

**PROTOCOL TITLE:**

*SIMPRO Research Center: Integration and Implementation of PROs for Symptom Management in Oncology Practice.*

**Sponsor and Coordinating Center:**

Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC)

Department of Medical Oncology

Coordinating Center PI and Technology PI: Michael Hassett

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Boston, MA 02215

Email Address: [Michael\\_Hassett@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Michael_Hassett@dfci.harvard.edu)

Telephone Number: 617-632-4587

**CO-STUDY CHAIRS:**

Deborah Schrag MD, MPH

Chair, Department of Medicine

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

New York City, NY 10065

Raymond Osarogiagbon MD

Director, Thoracic Oncology Research Group

Baptist Memorial Hospital

Covington, Tennessee 38019

Sandra Wong MD

Chair, Department of Surgery

Dartmouth College

Lebanon, NH 03756

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## ACRONYMS USED THROUGHOUT PROTOCOL:

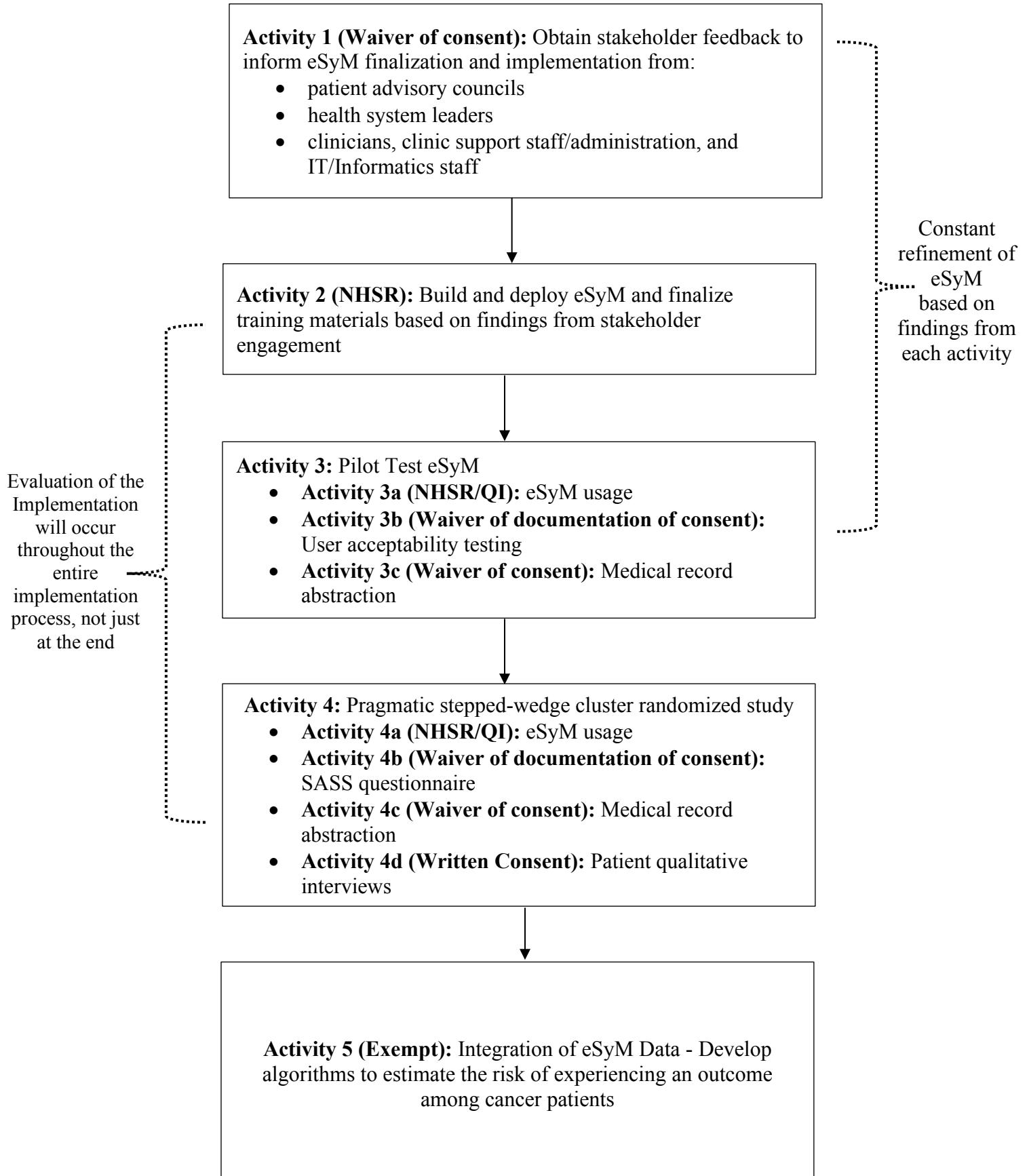
eSyM	Electronic symptom management system
ePRO	Electronic patient-reported outcomes
EHR	Electronic health record
eSyM+	Assigned to use eSyM
eSyM-	Assigned not to use eSyM
Gyn	Gynecologic
GI	Gastrointestinal
SOP	Standard operating procedure
FTP	File transfer protocol
SASS	Research questionnaire
SIV	Site initiation visit
CTMS	Clinical trial management system
DF/HCC	Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center
ODQ	DF/HCC Office of Data Quality
QI	Quality Improvement
NHSR	Not Human Subjects Research

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## 1.0 Schema



## 2.0 Background

**Deficits in management of common symptoms cause substantial morbidity for cancer patients.** In the United States, nearly 1.74 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in 2018.<sup>1</sup> While there will be approximately 600,000 cancer deaths, better treatment has contributed to lower mortality rates. However, the morbidity toll of cancer treatment remains immense.<sup>1-5</sup> Poor symptom control decreases quality of life, increases the need for emergency care,<sup>6-8</sup> and even deters some patients from receiving effective therapy.<sup>9,10</sup> For patients with cancer receiving chemotherapy, adverse symptoms add to distress. For surgical patients, poorly managed symptoms delay recovery and interfere with timely receipt of adjuvant treatments<sup>11-13</sup> and the return to usual activity levels. Patients are reluctant to “complain” or perceive that symptoms are unavoidable.<sup>14</sup> The raging US opioid epidemic has further complicated pain management for cancer patients.<sup>15</sup>

**Because the health care delivery system is structured to be reactive and not proactive, there are missed opportunities to optimize symptom control.** The current cancer care delivery system is not well-equipped to anticipate, monitor and prevent adverse symptoms before they escalate.<sup>16</sup> Typically, patients initiate outreach to address a problem which clinicians try to solve during office visits. Between these face-to-face encounters, communication is scarce and almost entirely patient initiated. For patients with chronic illness like cancer, this model is maladaptive. Many choose to endure their symptoms, hesitate to adjust medications, or are reluctant to mention adverse symptoms for fear of compromising the ability to receive treatment. Moreover, effective symptom control typically requires careful titration of combinations of pain, nausea, and bowel medications to achieve optimal equilibrium. Although many patients and their caregivers gain proficiency over time, others struggle to cope, particularly at treatment initiation or care transitions. Surgeons, medical oncologists, and oncology nurses have experience with symptom management, but they are often preoccupied by treatment decisions about cancer therapy during visits.<sup>17</sup> In some settings, palliative care physicians, rehabilitation specialists, and social workers partner with oncologists to support patients, or there are resources to teach self-management skills. However, in many centers, these resources are constrained or unavailable.

**Growth in Internet access and proliferation of smartphones has created an opportunity to re-engineer cancer care delivery.** Eighty-eight percent of adults in the US had web access and 77% had a smartphone in 2016. Although adoption is lower in the elderly and the poor, use is rising, and many use the internet to manage their health.<sup>20,21</sup> Mobile phones in general, and web access more generally, extend capacity for patient-clinician communication to optimize symptom management beyond the confines of

a face-to-face encounter.<sup>22</sup> Patient engagement has been called the “blockbuster” drug<sup>23,24</sup> of the 21<sup>st</sup> century based on the recognition that motivated and activated patients have improved well-being and consistently achieve better health

	Smartphone <sup>18</sup>	Web access <sup>19</sup>		
Population	2010	2016	2010	2016
All adults	33%	77%	76%	88%
Age 65+	17%	54%	43%	64%
Rural	26%	67%	69%	81%
<\$30,000 income	24%	64%	61%	79%
Black	29%	72%	68%	85%

outcomes.<sup>25,26</sup> Strong theoretical foundations from social cognitive theories of self-efficacy<sup>27,28</sup> and the chronic care model<sup>29</sup> support the importance of patient engagement<sup>30-34</sup> as a strategy to minimize the morbidity of cancer treatment.

