

PROJECT TITLE

WICKED' (Wales Interventions and Cancer Knowledge about Early Diagnosis): The development and evaluation of primary care interventions to expedite the diagnosis of symptomatic cancer in Wales

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FUNDING

£800,000

Cancer Research Wales

RESEARCH QUESTION

Synthesise current evidence, and develop and test a complex intervention to improve the quality of PCPs' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards early cancer diagnosis.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Systematic review of reviews and realist review
Survey, DCE, interviews with GPs and practice-based focus groups

Development of intervention, external pilot trial with pilot cost effectiveness analysis & Phase III planning

ABOUT THE STUDY

Wales, like other UK countries, has relatively poor cancer outcomes and late diagnosis is a major contributor. This research programme concentrates on the primary care interval: the time between presentation of symptoms by patients and referral. Referral is informed by NICE guidance, but GPs in Wales are less likely to refer or investigate, and cancer guideline adherence is lower. There is an evidence gap relating to effective ways of reducing primary care intervals. WICKED aims to synthesise current evidence, gather new empirical evidence, and use this to develop and evaluate a complex intervention to change primary health care professionals' knowledge, attitudes and clinical behaviour, with the intention of reducing primary care intervals and improving cancer outcomes.

THE TEAM

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