Measuring What Matters: Quantifying The Activity Of A Radiotherapy Nurse

Esther Yeoman
Clinical Nurse Consultant

Epworth Radiation Oncology
What to expect?

• Set the scene
• Department overview
• Method
• Results
• Discussion & next steps
Setting the scene...
Roles & Responsibilities…

- Education
- Management & Prevention of Toxicities
- Supportive Care
- Referral
- Care Coordination
- Rehabilitation and late effects
- Research
- Administering Radiotherapy
Epworth Radiation Oncology

• Operational since March 2012
• Two sites: Richmond and East Melbourne
• EBRT, Stereotactic Radiosurgery, Brachytherapy
• Multidisciplinary Team
• Research and Clinical Trials
• Outpatient Clinics
• Paperless department: Aria© Patient Information System

150 New patients/month
2000 Treatments delivered/month
The Patient Experience...

- Day 1 education session
- Tailored care plan
- Supportive care referral pathways
- Weekly nursing review
- End of treatment session
- Additional support as required
Project Aims

Track nurse activity

• Identify core clinical/non-clinical activities
• Quantify time spent performing core activities
• Process of discussion and evaluation
• Planning next steps
Method...

• Focus Group
• Activity tracking using Aria©
• 4 Week period
• Generate activity reports
• Analysis
Tools

• **Varian Medical Systems ARIA©: Oncology Patient Management System**
  - Paperless system
  - Complete Electronic Medical Record
  - Scheduling, prescribing, planning, appointment generator, documentation, communication and task generator

• **x1 Dedicated CNS**
  - Full time
  - Four week period
Timplanner

Dressing

Initial Nursing Review

End of treatment Review
Activity groupings…

- Initial Nursing Review
- Weekly Reviews
- Additional Review
- Clinical Trial Reviews
- End of Treatment Review
- Dressings

- Medication Administration
- Clinical Care
- Bed Transfers
- Phone Calls
- Administration
Results

Nursing Administration: 19.4
Weekly Nursing Review: 16.1
Initial Nursing Assessments: 15.7
Phone Call Liaison: 11.8
Meetings: 10
Additional Nursing Review: 9.2
End Of Treatment Review: 7.8
Dressings: 6.7
Results

42% Clinical
58% Non Clinical
What are the ‘core clinical activities’?

**INITIAL NURSING ASSESSMENT**
- Patient education
- Eliciting key clinical information
- Development of care plans

**WEEKLY REVIEW**
- Nursing assessment
- Toxicity grading
- Symptom management
- Clinical care
- Education and advice

**END OF TREATMENT REVIEW**
- Education and information
- Care coordination
- Referrals
- Symptom management
- Care plan development

49% overall
The unexpected!

Additional nursing reviews

- Acute care
  - Emergency presentations
  - Deteriorating patients
  - Arranging admissions
- Symptom management
  - Pain control
  - Site specific toxicities
- Information and support
  - Counseling
  - Provision of education material
  - Supporting families
- Initiating referrals
  - Community care
  - Palliative care
  - Support organizations

9% overall

11 minutes
Non clinical...

Administration
• Documenting Nursing Assessments
• Documenting Review outcomes
• Developing Care Plans
• Referrals
• Preparing Education Paperwork

Phone calls/Emails
• Patients
• Radiation Oncologists
• Patient Coordination

Meetings
• Training & development
• Project work
• Unit meetings

42% overall
Discussion...
Results on average...

• **New Starts**: 25 min/episode
• **Weekly Review**: 10 min/episode
• **End of Treatment Review**: 12 min/episode
• **Additional Review**: 11 min/episode
• **Patients by nurse/day**: 12 pts
• **Non Clinical Activity**: >150 min/day
Are we doing it the right way?

You seem to be very well educated on stuff that you made up.
Education & Training…

Australia
• Short Courses
• eviQ online training modules
• (watch this space…)

Internationally
• Online Certificate & Education Manual

‘On the job’ training
Next steps?

- How can we support nursing research in RT
- What is best practice
- What are our standards of care
- Can we improve education and training
- How best to promote RT as a specialty field
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