**Electronic symptom tracking and feedback is a promising strategy to improve symptom control.** Electronic patient reported outcome (ePRO) monitoring of cancer symptoms has been shown to decrease symptom burden,<sup>35</sup> improve quality of life, reduce acute care<sup>36</sup> and even extend survival.<sup>37</sup> There is evidence to support two primary mechanisms of action. First, systematic reporting may activate patients to be more knowledgeable and effective at self-management.<sup>38</sup> This aligns with self-efficacy theory. Second, systematic reporting can trigger between-visit clinician actions that improve symptom control. This enhanced communication, facilitated by technology, could make health care more responsive to patient needs.<sup>39,40</sup>

**Critical knowledge gaps will prevent successful implementation of ePRO systems in oncology practice.** The NCI has invested in the development of measurement tools to facilitate symptom reporting such as the PRO-CTCAE (Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events), a patient-reported outcome measurement system to capture symptomatic adverse events in cancer patients.<sup>41-43</sup> This item-bank enables symptom reporting and tracking using a consistent set of validated metrics for both clinical trials and routine care. The PRO-CTCAE, access to web-technology and the rapid proliferation of EHRs have created a context that is ripe for scaling a more proactive approach to cancer care delivery such as ePRO tracking. However, 4 critical knowledge gaps remain that will prevent successful implementation of ePROs to improve symptom management. They are:

1. **The ePRO effectiveness evidence base is limited to major cancer centers.** Evidence supporting the efficacy of ePRO symptom management stems largely from clinical trials and effectiveness studies conducted in large well-resourced cancer centers.<sup>44,45</sup> It is unknown whether the benefits found in these studies are generalizable to cancer care in rural, small and community-based settings, and evidence for their effectiveness and the adaptations necessary to make ePROs successful in these contexts is needed.
2. **ePRO systems are not fully integrated with EHRs.** While ePROs have demonstrated effectiveness without being fully embedded into the EHR,<sup>46,47</sup> integration would dramatically improve secure patient and clinician access to symptom reports and clinical utility of ePRO systems. Without integration, patients and clinicians must access separate systems to view symptom reports and cannot easily take actions such as ordering a medication or coordinating care with another relevant provider.<sup>48</sup> Full integration of ePRO systems into the EHR would facilitate secure two-way exchange of information and the ability to track symptoms, convey appropriately tailored educational materials, provide information about expected symptom profiles, send alerts, take actions, and coordinate care.
3. **ePRO systems have not leveraged demonstrably effective symptom coaching strategies.** Early ePRO research focused on feasibility, metric development and overcoming technological and regulatory obstacles. The efferent limb of the ePRO feedback loop has

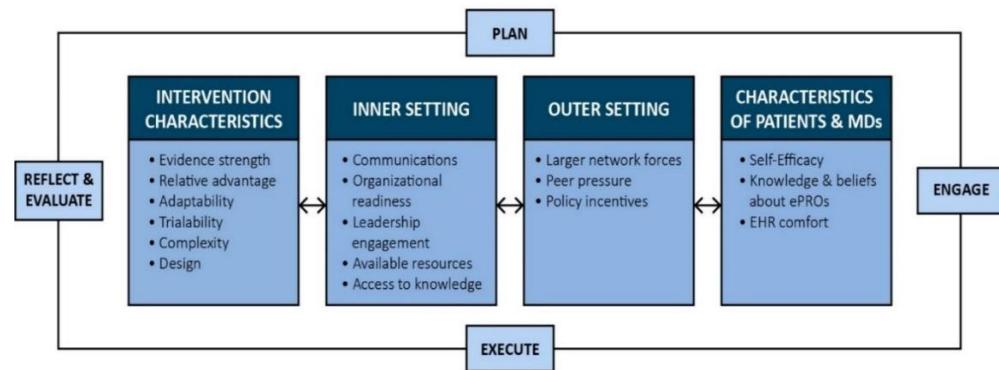
received considerably less attention.<sup>49,50</sup> First, there has been limited work developing the information content that these systems deliver to help patients cope.<sup>48,51</sup> Where evidence-based symptom management tools exist, they are not fully leveraged.<sup>52</sup> Similarly, giving patients feedback about the extent to which their symptom profiles are typical or deviate from what is expected can provide reassurance or alert them to escalate treatment or seek help.

4. **Insufficient attention to implementation strategies will compromise the impact of ePROs.** There are myriad examples of effective health care interventions that do not realize their potential for impact because of insufficient attention to implementation.<sup>53-55</sup> ePRO systems require a shift in the traditional orientation of clinicians which typically confines symptom assessment to clinical encounters. There is inadequate knowledge about the implementation strategies that are facilitators of successful ePRO systems. How much training do patients require to engage in self-reporting? How much reinforcement is necessary? What level of training do clinic support staff, nurses, and clinicians require? What is the optimal design of dashboards to facilitate review of and acting on ePRO symptom reports? Established implementation science frameworks exist but have not been applied to ePRO systems.

A multi-disciplinary team of investigators from 6 health systems have formed the Symptom Management IMplementation of Patient Reported Outcomes in Oncology (SIMPRO) Research Center. SIMPRO will use functioning ePRO prototypes to create and refine the electronic symptom management system eSyM. eSyM is the name of the platform the team will refine, integrate, implement, and evaluate. eSyM addresses each of the 4 evidence gaps noted above by:

1. **Implementing** eSyM in cancer centers in small, rural, or community-based systems.
2. **Integrating** eSyM into the EHR of the predominant vendor used nationwide.
3. **Leveraging** evidence-based tools, patient engagement, and population management.
4. **Executing** this work using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR, see figure below)<sup>56</sup> across all phases to maximize the chances that eSyM and similar systems achieve their intended goals and decrease the morbidity of cancer treatment at a population level.

#### CONSOLIDATED FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH (CFIR)



Using CFIR as a guide, we will utilize the plan-engage-execute-evaluate cycles across all aims.

### 3.0 Objectives

**Overall Research Goals** are: (1) to create and refine eSyM, a reporting and management system that integrates ePROs with the EHR; (2) to evaluate the impact of eSyM on patient outcomes, treatment delivery, and healthcare system utilization using a pragmatic cluster randomized study design; and (3) to undertake a systematic, deliberative approach to implementation to allow for the identification of barriers and facilitators that contribute to the adoption and sustainability of eSyM in routine oncology care.

**Aim 1:** Adapt existing ePRO symptom management systems and integrate them into the EHR and routine clinical workflow at six health systems. Specifically:

Aim 1a. Obtain patient, clinician, staff, and leadership input on ePRO form and function

Aim 1b. Refine the content and algorithms for self-management, alerts, and feedback

Aim 1c. Develop ePRO training materials for patients, clinicians, and staff

Aim 1d. Pilot an ePRO symptom manager at test and study sites and prepare an implementation strategy

**Aim 2:** Determine the effectiveness of an EHR-integrated ePRO symptom management system on health outcomes. Specifically:

Aim 2a. Healthcare utilization, measured by the need for emergency and acute care

Aim 2b. Impact on cancer care delivery, specifically chemotherapy treatment duration and delays

Aim 2c. Patients' outcomes, indicated by levels of self-efficacy and symptom burden

Aim 2d. Patients' satisfaction with their cancer care

**Aim 3:** Evaluate the facilitators and barriers to implementation of an EHR-integrated ePRO symptom management system from the patient, clinician, and organizational perspectives. Specifically:

Aim 3a. Patient adoption (including program feedback and experiences via qualitative interviews), clinician utilization, and their perspectives on appropriateness and acceptability

Aim 3b. The sustainability of ePRO symptom management within a health system

Aim 3c. Penetration and scalability of ePROs for symptom management

Aim 3d. Extent of adaptation of ePRO systems over the course of the implementation process

### 3.1 Hypothesis

Detailed hypotheses per aim can be found in the stats section of the protocol. Overall, investigators hypothesize that eSyM will enable patients to be more effective stewards of their own care and enable their clinicians to anticipate problems and intervene to manage symptoms before they escalate.

