Evolution of the Dynamic Symptoms Model

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This article will describe the evolution of the Ideal Symptoms Model, herein called the Dynamic Symptoms Model, and its use to model cancer-related symptoms since its initial publication in 2010. Discussion led to changes within the model to better describe the symptoms experience, its antecedents and consequences, and how interventions affect symptoms. Clinicians and symptom scientists can use the Dynamic Symptoms Model to visualize symptom influences and relationships with other variables over time and to formulate research questions and analytic plans.

This model has received significant attention during the past six years by oncology nurse scientists and doctoral students who need a conceptual model or theory that incorporates changes in the symptoms experience over time. To the authors’ knowledge, the model has been cited 34 times, 14 of which were specific to the cancer symptoms experience. The most common use of the model was to inform conceptualization of symptom trajectories (Brant et al., 2011; Henly, Wyman, & Findorff, 2011; Keller, 2015; Pan et al., 2012) or patterns (Haisfield-Wolfe, 2011; Keller, 2015; Pan et al., 2012) or patterns (Haisfield-Wolfe, 2011; Keller, 2015; Pan et al., 2012) or patterns (Haisfield-Wolfe, 2011; Keller, 2015; Pan et al., 2012) or patterns (Haisfield-Wolfe, 2011; Keller, 2015; Pan et al., 2012).