ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Five studies that illustrate how American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) initiatives are being implemented to provide quality cancer care and achieve better outcomes for patients will be presented at the 2016 Quality Care Symposium, which is being held February 26 – 27 in Phoenix. These noteworthy abstracts exemplify how ASCO-led best practices can be implemented to improve the quality of patient care.

Below are summaries of these five abstracts—which fall into three topic areas: Chemotherapy Administration and Safety Standards, Choosing Wisely, and Quality Measurement/Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)—as well as information on when and where they will be presented. Additionally, experts in quality of cancer care will be available on-site to comment on these studies.

Chemotherapy Administration and Safety Standards
Developed in partnership with the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), these standards focus on how to order, prepare, and administer chemotherapy in an outpatient setting. The standards are meant to reduce the risk of error and to assess and monitor the quality in chemotherapy administration.

Abstract 58: “Multidisciplinary optimization of oral chemotherapy delivery at the UW Carbone Cancer Center”
The University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center set out to improve its compliance with published standards for administering oral chemotherapy. By implementing key changes, which included standardizing patient and caregiver education, using information technology to standardize chemotherapy orders incorporating safety checks, and standardizing dose modification documentation, the center increased safety compliance rates across a number of key areas, including 100% compliance in identifying patients who need to receive follow-up adherence and toxicity monitoring calls.

Oral Abstract Session B: Practice of Quality
Saturday, February 27, 1:15–1:25 p.m.
Grand Sonoran Ballroom, Salon E, Poster A4

Daniel Mulkerin
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Madison, Wis.

Abstract 89: “Engagement in a statewide oral oncolytic collaborative and practice impact”
The Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium launched a statewide collaborative focused on oral oncolytic therapy management and quality improvement. For this Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan-supported quality initiative, the authors found improved concordance with ASCO QOPI and ONS national standards of care after participation in the collaborative. The authors posit that large-scale deployment of this model program may provide a clinically efficient and effective mechanism to enhance widespread change.

Emily Mackler, PharmD
Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Choosing Wisely

Choosing Wisely—an initiative created by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation and supported by more than 70 specialty society partners, including ASCO—aims to advance the national dialogue on avoiding wasteful or unnecessary medical tests, treatments, and procedures. The initiative centers around conversations between providers and patients informed by the evidence-based recommendations of Things Providers and Patients Should Question.

Abstract 196: “Measuring adherence to a Choosing Wisely recommendation in a regional oncology clinic”
The authors incorporated natural language processing (NLP)—which relates to the area of human/computer interaction—into standard data processing techniques to more efficiently evaluate a regional oncology clinic’s adherence to particular ASCO’s Choosing Wisely recommendation. A custom NLP program was designed to identify clinical notes containing relevant information, which were then manually abstracted. By singling out relevant text, the NLP program reduced the number of clinical notes requiring manual abstraction by 95%.

Kathryn S. Egan, MS
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, Wash.

Abstract 39: “Regional initiative to use data transparency to improve cancer care”
The authors demonstrate how using a transparent, multi-stakeholder approach to reporting quality and value metrics can help characterize oncology care, prioritizing areas for improvement. The Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research team constructed clinic-level adherence reports for community-prioritized quality metrics and the 2012 ASCO Choosing Wisely recommendations using a registry-claims linked database. The result was an increased demand by clinics to view their own adherence benchmarks and by community practices to compare their results against those of their peers.

Karma Kreizenbeck
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, Wash.

Quality Measurement/QOPI

ASCO’s QOPI is an oncologist-led, practice-based quality assessment program designed to promote
excellence in cancer care by helping practices create a culture of self-examination and improvement. The initiative provides a standard methodology, robust library of quality metrics for oncology, and a collection tool to reliably and routinely assess care, inform quality improvement activities, and demonstrate quality to patients and external stakeholders.

Abstract 255: “Using a collaborative approach for rapid deployment of advance care planning in the outpatient oncology setting”
The Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium launched a statewide collaborative focused on advance care planning to provide training and resources on how to engage patients in a discussion of goals, preferences, and priorities for care. For this Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan-supported quality initiative, the authors found that using learning sessions that included facilitator-led role play with patient actors and resources, such as templates and workflows to support standard work in the clinic, could be an efficient and effective approach to improve discussion and documentation of advance care planning. Improvement was notable for various QOPI performance measures, including hospice enrollment, palliative care referral/services, and documented discussion.

Poster Session B: Science of Quality
Saturday, February 27, 7–8 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Grand Canyon Ballroom, Salon 7, Poster J6

Jamie Lindsay
Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium
Ann Arbor, Mich.

About ASCO:

ASCO’s Quality Care Symposium brings together top leaders in the field to share strategies and methods for measuring and improving the quality of cancer care. This year’s Symposium will take place February 26–27, 2016, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge in Phoenix and feature more than 300 abstracts on the latest research related to quality of cancer care. On-site facilities for reporters will include a working newsroom and access to leading quality care experts.

The two-day multidisciplinary symposium is sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 40,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, which funds ground-breaking research and programs that make a tangible difference in the lives of people with cancer. For ASCO information and resources, visit www.asco.org. Patient-oriented cancer information is available at www.cancer.net.