## **4.0 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria or Activity Population**

The eligibility criteria/activity population vary for each activity. See section 5.0 for details.

## **5.0 Protocol Activities**

There are 5 protocol activities, each detailed in section 5.0.

- **Activity 1:** Obtain stakeholder feedback from patient advisory councils, health system leaders, clinicians, clinic support staff/administration, and IT/Informatics
- **Activity 2:** Build and deploy eSyM and finalize training materials based on findings from stakeholder engagement
- **Activity 3:** Pilot test eSyM
  - Activity 3a: eSyM usage
  - Activity 3b: User acceptability testing
  - Activity 3c: Medical record abstraction
- **Activity 4:** Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial
  - Activity 4a: eSyM usage
  - Activity 4b: SASS questionnaire
  - Activity 4c: Medical record abstraction
  - Activity 4d: Patient qualitative interviews
- **Activity 5:** Integration of eSyM data to develop algorithms to estimate the risk of experiencing an outcome, including, but not limited to, ED usage and hospitalization among cancer patients

**Activity 1: Obtain stakeholder feedback from stakeholders, including (but not required) patient advisory councils, health system leaders, clinicians, clinic support staff/administration, and IT/Informatics**

**Brief description of activity:** Before eSyM go-live, study team members from each site will solicit input via emailed survey, remote meetings and/or in-person meeting on the use of ePROs in oncology from stakeholders to obtain input regarding adaptation, anticipated challenges, and implementation (questions will be selected from the CFIR, AIM/IAM, NOMAD and CSAT Question Banks – see Appendix A G, J, and Y) and follow-up probes. The study team may adapt or create de novo questions as needed.

At least 30 days after eSyM go-live and on an ongoing basis, we will evaluate the implementation process at each of the sites with a focus on adoption, appropriateness, acceptability, sustainability, penetration, and scalability. We will do this using a combination of methods including evaluating medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews (see activities 3c and 4c), eSyM usage reports (see activities 3a and 4a), SASS questionnaire responses (see activity 4b), and feedback from emailed surveys and/or discussions with health system leadership, clinicians, clinic support staff, and informatics/IT staff (activity 1). Stakeholder questions will be selected from the CFIR, AIM/IAM, NOMAD and CSAT Question Banks – see Appendix A G, J, and Y) and follow-up probes. The study team may adapt or create de novo questions as needed.

**Human Subjects Research Category (NHSR, exempt, expedited, full review):** Exempt because the stakeholders at each site are acting in their normal business capacity and this is a negligible risk activity.

**Informed Consent: Waiver of informed consent.** Because eSyM will be implemented at each site *for use in routine clinical care and because this is a quality improvement (QI) activity*, it is necessary to consult each site's stakeholders during ePRO design and implementation. This activity is negligible risk.

**Activity 1 Population:**

- Age  $\geq$  18 years
- The potential stakeholders are patient advisory council members, health system leaders, clinicians, clinic support staff/administration, and IT/Informatics staff.

**Number of subjects (per site and overall):**

- Approximately 5-25 patient advisory council participants per site (30-150 patient advisory council participants overall)
- Approximately 4-10 health system leaders per site (24-60 health system leaders overall)
- Approximately 60 clinicians, clinic support staff/administration, and IT/Informatics staff per site. (360 clinicians, clinic support staff/administration, and IT/Informatics staff overall)

- We anticipate sending emailed surveys and/or presenting 2 separate times at approximately 6 meetings per site (a thoracic surgery, thoracic medical oncology, gynecological surgery, gynecological medical oncology, GI surgery, and GI medical oncology meeting). If 10 people participate from each setting, then we will collect data from approximately 120 people per site which totals 720 participants study-wide.

*\*\*Total number of stakeholder participants through surveys and meetings can be larger or smaller depending on availability.*

**When, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited:** The study PI at each site or his/her designee will send email surveys and/or meet with stakeholders individually, will get on upcoming meeting agendas, and/or will convene ad hoc meeting(s).

**Materials that will be used to recruit subjects:** See sample email in Appendix K and/or L. Each site may modify to meet their needs.

**Duration of subject's participation in the study:** If done via emailed survey (REDCap): The emailed survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If interviewed in-person or remotely: Approximately 1 hour, the length of a meeting.

**Duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects:** We anticipate that it will take approximately three months prior to the go-live at each site to complete all initial stakeholder engagement. Implementation evaluation will occur throughout the five-year project period with a designated 1-year post-implementation survey/interview conducted at all sites.

**Study design:** Discussion guides and/or question slide decks will be used to facilitate stakeholder engagement.

**Description of all research procedures being performed:** The study PI (or designee) at each site will obtain feedback from the stakeholders at their site; feedback will be collected via emailed survey, and a meeting to be held one-on-one, in group settings, or remotely via writing, discussion, or handheld polling devices. All sites will be responsible for maintaining a list of stakeholders who will be invited to provide feedback.

The eSyM stakeholder interview guide (see appendix Y) may include selected items from CFIR, AIM, NOMAD, and CSAT (see appendices A, G, J, and Y). The eSyM questionnaire may include selected items from CFIR, AIM, NOMAD, and CSAT and will be sent stakeholders to be completed in REDCap. The study team may adapt or create de novo questions as needed.

In person and/or remote follow-up meetings will be conducted in group or one-on-one settings. Before any meetings may be conducted, all discussion facilitators must be trained by the Overall PI Deb Schrag or her designee on how to conduct the discussion; facilitators will be taught how to ask questions in a non-leading manner, how to respond to answers in a non-biased fashion, and how to ask appropriate follow up probe questions as/if needed. All discussion facilitators

will utilize the interview guide developed by the study team and probe as needed. A member of the team will take notes of all discussions and all discussions will be audio-recorded when possible. Clicker questions may also be used to collect feedback from stakeholders during larger group meetings. Feedback will also be ascertained through email and one-on-one discussions; written notes will be categorized and summarized for study analysis purposes.

All feedback collected will be submitted via REDCap or emailed to the coordinating center (Dana-Farber) for synthesis, summarization, and transcription as needed. Feedback may be collected in an identifiable fashion. For example, the CIO's comments may be attributed to "the CIO."

**Monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks:** Not applicable.

**What data will be collected and how:** Feedback and demographic information will be collected from stakeholders at each site regarding stakeholder views on adaptation, anticipated challenges, and implementation of ePRO (electronic patient reported outcomes).

**Long-term follow-up:** Stakeholders will be consulted and kept informed throughout the study period.

## **Activity 2: Build and deploy eSyM and finalize training materials**

**Brief description of activity:** Using all of the feedback collected during previous activities, the study team will finalize the content and build the eSyM system.

**Human Subjects Research Category (NHSR, exempt, expedited, full review):** Not Human Subjects Research.

**Informed Consent:** Not applicable.

**Tasks that will be completed by the study team:**

- Finalize eSyM's specifications:
  - prompt patients to report symptoms at user-defined intervals
  - track symptom profiles over time in via graphs
  - trigger delivery of symptom coaching in response to symptoms
  - alert patients to contact their clinicians in response to severe symptom reports
  - alert clinician about patients with severe symptoms
  - enable creation of dashboards that facilitate symptom burden monitoring of user-defined patient cohorts
  - use MyChart/Epic to securely access patient data
  - allow a proxy to report on behalf of a patient
  - eSyM will be integrated in the EHR and patient portal so that clinicians can expediently review and respond to ePROs with access to complete health records including medications, labs and visit notes with minimal disruption to workflow and with reliable record keeping
- Finalize the algorithms that control what eSyM does in response to user inputs.
- Finalize eSyM's patient-facing content.
- Finalize eSyM's clinician-facing content.
- Obtain necessary permissions or licensing agreements.
- The informatic team will finalize the eSyM build based on the specs provided by the study team.
- Each site may customize where allowed (example, where permissible, sites may brand their instance of eSyM with their own logos).
- Finalize eSyM training materials (see appendices AA through KK):
  - Patient-facing training materials (when and how to use eSyM).
  - Clinician-facing training materials (when and how to use eSyM).
  - Clinical staff-facing training materials (how to teach a patient to use eSyM).
- Depending on initial data and eSyM adoption rates, the study team (or a designee) may text, call, portal message and/or email patients to remind them to use eSyM.

