Pain & Symptom Resources - CancerCare Manitoba

ON CALL SERVICE:

A Pain & Symptom physician is available via telephone to aid in pain and symptom management during normal business hours from Monday through Friday. The main purpose of this service is to give "over the phone" consultation in a timely manner to members of the health care teams who are caring for cancer patients with significant symptom issues related to their cancer or cancer treatment. To access the Pain & Symptom physician on call phone: 204-237-2033.

REFERRAL PROCESS:

Referrals to the Pain & Symptom clinics are sent through the Referral Office. They are prioritized according to urgency.

REFERRAL CRITERIA:

In order to meet the needs of patients with significant pain and symptoms, the referral process of cancer patients to the Pain & Symptom clinics has become more efficient. The following criteria have been developed to guide the referral process:

1) Patients must have symptoms caused by cancer or cancer treatment.

   - Patients with chronic pain not related to cancer or cancer treatment should be referred directly to the WRHA Chronic Pain Clinic

2) Patients with predominantly **NOCICEPTIVE PAIN** should have tried a strong opioid prior to referral

   - Nociceptive pain = pain from bone or visceral metastases
   - Strong opioids = morphine, hydromorphone, oxycodone, or fentanyl

3) Patients with predominantly **NEUROPATHIC PAIN** should have tried a first line neuropathic pain agent prior to referral

   - Neuropathic Pain = pain caused by direct involvement of the nervous system (i.e. chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy)
   - First line neuropathic agent = tricyclic / SNRI antidepressant or gabapentin

Please note: *There may be some patients who do not fit these criteria, but would still benefit from assessment in the Pain & Symptom Clinic. If this is the case, please contact one of the Pain & Symptom Disease Site Group members to discuss prior to referral.*

Revised: April 2014