

Debbie Devitt

Patient Education Lead

Biography

Debbie Devitt is the Regional Patient Education Lead for the Central East Regional Cancer Program and has been in the role of Patient Experience Lead at the Durham Regional Cancer Centre since 2013. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree and national certification in both oncology and palliative care. Debbie has certification from the Michener Institute in Plain Language for Patient/Public Health Communication as well as a green belt in Lean Healthcare.

Debbie has been with Lakeridge Health since 1986. She was with the Palliative Care Program at the Durham Regional Cancer Centre/Lakeridge Health for over 20 years. For 11 of these years, Debbie was in a Consultant role with the Regional Palliative Care Program. In this role, Debbie organized and facilitated numerous courses and workshops in palliative and end of life care as well as organized two annual conferences. Debbie worked closely with the Regional Palliative Care Physician Lead to co-facilitate the Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative and End of Life Program (LEAP). She was involved in the development of an oncology course at Ontario Tech University and a palliative care certificate program at Durham College. Debbie continues to co-facilitate the oncology course at Ontario Tech.

In her regional role as the Patient Education Lead, Debbie has developed a patient education framework to support the standardization of education delivered to patients at the Durham Regional Cancer Centre. She is an active member on Ontario Health's (Cancer Care Ontario) committees for Patient Education, Patient Experience and Engagement and the Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative.

Topics

- Patient experience and engagement
 - Patient education
 - Symptom Management
 - Survivorship
 - Palliative Care
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Availability

- Keynote
 - Moderator
 - Panelist
 - Workshop Leader
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Recent Presentations

Life After Cancer Treatment/Survivorship: Resources and Support for Patients and Families.
Durham Regional Cancer Centre Grand Rounds – May 2015

Survivorship – Common Concerns: An Interactive Discussion. Central East Regional Cancer Program. 2nd Annual Cancer CME for Family Physicians and other Primary Care Provider. The Prostate Cancer Journey: From Prevention to Survivorship. December 2014

Meeting the Unmet Needs of the Cancer Patient – Durham Regional Cancer Centre Grand Rounds. July 2014

Multidisciplinary Case Study Rounds – co-presented with Vanessa Barisic, Clinical Education Leader for Radiation Therapy. 2012 to 2014

Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative and End of Life Care – Co-facilitator for the CME accredited course offered in the CE LHIN. 2009-2013

CAPCE, AHPCE, Fundamentals of Hospice Palliative Care – Facilitator of the provincially recognized standardized palliative care certificate programs. 2009-2013

Palliative Care in the CE LHIN – Durham Regional Cancer Centre Grand Rounds. 2013

Evolution of Opioids and Responsible Prescribing for Palliative Care – co-presented with Dr. Howard Burke at the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care National Conference. October 2013

Improving the Quality of Patient Care Through Optimal Symptom Management – A presentation provided to community partners at the CECCAC and at the Regional Cancer Program partner sites. March/June 2013

Is it Really a Circle of Care or Is it More Like a Square of Care? – presented at the Rouge Valley Healthcare Board Retreat. September 2011

Is it Really a Circle of Care or Is it More Like a Square of Care? – presented at the CE LHIN Symposium. May 2011

Research

Publications

Bak, Kate; Macdougall, Laura; Green, Esther; Moody, Lesley; Obarski, Genevieve; Hale, Lori; Boyko, Susan; and Devitt, Deborah (2014) "Hindsight is 20/20: Lessons learned after implementing experience based design," *Patient Experience Journal*: Vol. 1: Iss. 2, Article 5. Available at: <http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol1/iss2/5>