**Here is a sample of what the specifications for the build will look like:**

<b>Example of the Component Tools that Support eSyM for Diarrhea.</b>									
<b>MODIFIED PRO-CTCAE SURVEY QUESTION</b>									
<b>In the last 24 hours, how OFTEN did you have LOOSE OR WATERY STOOLS (DIARRHEA)?</b>									
0: Never	1: Rarely	2: Occasionally	3: Frequently	4: Almost constantly					
<b>DEPLOYMENT RULES &amp; ADAPTATIONS</b>									
<b>MEDICAL ONCOLOGY</b>			<b>SURGERY</b>						
<b>Starting point</b>	1 day after chemo start		1 day after discharge						
<b>Frequency</b>	2/week x 24 weeks		3/week x 2 weeks then 2/week x 2 weeks then 1/week x 4-8 weeks						
<b>SYMPTOM CLASSIFICATION (threshold for action – will depend on the symptom)</b>									
<b>ACTION</b>		<b>FREQUENCY RESPONSE</b>							
<b>No intervention IF:</b>		= 0							
<b>Symptom management advice IF:</b>		= 1 or 2 or 3							
<b>Alert clinical team via InBasket IF:</b>		= 4							
<b>SYMPTOM EDUCATION FOR PATIENTS (selected examples)</b>									
<p><b>Eat small meals that are easy to digest.</b> Eat 5 or 6 small meals each day instead of 3 big meals. Choose foods that will help with diarrhea, such as applesauce, bananas, crackers, cream of wheat, eggs, toast, oatmeal, peanut butter, boiled potatoes, and rice.</p> <p><b>Drink more each day.</b> Drinking more won't stop the diarrhea, but it will help replace fluids you are losing to prevent dehydration. Most people who have diarrhea need 8 to 12 cups a day. Clear broth, water, tea, oral rehydration/electrolyte drinks (e.g., Pedialyte®), juice, and soda are good choices.</p> <p><b>Take medications your team may have prescribed such as Imodium or Lomotil.</b></p> <p><b>Avoid these foods:</b> Some foods can make diarrhea worse. Don't have dairy, such as milk, cheese, and sour cream. Try "lactose-free" products instead. Don't eat spicy, greasy, or fried foods.</p> <p><b>Call your cancer team if:</b> You feel lightheaded, dizzy, or faint. These are symptoms of dehydration. You develop a fever of 100.5 F or higher. Your stool looks black or bloody. You are experiencing diarrhea that wakes you up from sleep at night.</p>									
<b>SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS (selected examples)</b>									
<p><b>Alert the clinician</b> whenever a severe symptom is reported via InBasket.</p> <p><b>Add the patient to a color-coded report</b> of patients reporting symptoms in the last 7 days.</p> <p><b>Symptom responses visible in patient EHR</b> (e.g., snapshot report).</p>									

For a full list of symptoms, see the PRO-CTCAE bank (Appendices H & I); we will prioritize the symptoms below. PRO-CTCAE items may be modified, as needed (e.g., symptom lookback period):

<b>eSyM Questionnaire Items</b>		
	<b>Required</b>	<b>Optional</b>
<b>All Patients: Medical Oncology and Surgery</b>	Anxiety Constipation Fatigue Pain Poor Appetite Nausea Shortness of Breath Trouble Drinking Fluids Vomiting	Bleeding Coughing Difficulty Concentrating Difficulty Sleeping Difficulty Swallowing Dizziness Feeling Discouraged Feeling Sad Fever

	Overall Wellbeing Physical Function	Hand-Foot Syndrome Headache Heart Palpitations Heartburn Itching Mouth/Throat Sores Swelling Wheezing
<b>Medical Oncology</b>	Diarrhea Numbness and Tingling Rash	Painful Urination
<b>Surgery</b>	Painful Urination Wound Discharge Wound Redness	Diarrhea Numbness and Tingling Rash

**Here is a sample of what a patient-facing eSyM screen might look like:**

How OFTEN did you have PAIN?

Never    Rarely    Occasionally    Frequently    Almost constantly

BACK    CONTINUE    FINISH LATER    CANCEL

Please remember that this system is not monitored 24 hours a day. Please call your care team if your symptoms are severe.

**Here is a summary of the eSyM functionalities that will be designed and built:**

The main patient-facing tools will include the following (accessed via computer or app):
1. <b>Alerts</b> → Reminders about when to complete PRO reporting
2. <b>Symptom Reporting</b> → Surveys that will allow patients to report outcomes for modified PRO-CTCAE items
3. <b>Visualizations</b> → Display previously reported PROs
4. <b>Education</b> → Evidence-based symptom management tools (see appendix T)
The main clinician/staff-facing tools will include (accessed via computer or app):
1. <b>Messaging</b> → Message notifying when critical PROs have been reported
2. <b>Visualizations</b> → Display previously reported PROs for a given patient, highlighting critical symptoms
3. <b>Reports</b> → Display patients who are enrolled in the program, view results of multiple patients, and identify patients who did not report PROs on schedule

**Activity 3: Pilot test eSyM**

**Brief description of activity:** eSyM will be UAT/pilot tested at up to 6 sites. The primary purpose of UAT/pilot testing is for the research team to observe patients, clinicians, and staff interacting with the new system, identify challenges, and iteratively refine the system, training materials, or clinic workflow prior to the launch of the full-scale pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial.

**SIV (Site Initiation Visit):** The SIV, protocol, and eSyM training is critically important to the success of the pilot study. All involved staff (on the research team and clinical teams) will be required to complete training using the materials and methods developed via Activity 2.

Training activities include:

- Training clinicians and clinic staff at each site on new clinic workflow SOPs.
- Training clinicians and clinic staff on how to get a patient set up with eSyM.
- Training each user audience (clinicians and patients) how to use their eSyM interface.
- Training informatics/IT staff at each site how to support and maintain eSyM.

*\*\* See appendices AA through LL for study resources. Please note – training materials and project resources will be routinely updated and branded to meet site needs.*

### **Activity 3 Population:**

- Age  $\geq$  18 years
- Priority population will be patients who meet one of the following:
  - Suspected thoracic cancer AND is inpatient following thoracic surgery.
  - Suspected gastrointestinal cancer AND is inpatient following gastrointestinal surgery.
  - Suspected gynecologic cancer AND is inpatient following gynecologic surgery.
  - Diagnosis of thoracic cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for thoracic cancer.
  - Diagnosis of gastrointestinal cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for gastrointestinal cancer.
  - Diagnosis of gynecologic cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for gynecologic cancer.
- Total population allowed to use eSyM:
  - Any patient at any participating site.

*\*\*Please note – Patients undergoing thoracic, gynecologic, or gastrointestinal surgery may not be diagnosed with cancer. These patients are still eligible for eSyM usage, questionnaire completion, and medical record abstraction.*

### **Activity 3 population will be operationalized as follows:**

- To determine if a patient has a diagnosis of one of the above cancer types, use ICD-10 diagnosis codes: 15.0-16.99 (esophago-gastric) C17.0-C21.9 (small int. colorectal) C22.0-24.9 (hepatobiliary) C23-C25.9 (pancreas), C34-34.9: lung, C53.0-53.9 (cervix) C54-54.9 (uterine) and/or C56-57.9 (ovarian). When it comes time to execute, this list may be modified. CPT and procedure codes and EPIC's OPTIME operating room scheduling module will be used to determine if a patient is scheduled for a priority surgery.

**Mode of Participation:** Patients will have a *choice* of their preferred mode of eSyM participation and switching can be accommodated. Patients with a smart phone will be offered that approach first. Alternatives include participation in eSyM via any web-enabled device (laptop/tablet/desktop). Patients may designate a caregiver willing to elicit their symptoms and

report responses on their behalf (proxy reporting). This flexibility facilitates the intervention's reach to frail patients who may be those most likely to benefit. As needed, patients will also be offered eSyM training through in-person, phone, and/or virtual visits.

