Daring Greatly in the Field

Medical physicists should meet with patients.

Medical physicists don’t talk to patients!
Learn from Our Patients

More patients are searching for ways to be involved in their care

Online patient information is too complex for the general population

Patient related distress can negatively impact outcomes following radiation therapy

Learn from Radiation Oncologists

Faced a dilemma of clinical practice in the latter half of last century

Often viewed merely as technicians treating referrals

Began to participate in tumor boards, multidisciplinary clinics, etc.

Transformed from radiotherapist to radiation oncologist

Physics Direct Patient Care Initiative

Establish an independent professional relationship with the patient

Take ownership of all technical aspects related to the patient’s care

Meet with the patient at regularly scheduled appointments

Initially assess the impact this has on patient anxiety and satisfaction

Lay the groundwork for future innovations and patient responsibilities
Clinical Trial

Pilot
Determine:
- Interaction Time Points
- Clinical Workflow
- Patient Materials
- Data Collection

Phase II
Assess:
- Feasibility
- Patient Anxiety
- Patient Satisfaction
- 10 Patients
- No Randomization

Phase III
Assess:
- Patient Anxiety & Satisfaction
- Patient Health Literacy
- Physician/Physician Time
- 100 Patients
- Randomization

Collaborators
- Derek Brown, PhD
- Kevin Moore, PhD
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- James Murphy, MD
- Todd Pawlicki, PhD
- A.J. Mundt, MD

Clinical Trial
HRPP #161700X

Publications
1. “Care for Patients, Not for Charts: A Future for Clinical Medical Physics”
2. “Establishing a New Clinical Role for Medical Physicists: A Prospective Phase II Trial”
3. “A Program to Train Medical Physicists for Direct Patient Care Responsibilities”

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