

IMPLEMENTING A VIRTUAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TUMOR BOARD FOR RURAL VETERANS

KIM JONES, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ONCOLOGY COORDINATOR

VA NORTH TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

DALLAS, TEXAS

PURPOSE

- To improve access to specialized comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation for cancer patients by implementing a multidisciplinary virtual tumor board (VTB) between an urban VA facility and one serving more rural veterans.

BACKGROUND

- Tumor boards are forums to discuss best treatment options (Gross, 1986)
- More likely to have comprehensive treatment (Pillay et al., 2016)



METHODS

- Implementation of a biweekly VTB for GI malignancies
- Interfacility consult to refer patients
- Referring provider will present case
- VTB recommendations will be entered in the shared EHR.



RESULTS



- Reimbursement- \$387
- Distance – 950 miles
- Additional cost savings - \$227/day ([gsa.gov](https://www.gsa.gov))

RESULTS

- “This went much better than I anticipated. I think this really has potential.”
- “Could we expand this to other services and cancer types? I would love to participate.”

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE



- Potential for full implementation
- Expansion to other sites
- Other tumor boards

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