**Number of subjects (per site and overall):** For Activity 3, user acceptability testing (UAT) will be done with up to 390 patients from up to 6 participating sites. At the lead site (Dana-Farber), we anticipate conducting UAT with 90 participants distributed as follows: 15 patients from each cancer/type modality combination (15 thoracic surgical, 15 gynecologic surgical, 15 GI surgical, 15 thoracic medical oncology, 15 gynecologic medical oncology, and 15 GI medical oncology). We anticipate that at each of the 5 remaining participating sites, each site will conduct UAT with up to 60 participants distributed as follows: 10 patients from each cancer/type modality combination (10 thoracic surgical, 10 gynecologic surgical, 10 GI surgical, 10 thoracic medical oncology, 10 gynecologic medical oncology, and 10 GI medical oncology). Protocol does not mandate equal distribution of participants among participating sites. If a site is running behind or facing lower than anticipated accrual to the activity, then the other sites may enroll additional participants to make up the difference until the study wide UAT goal has been reached. The numbers referenced above are meant to serve as an estimate and sites may suspend or continue UAT as needed.

**Materials that will be used to recruit subjects:** None.

**Duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects:** We anticipate that it will take three months prior to eSyM launch at each site to enroll all UAT/pilot participants, but the actual duration may vary.

**Monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks:** The risk to participants is minimal with the primary risk being loss of confidentiality/privacy. To monitor the risk of loss of confidentiality/privacy, the informatics/IT team will routinely monitor eSyM and investigate inquiries from study teams. Furthermore, patients who report severe symptoms will be prompted to call their clinic immediately, and clinicians will receive in-basket notifications in the Epic EHR of the severe symptom report.

### **Activity 3a: eSyM Usage**

#### **Human Subjects Research Category (NHSR, exempt, expedited, full review): NHSR/QI**

Because eSyM will be implemented at each site *for use in routine clinical care and because this is a quality improvement (QI) activity, this is not human subjects research.*

**Informed Consent: Waiver of consent.** When a patient becomes eligible for eSyM, he/she/they will receive an automated welcome message, which includes an electronic disclaimer that contains important information about the purpose of eSyM, how/when it should be used, and what it does and does not communicate to their care team (see Appendices N & Q).

**Methods that will be used to identify potential subjects:** Access to eSyM will be automated. EPIC will automatically deliver the invitation to use eSyM to all patients defined above (See Section: “Activity 3 population will be operationalized as follows”).

**Duration of subject’s participation in the study:** Per protocol, eSyM usage continues for up to 60-180 days from their trigger event (i.e., new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery), but extended use of eSyM is at the discretion of the site and each patient participant.

#### **What data will be collected and how:**

- Participant responses to the symptom reporting questions within eSyM will be collected.
- Clinician responses to symptom reports will be collected.
- Data on eSyM usage by all user types will be collected.

**Long-term follow-up:** We will follow patients for 1-year after the trigger event (i.e., new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery) for outcomes data captured via medical record abstraction.

### **Activity 3b: User Acceptability Testing (UAT)**

**Informed Consent: Waiver of documentation of consent.** Before observing the patient using eSyM, the patient will be provided with a letter (see appendix O) with the elements of informed consent, as well as the option not to be observed. They will be notified that participation is completely voluntary and can be stopped at any time for any reason. This activity is minimal risk.

**Methods that will be used to identify potential subjects:** Under a HIPAA waiver, study staff will look in the scheduling views of the electronic medical record and scheduling systems to identify potential participants. Study staff may also query Epic, administrative/operations/billing databases, order entry databases, and/or cancer registry databases to identify potential participants. Study staff may also accept potential patient referrals from site clinicians. Purposive sampling based on data from the electronic medical record (e.g., demographics, cancer stage, number of recent hospitalizations, number of prescription drugs) will be used to ensure that perspectives of diverse patients are included. Ideally, sites will use the developed eSyM reporting workbench reports in Epic to automatically pull a patient list for UAT.

**When, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited:** The clinical/study staff will approach the patient to see if they would be interested in participating in UAT. If a patient is interested in participating, the site will present the participant with a study letter and then begin observations. Patients may be approached in-person, via phone, via email or through a virtual visit.

**Description of procedures being performed for UAT:** Surgical patients will be set up to use eSyM at the time of surgical discharge (or at the site's discretion). Medical oncology patients will be set up to use eSyM at the time of their first chemotherapy dose visit (or at the site's discretion). The study staff will observe the patient accessing eSyM, the patient being trained on how to use eSyM, the patient using eSyM to do their first symptom reporting session.

**Duration of subject's participation in the study:** Per protocol, UAT observation will last approximately 30 minutes or less.

**What data will be collected and how:** The study staff will write down their observations as well as staff/patient feedback (see appendix P).

**Study design:** User acceptability testing.

**Long-term follow-up:** None. UAT is a one-time 30-minute session.

### **Activity 3c: Medical record abstraction**

**Informed Consent: Waiver of consent** to conduct medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews/Epic queries on all patients in the UAT/pilot to ascertain demographics and outcomes.

**Methods that will be used to identify potential subjects:** Automated and/or manual medical record (and/or local cancer registry) review will be done on all UAT/pilot patients.

**When, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited:** All participants in the UAT/pilot will undergo medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews. The medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews will be accomplished using both automated data extraction and manual data abstraction.

**What data will be collected and how:**

- Study-related health information and outcomes will be collected via medical record (and/or local cancer registry) review (automated and manual).
- Data will be submitted to the coordinating site (Dana-Farber) via REDCap or SFTP.

**Study design:** Medical record abstraction (both manual and automated).

**Long-term follow-up:** The patients' medical record may be reviewed for outcomes for up to 1-year after the trigger event (i.e., new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery).

## **Activity 4: Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial**

**Brief description of activity:** A multisite, pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial will be conducted in order to determine the effectiveness of eSym on health outcomes including: healthcare utilization, measured by the need for emergency and acute care; impact on cancer care delivery, specifically chemotherapy treatment duration and delays; patients' outcomes, indicated by levels of self-efficacy and symptom burden; and patients' satisfaction with their cancer care.

### **The trial involves patients in five ways:**

- 1) Patients assigned to eSym (eSym+) will report their symptoms via the eSym questionnaires delivered through MyChart. Patients are strongly encouraged to report their symptoms at home/between clinic visits with eSym. Study teams and clinicians may elect to ask eSym-eligible patients to complete eSym questionnaires in the clinic via a table, computer, and/or mobile device if patients have difficulties reporting or decline to report at home. Site study teams should consult the central study team before they initiate this workflow.
- 2) A subset of eSym+ patients will be asked to complete a research questionnaire called the “SASS Questionnaire (eSym+ or eSym+ Non-Responder version)” asking about their Self-efficacy, Attainment of information needs, Symptom burden, and Satisfaction with care (see PROMIS, CAHPS, IAM/AIM question banks – Appendices C through G). The eSym+ version is for patients who were assigned to eSym and completed at least one eSym questionnaire. The eSym+ Non-Responder version is for patients who were assigned to eSym but never completed an eSym questionnaire. The questionnaires will stop being administered once a minimum of 1,980 total surveys have been received in accordance with the following breakdown:

SASS Questionnaire accrual numbers							
	Surgery			Medical Oncology			Totals
	eSym+ Version	eSym- Version	eSym+ Non- Responder Version	eSym+ Version	eSym- Version	eSym+ Non- Responder Version	
Site 1	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Site 2	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Site 3	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Site 4	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Site 5	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Site 6	75	75	15	75	75	15	330
Totals	450	450	90	450	450	90	1,980

- 3) Select patients NOT assigned to eSym (control group, eSym-) will also be asked to complete the “SASS Questionnaire (eSym- version)” (see Appendices U-X). Both Drug Therapy and Surgical Recover Experience eSym- versions will not ask questions evaluating eSym as the cohort will not be exposed to eSym at the time of the survey. The

questionnaire will stop being administered once a minimum of 1,980 total surveys have been received in accordance with the above breakdown. **\*\* Total number of SASS participants through surveys can be larger or smaller depending on availability.**

- 4) A small subset of eSyM- and eSyM+ patients will be invited to take part in follow-up qualitative interviews. See table below for recommended recruitment accrual. The interviews will be conducted following a developed interview guide (Appendix RR). Patients may or may not have previously completed SASS or eSyM questionnaires. Interviews will continue until thematic saturation is reached, or until 100 interviews are completed, whichever is first.

