

Introduction to the GRACE Service Model

Enhancing Older Adult Cancer Care at
Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH)

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Government of Western Australia
South Metropolitan Health Service
Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group

Overview of the GRACE Model

What is GRACE?

GRACE stands for *Geriatrician Review and Assessment for Clinical Excellence*.

A proactive, shared care consultative model designed for older adults with cancer.

Purpose:

To improve outcomes for vulnerable patients through integrated, specialised care.

Focus:

Emphasis on person-centred rehabilitation, early discharge, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Background and Need

Aging Population Challenges:

Older adults present unique challenges in oncology due to multiple comorbidities, frailty, and geriatric syndromes (e.g., polypharmacy and dementia).

Why GRACE?

Traditional oncology care may not address the complex needs of older adults, leading to increased complications and adverse events.

FSH's Commitment:

FSH aims to enhance the quality of care by addressing these gaps with the GRACE model.



Integrated oncogeriatric approach: a systematic review of the literature using concept analysis

Dominique Tremblay,¹ Kathleen Charlebois,² Catherine Terret,³ Sonia Joannette,⁴ Jean Latreille⁵

REVIEW article

Front. Aging, 23 March 2023

Sec. Interventions in Aging

Volume 4 - 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fragi.2023.1141792>

Considerations and analysis of the implementation of oncogeriatrics in Chile and its importance: Review of current literature

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Commentary | [Open access](#) | Published: 06 July 2020

Implementing a multidisciplinary approach for older adults with Cancer: geriatric oncology in practice

[Carolyn J. Presley](#), [Jessica L. Krok-Schoen](#), [Sarah A. Wall](#), [Anne M. Noonan](#), [Desiree C. Jones](#), [Edmund Folefac](#), [Nicole Williams](#), [Janine Overcash](#) & [Ashley E. Rosko](#)

[BMC Geriatrics](#) **20**, Article number: 231 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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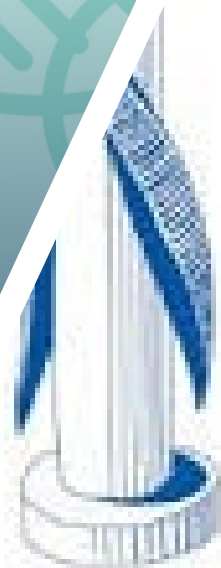
Models of clinical care delivery for geriatric oncology in Canada and the United States: A survey of geriatric oncology care providers

[Catalina Hernandez-Torres](#) ^{a,1} · [Beatriz Korc-Grodzicki](#) ^b · [Tina Hsu](#) ^a

[Affiliations & Notes](#) [Article Info](#)

Geriatric Oncology Group

Clinical Oncology Society of Australia



Group Chair



GROUP CHAIR

Meera Arora

Geriatric Oncology
Chair

Geriatric Oncology Projects

Working Groups

- **Optimal Care Pathway for Older Adults with Cancer**
- **GOEER: Geriatric Oncology Emerging Experts and Researchers**
- **Community of Practice**
- **Ageism in Cancer Care**

