

National Cancer Institute Environmental Scan Radiation Oncologist Discussion Guide

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INTRODUCTION FOR RESPONDENTS

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in this discussion. My name is ____ and I work for a third-party marketing company called Heartbeat. We are conducting an interview on behalf of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to better understand the available types of cancer-related information as well as the most helpful ways of sharing this information.

The focus of today's call is to understand the type of cancer information you look for in the course of your work, where you look to find it, and how you access it.

Before we start, can you please confirm that you received the image that was sent to you prior to this call? Secondly, how do you like to be referred to? As Dr. ____?

Here are some things to know before we get started:

- This interview will last about 30-45 minutes.
- Participation is voluntary and there are no penalties for not participating or withdrawing at any time. Refusal to participate will not affect your benefits in any way.
- The information collected will be kept private to the extent provided by law. Names and other identifiers will not appear in any report. Information provided will be combined for all participants and reported as summaries.
- We will be recording audio from the interview. Only Heartbeat and NCI staff who are associated with this project will hear the recording, and we will not include your name or personal information in the recording. The recordings are a memory aid for me so I can go back later to recall what happened during each interview. Are you okay if we record this conversation? *(If yes, start recording. If no, do not record.)*
- Some people from my team and from the NCI may be listening in remotely to take notes and record your comments. Your honest and candid feedback will be very valuable, so even though people may be listening in, please speak openly about your opinions and experiences. There are no wrong responses to the questions I'll be asking.
- If you do not want to answer any of my questions, you do not have to. Please just say so, and we will move on. And of course, you can stop at any time.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

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Warm Up Question

Can you please tell us a little about your practice?

Seeking Content/Information Questions

1. Can you explain your role as it relates to providing care to cancer patients?
 - Probe: What is your role in the treatment of patients with cancer? What is your role in terms of managing treatment-related side effects?
2. What type of cancer information do you typically look for related to your work?
 - Probe: disease education, treatment information, clinical trial data, new treatments (biological imaging for individualized therapy, new radiation delivery methods, etc.), cutting-edge technology (AI, Machine Learning), when caring for patients, guidelines such as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) or the recommendations from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO).
 - Which resources, if any, are you required to use by your institution?
 - Probe: Why are you looking for this information? Are you looking to augment your own knowledge; support decision making; educate/engage patients; help your support staff, keep up-to-date on the latest research?
 - Probe: What are the biggest gaps in terms of finding this information?
3. What trusted sources (websites, books, databases, conferences etc.) do you go to for this information?
 - Probe: Specifically, on digital sources, what kind of devices do you use to access cancer information (e.g., smart phones, desktop, tablet, etc.)?
 - Probe: What makes these sources “trusted”?

(Patient Focused) Seeking Content/Information Questions

4. In your interactions with patients and their caregivers, what kinds of questions do they most often ask?
 - Probe: At what point in the cancer journey are these questions being asked?
5. What do you find to be the most effective ways for providing information to patients and caregivers (e.g., during your appointments, from your staff when patients are in the office, via email, via print materials, via phone, on your organization’s website, directing them to websites, use of a patient portal, etc.)?
 - Probe: How is this information being used in discussions with your patients?
 - Probe: Can you give me more context about when you look up information for your patients – how do you search for that kind of information? Do you have a “go to” resource you use or is it more on a “case by case” basis? At what point during your interaction with the patient (before, during or after) do you search for this information?
6. Where do you see the biggest gaps in terms of educational or support information for patients and caregivers?

Cancer.gov and PDQ Familiarity

Cancer.gov

7. Are you familiar with Cancer.gov? [If not, skip to Question 9.]
 - Probe: Can you please open the file that was sent to you prior to this call? Is this the website you were referring to in your previous response?
 - Probe: Do you consider Cancer.gov to be a trusted source of information?
8. What do you use Cancer.gov for?
 - Probe: What prompts you to use it?
 - Probe: credibility, trustworthiness, comprehensiveness

PDQ

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9. Are you familiar with PDQ (Physician Data Query)? [If not, skip to Question 11.]
10. What do you use PDQ for?
 - Probe: What prompts you to use it?
 - Probe: How are you using the information?
 - Probe: Are there specific cancer types that would garner more PDQ use than others?
 - Probe: credibility, trustworthiness, comprehensiveness, evidence-based site

Future Engagement Methods and Technologies

11. What technologies have you adopted into your practice in the past couple of years?
 - Probe: EHR, telehealth, wearables for patients, virtual assistant
 - Probe: Do you consider yourself an early adopter or do you tend to stick with technologies you already know?

Closing Question

12. What else would you like to share about accessing or using cancer information?

Thank you for your time, this now concludes the interview. Your answers are very helpful and will be used in the analysis phase. Have a good day.