<b>Patient Qualitative Interviews</b>	
<b>Site</b>	<b>Recommended Minimum Patient Interview Accrual</b>
Site 1	4
Site 2	4
Site 3	4
Site 4	4
Site 5	4
Site 6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

*Total accrual can be larger or smaller depending on patient availability and interest. No more than 100 interviews will be conducted study-wide. Protocol does not mandate equal distribution of participants among sites.*

- 5) Regardless of whether a patient is assigned to eSyM+, eSyM-, or eSyM+ Non-Responder, and regardless of whether a patient completes the SASS Questionnaire or not, we are requesting a waiver of consent and HIPAA waiver to conduct medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews/Epic data queries on all patients in the denominator (for the definition of “denominator”, please see the section “how to operationalize the denominator” below) to ascertain demographics and outcomes. Because eSyM has QI implications and is part of routine clinical care, we must be able to compare responders with non-responders and eSyM+ with eSyM- and the combinations thereof to inform implementation beyond this initiative.

## **Informed Consent:**

### **Activity 4a: eSyM Usage (eSyM+): NHSR/QI.**

Because eSyM will be implemented at each site *for use in routine clinical care and because this is a quality improvement (QI) activity, using eSyM is not human subjects research, and therefore does not require consent*. When a patient becomes eligible for eSyM, he/she/they will receive an automated welcome message with a disclaimer that contains important information about the purpose of eSyM, how/when it should be used, and what it does and does not communicate to their care team (see Appendices N & Q).

### **Activity 4b: SASS QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS (eSyM+, eSyM-, and eSyM+ Non-Responder): Waiver of documentation of consent.**

Eligible patients will receive a study letter in-person, by email, and/or by postal mail asking them to consider participating in a questionnaire that asks about their self-efficacy, attainment of information needs, symptom burden, and satisfaction with care (see Appendix Z). This invitation will include the elements of informed consent (see Appendix R). The study letter will notify participants that the questionnaire is completely voluntary and can be stopped at any time for any reason. The letter will be sent from the health system where the patient receives care and signed by the site PI. For example, a patient at Dartmouth will receive a letter/email inviting participation from Dartmouth signed by Dr. Sandra Wong and a patient from West Virginia University will receive a letter/email inviting participation from Dr. Hannah Hazard. The letter includes a statement that survey completion has no influence or impact on a patient's medical care. This activity is minimal risk.

### **Activity 4c: MEDICAL RECORD REVIEW: Waiver of consent.**

Waiver of consent to conduct medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews/Epic queries on all patients in the “denominator” to ascertain demographics and outcomes regardless of whether a patient is assigned to eSyM+ or eSyM- and regardless of whether a patient completes the questionnaire or not. Because eSyM has QI implications and is part of routine clinical care, we must be able to compare responders with non-responders and eSyM+ with eSyM- and the combinations thereof to inform implementation beyond this trial. The medical record review meets all the conditions to obtain a waiver of consent (i.e., not FDA-regulated, involves no more than minimal risk, waiver will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects, and activity could not be practicably carried out without a waiver).

### **Activity 4d: PATIENT QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS: Written informed consent.**

Eligible patients will receive a study letter in-person, by email, by Epic MyChart portal message, and/or by postal mail inviting them to participate in a qualitative interview that asks about their experiences with and feedback about the eSyM program and/or their care experience. This invitation will include a written consent form (see Appendices QQ & SS), which will be signed by the participant. Informed consent can be obtained through wet ink (returned in-person or via snail mail) or e-consent through REDCap. The provided study letter and consent form will notify participants that the interview is completely voluntary and can be stopped at any time for any reason. The consent form will also request patient approval for their contact information (name,

email, address, and phone number) to be shared with the coordinating center (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute) for the purposes of conducting the interviews. All patient qualitative interviews will be conducted by the study team at the coordinating center, who will reach out to the patient once the signed consent form is received. The study letter and consent form will be sent from the health system where the patient receives care and signed by the site PI. For example, a patient at Dartmouth will receive a letter/email inviting participation from Dartmouth signed by Dr. Sandra Wong and a patient from West Virginia University will receive a letter/email inviting participation from Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins. The letter includes a statement that survey completion has no influence or impact on a patient's medical care. This activity is minimal risk.

**Methods that will be used to identify potential subjects:** The denominator will be identified algorithmically; eSyM/MyChart/REDCap will be programmed so that the correct patients will automatically receive an invitation to use eSyM. When manual support is needed, under a HIPAA waiver, study staff will run reports in Epic, administrative/operations/billing databases, order entry databases, and/or cancer registry databases.

Under a HIPAA waiver, study staff will run reports in Epic as part of the eSyM registry and/or to identify patients meeting eSyM registry criteria to identify medical and surgical patients for eSyM+, eSyM-, eSyM+ Non-Responder SASS questionnaires, and patient qualitative interviews. Select eSyM- patients will be identified and surveyed before eSyM's launch at their site but after the registry has been created, ensuring that they have never been exposed to the program but would have been eligible to use it. Patients eligible to complete the eSyM- questionnaire will be identified using the patient registry and/or a site-developed Epic report to identify patients who had a qualifying surgery or new chemo start within the last 6 months. Patients eligible to complete the eSyM+ and eSyM+ Non-Responder questionnaires will be identified using the registry after eSyM has been launched at their site and 30-60 days after their surgery or new chemotherapy. The eSyM+ SASS questionnaire will be distributed to patients who were assigned to eSyM and completed at least one eSyM questionnaire. The eSyM+ Non- Responder SASS questionnaire will be distributed to patients who were assigned to the eSyM program but never completed an eSyM questionnaire. Sites may begin distributing eSyM+ and eSyM+ Non- Responder questionnaires as soon as they are able to do so after go-live and will continue until a minimum of 75 eSyM+ surveys and a minimum of 15 eSyM+ Non-Responder surveys have been collected for the medical oncology and surgery versions. Patients eligible to participate in the qualitative interviews will be identified using Epic reports and invitations will be sent to patients meeting eSyM program eligibility. Patients may or may not have previously completed SASS or eSyM questionnaires. Interviews will be conducted until thematic saturation is reached, or until 100 interviews have been completed, whichever is reached first.

In addition, under a HIPAA waiver, email and postal addresses will be obtained for all eSyM+, eSyM-, eSyM+ Non-Responder and qualitative interview patients. Email and postal addresses will be utilized to share the SASS questionnaire invitation through REDCap and/or mailing (see Appendix Z) and to send the interview invitations and consent forms via email and/or mailing (see Appendix SS and QQ).

**Activity 4 Population:**

- Age  $\geq$  18 years
- Priority population will be patients who meet one of the following:
  - Suspected thoracic cancer AND is undergoing thoracic surgery.
  - Suspected gastrointestinal cancer AND is undergoing gastrointestinal surgery.
  - Suspected gynecologic cancer AND is undergoing gynecologic surgery.
  - Diagnosis of thoracic cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for thoracic cancer.
  - Diagnosis of gastrointestinal cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for gastrointestinal cancer.
  - Diagnosis of gynecologic cancer AND scheduled to start a new treatment plan for gynecologic cancer.
- Total population allowed to use eSyM:
  - Any patient at any participating site.

*\*\*Please note – Patients undergoing thoracic, gynecologic, or gastrointestinal surgery may not be diagnosed with cancer. These patients are still eligible for eSyM usage, questionnaire completion, and medical record abstraction.*

**Defining and operationalizing the denominator:**

- To determine if a patient has a diagnosis of one of the priority cancer types, use ICD-10 diagnosis codes: 15.0-16.99 (esophago-gastric) C17.0-C21.9 (small int. colorectal) C22.0-24.9 (hepatobiliary) C23-C25.9 (pancreas), C34-34.9: lung, C53.0-53.9 (cervix) C54-54.9 (uterine) and/or C56-57.9 (ovarian). When it comes time to execute, this list may be modified. CPT and procedure codes as well as EPIC operating room scheduling lists will be used to determine if a patient is scheduled for a priority surgery.
- Participants assigned to eSyM+ may be trained to use eSyM by their local clinic/study staff. Surgical patients may be trained to use eSyM at the time of surgical discharge (or at the site's discretion patients may receive training in how to use eSyM at a preoperative visit). Med Onc patients may be trained to use eSyM at the time of their first chemotherapy dose visit or at the time of a pre-treatment visit for chemotherapy teaching (at the site's discretion). Epic reports may also be used to identify eligible patients who are assigned or will be assigned to eSyM so that training of the eligible patients can be done by study research staff via telephone or email before or after beginning treatment or having surgery.
- Participants in the eSyM- cohort will meet priority population criteria and be seen at a participating site between 1/1/2018 and the site's eSyM go-live date. Participants in the eSyM+ cohort will meet priority population criteria and be seen at a participating site after their eSyM go-live date through March 31, 2024.

