



Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy
Division of Public Health Sciences

Submitted by:

Lynne Wagner, Ph.D.

Wake Forest School of Medicine

525 Vine St. Suite 4100

Winston Salem, NC 27101

Office: (336) 713-1478

Email: lywagner@wakehealth.edu

Date of request: December 21, 2016

NCCN Guidelines Panel: Distress Management Panel

Dear NCCN Distress Management Panel members,

On behalf of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG, now NRG Oncology) trial 0841 study team, I respectfully request the NCCN Distress Management Panel to review the attached publication for inclusion in the panel's review of recommended procedures for distress screening.

Specific Changes: Update guidelines to recommend the administration of a brief measure of depression, in addition to the NCCN Distress Thermometer as a tool to screen for distress.

FDA Clearance: Not applicable.

Rationale:

As described in the publication submitted with this letter (Wagner et al. Cancer, 2017), we conducted a large trial to evaluate tools for screening for mood disorders among outpatients receiving radiotherapy for cancer. We administered several depression screening measures and used the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID) to define "caseness" with regard to the presence of current mood disorders. We found that the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) 2-item scale had good psychometric properties (sensitivity and specificity) for screening for mood disorders and was equivalent to the longer PHQ-9 item version. We also found that the NCCN Distress Thermometer (NCCN-DT) did not adequately detect cancer survivors with mood disorders. Based on this finding, we respectfully ask the NCCN Distress Management Panel to update recommendations to include a brief depression screening measure in addition to the NCCN-DT for psychosocial distress screening.

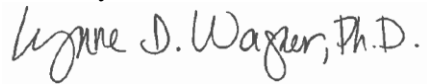
The following articles are submitted in support of this proposed change:

Wagner, L.I., Pugh, S.L., Small, W., Kirshner, J., Sidhu, K., Bury, M.J., DeNittis, A.S., Alpert, T.E., Tran, B., Bloom, B.F., Mai, J., Yeh, A., Sarma, K., Becker, M., James, J., & Bruner, D.B. (2017). Screening for depression in cancer patients receiving radiotherapy: Feasibility and identification of effective tools in the NRG Oncology RTOG 0841 trial. *Cancer*, 123: 485-493.

Penedo, F.J. & Cella, D. Responding to the quality imperative to embed mental health care into ambulatory oncology. (2017). *Cancer*, 123: 382-386.

As a prior member of the NCCN Distress Management Panel, I gratefully acknowledge contributions of panel members to improving psychosocial care in oncology and wish to thank the panel for reviewing this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne I. Wagner, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue rectangular highlight behind it.

Lynne I. Wagner, Ph.D.

Professor

Director of Research and Clinical Integration, Cancer Prevention and Control, Wake Forest
Comprehensive Cancer Center

