

Ovarian Cancer Demonstration Project: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



Ovarian Cancer Facts

Ovarian cancer is the **5th** leading cause of cancer deaths¹ and the **1st** cause of gynecologic cancer death in the U.S.²

Nationally

- The incidence of ovarian cancer is **9.8 per 100,000** women.^{3,4}
- The mortality rate of ovarian cancer is **6.3 per 100,000** women.³
- There are approximately **1,218** practicing gynecologic oncologists, approximately **9.3 per million** women, ages 18 and older.^{5,6}

Treatment by gynecologic oncologists increases overall survival among women with ovarian cancer.⁸ To increase survival from ovarian cancer, CDC funded a demonstration project to build evidence for strategies. The project focused on strategies to increase knowledge and awareness of gynecologic oncologists' role in ovarian cancer treatment and to increase receipt of ovarian cancer care by a gynecologic oncologist. The

Michigan

- The incidence of ovarian cancer is **8.6 per 100,000** women.³
- The mortality rate of ovarian cancer is **6.2 per 100,000** women.³
- There are approximately **35** practicing gynecologic oncologists, approximately **8.7 per million** women, ages 18 and older.⁷

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was one of three National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program awardees chosen for this project.

Implementation Activities

MDHHS and its partners used three approaches across two strategies to increase receipt of care by a gynecologic oncologist among women diagnosed with or suspected of having ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer Demonstration Project: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



Strategy 1: Increasing Knowledge and Awareness of the Role and Importance of Gynecologic Oncologists

Provider Education



Provider Checklist [PDF 525KB] (<https://www.moqc.org/wp-content/uploads/MOQC-OCChecklistDoctor.pdf>)

Description

This checklist provides primary care physicians and obstetrician-gynecologists (OB/GYNs) with recommended diagnostic tests and steps for making a referral to a gynecologic oncologist when a patient is suspected of having or has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Partners

- Michigan Oncology Quality Consortium (MOQC)

Evaluation Methods & Findings

- Gathered providers' feedback during practice quality initiative meetings.
- Presented the final checklist and information about the importance of referring to a gynecologic oncologist at a surgical practice meeting.
- From October to December 2020, the checklist was downloaded 11 times.

Patient Education



Ovarian Cancer Patient Checklist [PDF 868KB] (<https://www.moqc.org/wp-content/uploads/MOQC-OCChecklist-Patients.pdf>)

Description

This checklist is for patients suspected of having or newly diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Patients complete the checklist with their health care team as they navigate ovarian cancer testing, care, and treatment.

Partners

- MOQC
- Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MIOCA)

Evaluation Methods & Findings

- Conducted 5 focus groups with 32 ovarian cancer survivors in May and August 2020.
 - Received positive feedback when asked if the checklist would encourage patients to seek a referral to a gynecologic oncologist.
 - Feedback was used to create a companion resource, *Roadmap for Ovarian Cancer*, to explain testing and treatment terms.
- From October to December 2020, the checklist was downloaded 21 times.

Ovarian Cancer Demonstration Project: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



Roadmap for Ovarian Cancer [PDF192.8KB] (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/ARoadMapforOvarianCancer_707815_7.pdf)

Description

This resource document provides information for newly diagnosed patients about the importance of getting treatment from a gynecologic oncologist. A community scan and focus group feedback shaped its development.

Partners

- MOQC
- MIOCA

Evaluation Methods & Findings

- From November to December 2020, the document was downloaded 20 times.



Ovarian Cancer Education Podcast Series (<https://www.moqc.org/initiatives/gynecologic-oncology/ovarian-cancer-education-podcasts/>)

Description

This podcast series of two episodes—**New Diagnosis** and **Treatment Options**—helps physicians and patients connect, share stories and knowledge, and learn from each other about ovarian cancer. MDHHS and MOQC plan to continue adding episodes to this series.

Partners

- MOQC

Evaluation Methods & Findings

- From October to December 2020, the **New Diagnosis** podcast episode was downloaded 108 times.
- In December 2020, the **Treatment Options** podcast episode was downloaded 24 times.

Strategy 2: Improving Models of Care

Patient Navigation



Patient Navigation Manual for a Toll-Free Line Monitored by a Nurse Navigator*

Description

A patient navigation manual, specifically for ovarian cancer, created to work with MDHHS's existing patient navigation system. The manual helps patient navigators connect women diagnosed with or at high risk for ovarian cancer to a gynecologic oncologist in the state and provide callers with ovarian cancer resources.

Partners

- MOQC
- MIOCA

Evaluation Methods & Findings

- From October to December 2020, two patients with ovarian cancer called the patient navigation system seeking assistance.

*For information about the development of Michigan's patient navigation manual, please contact Debbie Webster, BSN, RN, LMSW, Cancer Patient Navigation Consultant, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, WebsterD1@Michigan.gov.

Ovarian Cancer Demonstration Project: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Considerations for Others Seeking to Implement Michigan's Strategies for Increasing Receipt of Care by a Gynecologic Oncologist

- **Include partners early in the project planning process.** MDHHS worked closely with MOQC and MIOCA to plan, implement, and evaluate strategies. This approach ensured that all partners were aware of each others' roles and expectations and helped them plan for strategy sustainability.
- **Consider virtual focus groups.** Switching from in-person to virtual focus groups allowed MDHHS to implement its planned strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach allowed for including individuals who live in rural areas or for whom transportation is a barrier.
- **Test materials with members of the priority population.** MDHHS and its partners recruited health care providers and ovarian cancer survivors to get feedback on their education materials. Their feedback helped to clarify content and guide formatting revisions to make the materials more user-friendly. This helped MDHHS communicate its messages to audiences as intended.

¹American Cancer Society. About Ovarian Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8773.00.pdf>. Last revised January 12, 2021.

²American Cancer Society. Key Statistics for Ovarian Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/ovarian-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>. Last revised January 12, 2018.

³U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute, U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2020 submission data (1999–2018); www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in June 2021.

⁴Incidence and death rates are per 100,000 women, all ages, all races/ethnicities

⁵Foundation for Women's Cancer. Seek a Specialist. <https://specialist.foundationforwomenscancer.org/>

⁶U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate Detailed Tables, Total Population of United States. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Populations%20and%20People&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S0101&hidePreview=true>

⁷U.S. Census Bureau. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate Detailed Tables, Total Population of Michigan. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Populations%20and%20People&g=0400000US26&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S0101&hidePreview=true>

⁸National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on the State of the Science in Ovarian Cancer Research; Board on Health Care Services; Institute of Medicine. Ovarian Cancers: Evolving Paradigms in Research and Care. National Academies Press (U.S.); 2016.