**Mode of Participation:** Patients will have a *choice* of their preferred mode of eSyM participation and switching can be accommodated. Patients with a smart phone will be offered that approach first, however all patients will be notified that access to eSyM is available as long as they can access the secure patient portal (MyChart). eSyM can be accessed securely through the MyChart portal on any web-enabled device. Alternatives to smart phone reporting include

participation in eSyM via any web-enabled device (laptop/tablet/desktop). Patients may designate a caregiver willing to elicit their symptoms and report responses on their behalf (proxy reporting). This flexibility facilitates the intervention's reach to frail patients who may be those most likely to benefit. The influence of mode of participation and reliance on self- versus proxy-reporting will be analyzed in multivariable models.

**The denominator is defined above. Automated and/or manual medical record (and/or local cancer registry) review will be done on all patients in the denominator.**

**Number of subjects (per site and overall):** For Activity 4, there will be a *minimum* of 6,048 eSyM+ patient users. Prespecified eSyM- accrual numbers can be found in Appendix TT (SAP). eSyM users and control patients can be from any of the 6 participating sites. We anticipate that each of the 6 hospitals in the stepped wedge trial will have a *minimum* of 900 patients. Protocol does not mandate equal distribution of participants among participating sites. The entire statistical analysis section is predicated on a *minimum* N=6048. Because the goal is broad-based systems-level implementation, we anticipate having much a higher N which will enable us to examine effectiveness in subgroups of interest.

**When, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited:** Once the population definition has been programmed into eSyM/ MyChart, the system will automatically deliver the invitation to use eSyM to the patients in the eSyM+ group (see randomization schedule figure below under the title “stepped wedge rollout”). eSyM- patients will be identified using Epic query reports. Study staff will deliver the invitation to participate in the SASS Questionnaire to all patients in the denominator (eSyM+, eSyM-, and eSyM+ Non- Responder) using the registry before and after eSyM launch until at least 1,980 have participated. Because different patients are reachable by different methods, patients may be contacted through email, postal mail, by phone, or in clinic inviting them to use eSyM and/or participate in the SASS Questionnaire.

There are six versions of the SASS Questionnaire: surgical experience eSyM+, eSyM-, and eSyM+ Non-Responder and drug therapy eSyM+, eSyM-, and eSyM+ Non-Responder. All versions contain validated PRO items (including PROMIS and CAHPs) and validated computer and internet use items from PEW. The eSyM+ versions contain additional items to evaluate usability and satisfaction with eSyM. The eSyM+ Non-Responder versions include additional questions to evaluate why eligible eSyM patients did not respond to the eSyM questionnaires. The SASS Questionnaire may be administered through REDCap, by phone, email, postal mail, or in clinic. Multiple methods of collection are allowed in order to minimize barriers to participation. As needed, patients will also be offered eSyM training through in-person, phone, and/or virtual visits.

The patient qualitative interviews will follow the interview guide in Appendix RR. The interview will ask questions regarding patients' overall experience with the program, suggested improvements they would make to the eSyM symptom questionnaire or the overall program, and any potential or real barriers to accessing or using the program. The interviews may take place by phone, via Zoom/video conference, or in-person. Multiple methods of collection are allowed to minimize barriers to participation.

**Materials that will be used to recruit subjects:** See Appendices M and N for the message that will be sent to patients inviting them to participate in the questionnaire and/or eSyM, respectively. As a reminder, participating in the SASS questionnaire or eSyM survey will not influence a patient's medical care in any manner. The purpose of these questionnaires is to help care teams learn about the best way to help patients cope with symptoms between visits (for medical oncology) and after surgery (for surgical patients).

See Appendices SS and QQ for the message and consent form that will be sent to patients inviting them to participate in the qualitative interview. Participating in the qualitative interview will not influence a patient's medical care in any manner. The purpose of these interviews is to gather direct patient feedback for study research staff about eSyM to inform future optimizations to the program.

**Duration of subject's participation in the study:**

- 1) Per protocol, eSyM usage continues for up to 60-180 days but can continue indefinitely at the site's discretion.
- 2) The SASS Questionnaire is a one-time, 20-minute survey administered 30-180 days after surgery or first dose of chemotherapy.
- 3) The patient qualitative interview(s) will last approximately 30 (but no more than 120) minutes; they will be administered any time after eSyM assignment at a time that is convenient for the subject.
- 4) All eSyM- control and eSyM+ intervention patients will be followed for outcomes for up to 1-year after the trigger event (i.e., new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery).

**Duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects:** We anticipate that it will take five years to complete this activity.

**Study design:** Hybrid effectiveness-implementation stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial.

**Description of all research procedures being performed:**

- a) Epic, administrative/operations/billing databases, order entry databases, and/or cancer registry databases may be queried to identify denominator patients under a HIPPA waiver.
- b) Patients assigned to eSyM+ will be set up to use eSyM by their local clinic/study staff. Surgical patients will be set up to use eSyM at the time of surgical discharge (or at the site's discretion). Medical oncology patients will be set up to use eSyM at the time of their first chemotherapy dose visit (or at the site's discretion).
- c) Select eligible participants will receive a message inviting them to participate in the SASS questionnaire 30-days after surgery or first chemo dose (Appendix Z).
- d) Participants who participate in the SASS questionnaire and indicate that they wish to receive a gift card will receive \$15 gift card. Gift cards will be mailed or emailed according to patient preference. Please note, emailed gift cards will come directly from Amazon.com or sent by a study research staff member.

- e) Participants who participate in the qualitative interviews and indicate that they wish to receive a gift card will receive a \$15 gift card. Gift cards will be mailed or emailed according to patient preference. Please note, emailed gift cards will come directly from Amazon.com or sent by a study research staff member.
- f) All denominator patients (eSyM- control and eSyM+ intervention) will undergo medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews. The medical record (and/or local cancer registry) reviews will be accomplished using both automated data extraction and manual data abstraction under a HIPAA waiver.

**Monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks:** The risk to participants is minimal with the primary risk being loss of confidentiality/privacy. To monitor the risk of loss of confidentiality/privacy, the informatics team will routinely monitor eSyM reports and data extracts and investigate inquiries from study teams. Furthermore, patients who report severe symptoms will be prompted to call their care team immediately, and clinicians will receive in-basket notifications in the Epic EHR of the severe symptom report. All interview participants from outside of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will provide written consent to have their information shared with the Dana-Farber research staff members who will contact them to conduct the interviews.

**What data will be collected and how:**

- Participant responses to the symptom reporting questions within eSyM will be collected.
- Patient and clinician eSyM usage reports will be collected.
- Patient-reported self-efficacy, attainment of information needs, symptom burden, and satisfaction with care will be collected via the SASS Questionnaire.
- Patient feedback on the eSyM program and experiences with care team and symptom management via qualitative interviews.
- Study-related health information and outcomes will be collected via medical record (and/or local cancer registry) review (automated and manual).
- Hospital/clinic characteristics will be collected.
- All data collected for this study will be submitted to the coordinating center (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute).

**Long-term follow-up:** The patient's medical record may be reviewed for outcomes for up to 1-year after the trigger event (i.e., new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery).

**Activity 5: Integration of eSyM data to develop algorithms to estimate outcomes, including the risk of ED usage and hospitalization, among patients with suspected or confirmed cancer**

**Brief description of activity:** Patients receiving treatment for metastatic cancer have high symptom burdens and high rates of adverse events, including emergency department (ED) use and hospital admissions, which can impact patients' quality of life.<sup>57,58</sup> Some of these adverse events may be preventable if providers can match patients with appropriate outpatient services. However, to achieve this goal, we must improve our ability to prospectively identify the patients

at increased risk for near-term adverse events and most likely to benefit from intensification of outpatient care.