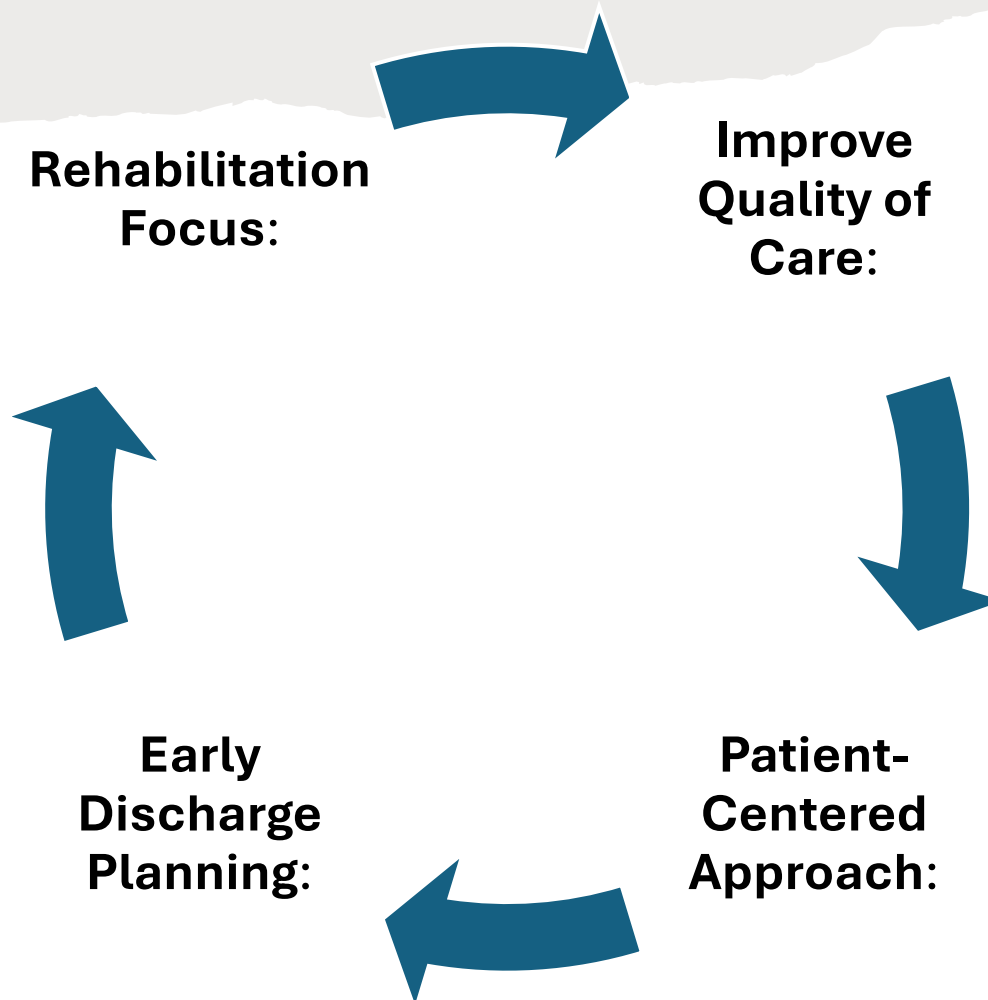
Advocacy

2017 to improve outcomes for older
patients from across Australia with this
multidisciplinary perspective. The Group
focuses on cancer treatment and care that will

outcomes for older adults affected by
cancer research and advocacy.



Core Objectives of GRACE



Key Components of GRACE Service

- **Pre-Treatment:**
 - *Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA)* to identify risk factors and vulnerabilities.
 - Nutritional counselling and personalised exercise programs.
- **During Treatment:**
 - Person-centered management, tailored to individual needs.
 - Proactive measures to manage therapy-related effects.
- **Post-Treatment:**
 - Early mobilisation, physical therapy, and regular follow-ups for recovery and complication management.



Service Provision

Consultative Shared Care Model:

- Expert geriatric consultations are provided to oncology teams.
- The patient's "home team retains shared decision-making with clinical governance."

Key Areas Covered:

- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment
- Integration into oncology rounds and multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussions.



Patient Eligibility for GRACE

Inclusion Criteria:

- Patients over 65 years old or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients over 50.
- Those with a Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) > 4, multimorbidity, geriatric syndromes, or complex discharge needs.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Patients receiving active cancer treatment, palliative care needs, or requiring other specialty interventions.

Goal:

- Targeting patients who would most benefit from specialized geriatric support in oncology.



Standardized Pathways and Protocols



Delirium Management



Falls Prevention



Pain Management



Nutritional Support:



Cognitive and Disposition Planning:



Expected Benefits of GRACE



**Enhanced
Patient Flow**



**Improved
Patient and
Staff
Satisfaction**



**Increased
Safety and
Quality of Care**



**Reduced
Burden on
Staff**

Future Vision

Future Directions:

Expanding GRACE to outpatient services to support older adults through the continuum of care.

Exploring potential for integration with other departments and services within FSH.

Case Study: Patient A's Journey with GRACE

Background

Age: 82, diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer

Comorbidities: Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD stage 3), moderate frailty (CFS score of 6)

Admission to FSH: For cancer treatment with heightened risk for complications

Challenges

Complex Comorbidities: CHF and CKD raised risks of fluid overload, medication interactions

High Risk for Delirium and Falls: Due to frailty and cognitive decline

Nutritional Deficiency & Muscle Weakness: Recent weight loss, risk of deconditioning

GRACE Interventions

- **Pre-Treatment Assessment**

- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) to evaluate baseline risks
- Nutritional support with dietary adjustments and supplements
- Tailored exercise program to improve strength and prevent deconditioning

- **During Treatment**

- Adjusted cancer therapy to protect kidney and heart function
- Delirium prevention strategies: consistent routine, cognitive stimulation
- Close coordination with cardiology and nephrology for fluid and medication management

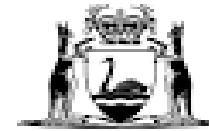
- **Post-Treatment & Discharge Planning**

- Early mobilisation and physical therapy to build resilience and prevent falls
- Home support arranged and follow-up care with primary provider



Outcomes





Government of Western Australia
South Metropolitan Health Service
Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group

"Caring for older adults is a commitment to dignity, resilience, and respect. Through models like GRACE, we are not just treating conditions—we are empowering lives, honouring stories, and supporting our patients' journey with compassionate and specialised care."



South Metropolitan Health Service

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