



Understanding the Role of the Oncology Advanced Practice Providers in Prescribing Anti-Cancer Therapies and Related Privileging Practices



¹Archana Ajmera, ²Christa Braun-Inglis, ³Leigh Boehmer, ⁴Brianna Hoffner, ⁴Wendy Vogel, ¹Rana R. McKay

¹University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA; ²University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Honolulu, HI; ³Association of Community Cancer Centers, Rockville, MD; ⁴Advanced Practitioner Society for Hematology and Oncology, Lawrenceville, NJ

Background

- Oncology Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) include Nurse Practitioners (NP), Physician Assistants (PA), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), and Pharmacists, all of whom work in collaboration with physicians to provide high quality, specialized care.
- While APPs are integral members of the oncology care team, there is limited data on their role in prescribing anti-cancer therapies.
- By understanding the current state of APP privileging and cancer therapy prescribing practices across the US through a prospective web-based national survey, we have the potential to uniformly expand the scope of APP services and improve access to safe and efficient care.

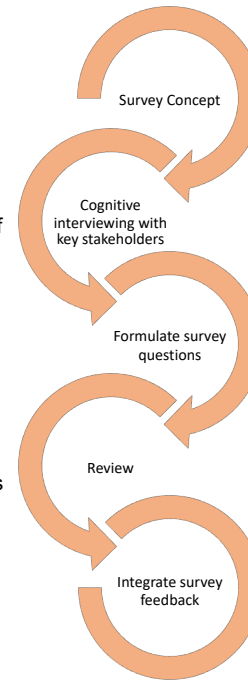
Objectives

Primary: To understand APPs' roles and operational workflows for prescribing anti-cancer therapies and related privileging process(es), if any, in both academic and community oncology practice settings.

Secondary: To understand the competency and ongoing evaluation process for privileging APPs to prescribe anti-cancer therapies.

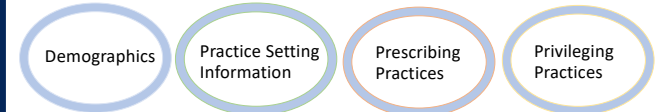
Methods

- Cognitive interviewing was performed with key APP informants to iteratively formulate final survey questions
- IRB approval obtained through UCSD
- From October – November 2022, a 38-question survey will be distributed nationally via email to approximately 6,000 APPs, including NP, PA, CNS, and Pharmacists who are members of either Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) or Advanced Practitioner Society for Hematology and Oncology (APSHO) that practice in academic or community oncology settings.
- The participants will be contacted using known email addresses within organizational membership databases
- The national survey will have a target accrual of 2,400 survey responses and the results will serve as benchmark data for understanding current privileging and prescribing practices among community and academic centers



Results

- The survey questions address the following domains:



- There will be prospective practice implications from survey results, specifically the development of future educational content, advocacy efforts, and support for practices nationally through best practice models.

Conclusions

- Oncology APP privileging and prescribing data is primarily limited to case reports, experiential presentations, and editorials.
- This UCSD IRB approved project will catalog current practices for credentialing oncology APPs to prescribe anti-cancer therapies.
- We will aggregate and analyze the data with a goal of drafting several abstracts and a manuscript for submission to a high impact oncology journal.
- Data will be utilized to identify best privileging and practice models to develop national standardized APP education.
- This project demonstrates a successful example of a multi-organizational collaboration, beginning with an individual APP-led research initiative, and evolving into a national survey of oncology APPs to understand privileging and prescribing practices of anti-cancer therapies.

Author Contact Information

Archana Ajmera, MSN, ANP-BC, AOCNP
 University of California San Diego
aaajmera@health.ucsd.edu
 Twitter: @archana_ajmera

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