

Journal Watch – Program Admin; Automatic Referrals - December 2017

Article:

Automatic referral to standardize palliative care access: an international Delphi survey

Hui, D., Mori, M., Meng, YC. et al. Support Care Cancer (2018) 26: 175.

Article link: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-017-3830-5>

Review:

Strengths: - Early referral to palliative care services is very topical. This Delphi study provides some insight into the challenges of applying this concept and a useful discussion of the potential solutions.

Weaknesses: - In addition to the limitations described in the manuscript the inclusion of “may” in the first 8 questions could be a source of bias. A stronger statement such as using the word “will” could produce different results.

Relevance: - Palliative care services in all locations (not just Outpatient clinics) are challenged by this research to consider how they could introduce screening criteria to encourage more appropriate use of and access to specialist palliative care services.