



SMaRRT-HD™

Comparative Effectiveness of Two Approaches to Symptom Monitoring in Hemodialysis

APRIL 2023 • ISSUE 02

Stakeholder Panel Meeting

In February, we held the first SMaRRT-HD Stakeholder Panel Meeting in Chapel Hill, NC. Thank you to everyone who attended! We are grateful for the insightful feedback and thoughtful discussions and heartened by the connections that were made. Your contributions to this study are invaluable, and the SMaRRT-HD team is excited to incorporate what we learned from you into study planning. We look forward to continuing to learn from you on our journey to uncovering how we can better monitor and treat dialysis-related symptoms. Thank you for your involvement!



Stakeholder suggestion

Responsive change

Patients: Make a study video featuring patients talking about their experiences with symptoms and why this research is important; include a researcher explaining the study



Produced study video, starring project patient stakeholders, to gain buy-in and build research capacity

Clinic Personnel: Use frequent, short clinic "touches" at key times to keep clinics engaged



Offer near-daily telephone-based "huddles" with interested clinic managers

Patients: Increase font size, add icons/pictures, enhance white space to increase readability of Study Fact Sheet



Revised Fact Sheets to incorporate input

Stakeholder Comments

“Treating us all as equal participants, valuing contributions. I appreciated the assigned seating that facilitated informal chats and networking.”

“Develop SMarRT-HD system trainings in webinar, written, and video formats - appeal to different learning styles.”

“Great info ahead of the meeting. Amazing group of stakeholders and a team dedicated to change for improvement.”

“[The study team] made all stakeholders feel heard/valued by asking probing questions.”

What does SMarRT-HD mean to you?



Stakeholder Spotlight

For the past 23 years I have been a Registered Dietitian at Northwest Kidney Centers in Seattle, where outpatient dialysis started a short 61 years ago. This has allowed me to work alongside amazing patients, coworkers and doctors who have innovated in the fields of research and bioethics and furthered the science surrounding kidney disease.

I was thrilled to meet so many of you at the February meeting. Meeting in person reminded me how much more powerful it is to connect with others face-to-face (even briefly). The collective knowledge and experience that each person brought to the table showed a well thought out team approach.



What excites you most about the SMaRRT-HD Study?

- What I was most delighted about for SMaRRT-HD is the hopes that it will show how to amplify the voices of the patients to share how they are feeling. Then we can use this tool to measure if we are hearing and responding appropriately. This (in my mind) is research supporting patient centered care at its best.

What inspires you?

- I am inspired every day by the patients who show up three times a week for what amounts to a part-time job they never wanted nor applied for. Being a part of their lives whether its before transplant or at the end of their days remains an honor and a privilege. So many stories and tears and laughter shared every day.

Welcome to the Team

Cassandra (Cassie) Bowman is a Research Project Manager at UNC who joined the SMaRRT-HD team in January. Cassie manages all research operations for the SMaRRT-HD study. She will serve as the primary contact for clinic managers, oversee study operations, and will guide stakeholder engagement. Cassie has a Master of Science degree in Healthcare Administration and over 6 years of experience working on chronic kidney disease (CKD) related studies.

“I am excited about the SMaRRT-HD study because it puts patients at the forefront of this research. We need more studies that encourage patients to ask questions, talk with their physicians, and be empowered to play a more active role in their treatment and overall health. I think the SMaRRT-HD Study has the potential to change how patients interact with their care teams and how patients and physicians monitor dialysis-related symptoms. I’m looking forward to working with all the groups involved in this important study!”



Upcoming Activities

Optimization Phase: Planned for June 2023, the SMarRT-HD Study optimization phase will uncover ways we can improve study implementation processes to increase the potential for successful roll-out of the randomized phase of the Study. We will ask patients and clinic personnel how we can improve study training materials, the SMarRT-HD system, and our communication with patients and clinic personnel. We look forward to sharing our learnings with you in future newsletters.

Stakeholder Panel Meeting #2: The next stakeholder panel meeting will be virtual and will take place in the fall. Stay tuned for scheduling information.

Community News & Resources

Publication:

Basch E, Rocque G, Mody G, Mullangi S, Patt D. Tenets for Implementing Electronic Patient-Reported Outcomes for Remote Symptom Monitoring During Cancer Treatment. *JCO Clin Cancer Inform.* 2023 Feb;7:e2200187. doi: [10.1200/CCI.22.00187](https://doi.org/10.1200/CCI.22.00187). PMID: 36857630.

In July 2023, the use of electronic patient-reported outcomes (ePROs) will become required in oncology practice as part of a new payment model. There is strong evidence showing that ePRO-based symptom monitoring during chemotherapy treatment can improve outcomes for individuals with advanced cancers. This article summarizes best practices for implementing ePRO symptom monitoring systems in cancer. We aim to incorporate these practices into our implementation of the SMarRT-HD system in dialysis care.

Best practices for implementing symptom ePRO systems in cancer

- 1. PRO survey selection** - Surveys should use tested sources for questions, and include outcomes that are meaningful and actionable. Surveys should be brief if frequently administered.
- 2. Alert notifications** - Alert notifications for symptoms that reach certain thresholds of severity or are worsening should be sent to care teams.
- 3. Staffing** - Designated staff should educate and provide technical assistance to patients. Discussing the value of the ePRO system can increase staff engagement and enthusiasm.
- 4. Engaging patients** - Clinical teams should talk with patients about the importance of the ePRO system and encourage patients to participate.
- 5. Equity** - All patients should be invited to participate and, when necessary, support should be provided to help overcome technical challenges.
- 6. Practice commitment and sustainability** - Practice leadership should express strong commitment to the ePRO system to support successful implementation.

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KEY UPCOMING DATES

- **June 2023** | SMarRT-HD Optimization Phase Start

