest research. Most importantly, it helps us deliver the highest standard of cancer care to all our patients.”

states Dr. Ivana Russo Radiation Oncologist, Villa Maria

To learn more or receive a free demo of ClinicalPath, please contact your local Elsevier sales consultant.