

Using experiences of occupational physicians in pre-implementation of the guideline Cancer and Work

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1 Aim

To assess any barriers and drivers to using the recommendations of the guideline Cancer and Work in daily occupational health practice and adapt the guideline if necessary.

2 Importance

To enhance work participation and improve the quality of working life of workers diagnosed with cancer, the Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine developed the guideline Cancer and Work. Feasibility testing enhances implementation.

3 Process

Thirty-nine occupational physicians (OPs) were trained and asked to carry out the guideline Cancer and Work. The OPs filled out online questionnaires regarding their experiences. Results were discussed with participating OPs and used as proposal for adaptation of the guideline.



4 Results

Main barriers

- Comprehensiveness of the guideline
- Insufficient knowledge and experience in use of diagnostic instruments
- One-hour first consultation often not feasible
- Distinction between cognitive problems due to acquired brain injury and other causes unnecessarily complicating

Adaptations

- Recommendation to plan a one-hour visit soon after the initial intake
- Distinction between acquired brain injury and other causes of cognitive problems removed, and related recommendations adapted

5 Conclusion

Assessing guideline users' experiences is a valuable tool to adjust a guideline where necessary, in order to facilitate guideline implementation.