Study Title: The Supportive Care Needs Survey for Partners and Caregivers of Cancer Survivors: Development and Psychometric Evaluation

Brief description of the study: The purpose of this study was to describe the development and begin psychometric testing of a novel tool designed to capture the multi-dimensional needs of partners/caregivers of individuals diagnosed with cancer: the Supportive Care Needs Survey - Partners and Caregivers (SCNS-P&C). Draft SCNS-P&C items were developed with reference to the literature and existing instruments and reviewed for face and content validity. The final SCNS-P&C was then completed by 547 cancer caregivers. Psychometric analyses conducted included principal factor analysis, internal consistency, and construct validity. Factor analysis revealed four domains of needs: Health Care Service Needs, Psychological and Emotional Needs, Work and Social Needs, and Information Needs, with Cronbach’s alpha coefficients ranging from 0.88-0.94. Construct validity of the SCNS-P&C was partially supported. A greater proportion of younger participants experienced at least one unmet moderate or high need within the Psychological and Emotional Needs and Work and Social Needs domains. Proportion of reported unmet needs varied across cancer types for the Health Care Service Needs and Information Needs domains. In addition, across all domains, individuals with anxiety or depression were more likely to report at least one unmet moderate or high need in comparison to non-anxious or non-depressed participants. The SCNS-P&C has the potential to comprehensively assess the range of caregivers’ supportive care needs, across the illness trajectory. Analyses supported the tool’s internal consistency and construct validity. The SCNS-P&C can be used by researchers and clinicians to determine caregivers’ unmet needs, prioritize health care resources and tailor supportive cancer care services accordingly.

Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)

- Epidemiology
- Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
- Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive [X]
- Mixed Method
- Systematic Review
- Intervention: RCT
- Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
- Intervention: Case series

Project details:

Funding source (Optional): Cancer Council NSW and Hunter Medical Research Institute

Has the study received ethics approval? [X] Yes  No  Not applicable

As part of the Partners and Caregivers Study

Project starting date:  February 2010

Project completion date:  February 2010

Multi site:  Yes  No  [X] Not applicable

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| **Investigator D (Name)** |  
| **Investigator E (Name)** |  
| **Associated publications / reports:** Girgis, A., Lambert, S., Lecathelinais, C. (2010). *The Supportive Care Needs Survey for Partners and Caregivers of Cancer Survivors: Development and Psychometric Evaluation*. Psycho-oncology. Accepted 09/02/10  
| **Topics (Admin only)** | Caregivers, cancer and cancer care |