

CO-CAPTAIN: Cancer prevention among individuals with mental ill-health: co-adapting and implementing patient navigation for primary cancer prevention

Background

Among people with mental ill-health, cancer is the second leading cause of death. In addition to preventable known cancer risk factors such as higher smoking and overweight rates, this population suffers from lack or no access to quality prevention services and is overlooked in research.



Key components of CO-CAPTAIN

- Exploring barriers and facilitators faced by individuals with mental ill-health when accessing primary cancer preventive services.
- Co-adapting the Patient Navigation (PN) model focusing on primary cancer prevention in a participatory approach.
- Implementing and evaluating the co-adapted PN model in four European countries (Austria, Greece, Poland, Spain).
- Developing a concept for the reorganization of cancer prevention for people with mental ill-health in the EU.



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Patient Navigation Model

- The PN model is a skill-mix innovation that implements a new role or new tasks.
- The co-adapted PN care model aims to **deliver cancer prevention interventions tailored to individuals with mental illhealth** addressing cancer risk factors including smoking and overweight.
- Patient Navigators aim to help patients 'navigate' through the complexity of care and health services and to overcome barriers; enabling their timely access to the health and care services they need; and thusly streamline the continuum of cancer care, starting with prevention.



"And since then, I've somehow become more selfconfident about it and say: 'Although I'm mentally ill, that doesn't mean that I'm not also physically ill', a sentence I now say."

> (Participant with mental illhealth)