

UPMC McKeesport

Annual Progress Report: 2010 Formula Grant

Reporting Period

January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011

Formula Grant Overview

The UPMC McKeesport received \$32,934 in formula funds for the grant award period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Accomplishments for the reporting period are described below.

Research Project 1: Project Title and Purpose

Outcomes of Disparate vs. Non-Disparate Cancer Patients Undergoing Patient Navigation - We will study the clinical and functional outcomes of cancer patients who have undergone patient navigation to better understand health disparities in a community healthcare setting. We will evaluate self-reported insurance coverage to determine socio-economic status, minority status and age to define disparate elderly populations. Navigator follow-up data will be used to assess outcomes and health status.

Anticipated Duration of Project

1/1/2011 - 6/30/2012

Project Overview

With the conclusion of our federally supported cancer patient navigation program, we have valuable data related to navigated patient populations that warrant further study and consideration. In anticipation of future studies, we modeled the navigator program as a research effort. Patients were referred by their radiation oncologist or medical oncologist, or by self referral and all patients requesting services were consented. Within this population are medically underserved and non-medically underserved patient populations and it is our plan to study differences (if any) in outcomes between these two groups. If subgroup size permits statistical analysis, we will control for disease site and stage.

Principal Investigator

Dwight E. Heron, MD
Vice Chairman, Radiation Oncology
UPMC
Cancer Pavilion, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Other Participating Researchers

None

Expected Research Outcomes and Benefits

We expect to see differences between disparate cancer patient populations who have been navigated. Primarily we expect patients from traditionally medically underserved populations to present with later stage disease and to have poorer outcomes. However, it is not expected that these differences will be very significant. We anticipate patients without health insurance to also have presented with later stage disease and with poorer outcomes upon follow up.

This study will serve to define a community population and make a comparison to underserved status and health outcomes. Since our population is confined to the community it is a rare opportunity to report these phenomena that we believe are typical for community healthcare sites, as opposed to existing data reported by large academic institutions.

Summary of Research Completed

During the initial phase of the project we have evaluated the three data sets from the three navigated sites (UPMC Mercy, UPMC New Castle/Jameson Memorial Hospital and UPMC McKeesport). The data on hand have been cleaned via an honest broker system and it will be necessary to obtain original identifiable data to determine status of the navigated cancer patients. There are also slight variances related to the record keeping that will require extensive cleaning; however, a more efficient approach may be to work with the data sets separately. An aggressive strategy is being formulated to approach this effort over the next six months.