Several studies have used EHR data to predict risk of death in cancer patients.<sup>59,60</sup> However, efforts to date have several limitations. They rely on computationally-intensive methods that are difficult to implement in routine clinical practice. Little work has been done to develop models that predict adverse events which are actionable in the near-term. Existing risk-prediction models are susceptible to racial biases; little research has evaluated whether these models' calibrations may have racial biases.<sup>61</sup> And few efforts have incorporated newer data sources, such as ePROs, into risk prediction models. ePROs, which are now frequently collected in routine clinical care, may improve predictions.<sup>62</sup>

We aim to develop methods to predict which patients are at the highest risk for undesirable outcomes, including hospitalization and ED use. These predictions will lay the foundation for future work to develop targeted interventions to intensify outpatient care and reduce preventable adverse events. Specifically, we will use SIMPRO data (including demographics, conditions, medications, encounters, ePROS, etc.) to develop predictive models that are built using machine learning clinical risk prediction techniques. Through these efforts, we seek to address a number of important questions, including how ePRO data affect model performance; how clinical risk scores perform relative machine learning algorithms; and whether there are differences in model performance among different patient subgroups (to determine whether predictive model calibrations based on EHR data may be intrinsically biased).

Using data from six health systems will allow us to evaluate algorithms to predict adverse events in diverse clinical settings

**Specific Aims:**

1. Develop algorithms to estimate the risk of adverse events, including ED usage and hospitalization, among patients with suspected or confirmed cancer who are treated in community settings.
2. Assess whether inclusion of ePROs improves algorithm performance and how predictions from clinical risk scores compare to predictions from computationally intensive machine learning approaches
3. Assess model performance among historically under-represented populations, including Black patients, and assess for evidence of racial bias in model calibration.

**Human Subjects Research Category (NHSR, exempt, expedited, full review):** Exempt

**Informed Consent:** Waiver of consent (retrospective data review).

**Activity 5 Population:** All patient-level data collected in Activity 4 will be utilized. To date, the SIMPRO consortium has collected more than 50,000 survey responses and EHR data for more than 13,000 medical oncology and surgical oncology patients across these systems. These data

present an opportunity to develop and test algorithms to predict adverse events in patients receiving care for a suspected or confirmed cancer.

**Number of subjects (per site and overall):** All patient-level data collected in Activity 4 will be utilized.

**When, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited:** Not applicable. Only previously collected patient-level data will be utilized.

**Materials that will be used to recruit subjects:** Not applicable. Only previously collected patient-level data will be utilized.

**Duration of subject's participation in the study:** Not applicable.

**Duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects:** Not applicable.

**Study design:** Retrospective data analysis project.

**Description of all research procedures being performed:** We will use data previously collected for the SIMPRO project to develop and evaluate the performance of predictive models for adverse events among patients with suspected or confirmed malignancy. The only new procedures will include novel analyses of existing data.

**Monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks:** Not applicable, only deidentified datasets will be utilized for predictive modeling work.

**What data will be collected and how:** Not applicable, previously collected data will be utilized.

**Long-term follow-up:** Not applicable.

## 6.0 Study-Wide Number of Subjects

Activity 1 – Stakeholder Engagement				Activity 2	Activity 3- Patient Engagement	Activity 4 - Patient Engagement	Activity 5 – Predictive Modeling Algorithms
Patient Advisory Council	Health system leaders	Clinicians and staff	Follow- up	Build eSyM	UAT/Pilot study	Pragmatic stepped- wedge cluster randomized trial	Integration of eSyM data
	Exempt, waiver of consent				NHSR	3a) NHSR 3b) Waiver of documentation of consent 3c) Waiver of consent 4d) Written consent	4a) NHSR 4b) Waiver of documentation of consent 4c) Waiver of consent 4d) Written consent
Study- Wide Accrual	30-150 <sup>a</sup>	24-60 <sup>a</sup>	360 <sup>a</sup>	720 <sup>a</sup>	n/a	390	6,048 ( <b>minimum</b> ) <sup>d</sup> [1,980 of whom will complete the SASS Questionnaire and 48 patient interviews]
Accrual per site	5-25 <sup>a,c</sup>	4-10 <sup>a,c</sup>	60 <sup>a,c</sup>	120 <sup>a,c</sup>	n/a	90 <sup>c</sup> at Dana-Farber, and 60 <sup>c</sup> at each of the other participating sites.	1,008 <sup>c</sup> ( <b>minimum</b> ) <sup>d</sup> at each of the six participating sites [330 of whom will complete the SASS Questionnaire and 8 taking part in patient interviews]
	GRAND TOTAL MAXIMUM ACCRUAL ACROSS ALL STUDY ACTIVITIES PER SITE = 5,000 GRAND TOTAL MAXIMUM ACCRUAL ACROSS ALL STUDY ACTIVITIES STUDY-WIDE = 30,000						

<sup>a</sup> Number can be larger or smaller depending on meeting attendance and availability of staff.

<sup>b</sup> Interviews/surveys will continue until thematic saturation is reached.

<sup>c</sup> Protocol does not mandate equal distribution of participants among participating sites.

<sup>d</sup> The entire statistical analysis section is predicated on *minimum* N = 6048. Because the goal is broad-based systems-level implementation, we anticipate having much higher N which will enable us to examine effectiveness in subgroups of interest.

## 7.0 Study-Wide Recruitment Methods

Each activity utilizes slightly different recruitment methods. See section 5.0 for details.

## 8.0 Multi-Site Research

This is a multi-site study. The lead site and coordinating center for this protocol is Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The regulatory sponsors are Dr. Deborah Schrag MD MPH (Co-Grant PI and Study Chair) and Dr. Michael Hassett MD MPH (Co-Grant PI and Coordinating Center Site PI). **All participating sites are required to adhere to the Data Safety and Monitoring Plan (DSMP) for this study (see Appendix S).**

## 9.0 Study Timelines

The duration of an individual subject's participation in the study and the duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects varies by activity. See section 5.0 for details.

The estimated date for the investigators to complete primary analyses is September 30, 2023. Secondary analyses are estimated to be completed by August 31, 2024. The estimated date of study completion is December 31, 2024. Dates are subject to change.

## 10.0 Study Endpoints and Statistical Analyses

**The detailed protocol statistical analysis plan (SAP) can be found in Appendix TT.**

### Analysis of activity 1 (stakeholder engagement):

Quantitative interviews will be scored using their established scoring metrics:

- The NOMAD instrument is a 23-item survey that measures implementation processes from the perspective of professionals directly involved in the work of implementing complex interventions in healthcare. [Appendix J]
- The AIM (Acceptability of Intervention Measure), IAM (Intervention Appropriateness Measure), and FIM (Feasibility of Intervention Measure) instruments are four-item measures of implementation outcomes that are often considered “leading indicators” of implementation success. [Appendix G]
- The CSAT (Clinical Sustainability Assessment Tool) instrument is a 49-item survey with 7 domains used by evaluators and researchers to determine the extent to which a practice is being implemented effectively. (Appendix Y)
- The ORCA (Organizational Readiness to Change Assessment) instrument is a 74-item survey with three domains, each item has been mapped to a CFIR construct, and will be scored according to Helfrich et al.'s (2009). [Appendix B]
- The OCM (Organizational Change Manager) instrument is a 60-item survey with 15 domains, each item has been mapped to a CFIR construct, and will be scored according to Gustafson et al.'s (2003). [Appendix B2]

Qualitative interviews (audio recordings and notes) will be evaluated for common themes. Results from the qualitative and quantitative interviews and surveys will be used to inform eSyM, its content, its rollout, and the training materials.

Analysis of Activity 3 (UAT/Pilot study):

Study staff will observe patient/proxy, clinician and clinical support staff action steps and interactions with the system. Observations will be recorded and used to refine eSyM, its rollout, and the training materials.

Any patient data collected will be analyzed as per the analysis plan for the stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial described below.

Analysis of Activity 4 (stepped-wedge trial):

*Additional details can be found in Appendix TT. Please reference Appendix TT for the most updated SAP.*

**Study Design:** Type II Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Trial. The research team will partner with software developers at Epic to adapt working ePRO symptom management systems, one in surgical and one in medical oncology, and fully integrate them into the EHR at 6 health systems. After pilot testing, we will conduct a pragmatic stepped wedge cluster randomized trial to measure the effectiveness of the ePRO system on outcomes that matter to patients and clinicians. Throughout, we will evaluate the implementation process to optimize sustainability and generate actionable knowledge that facilitates scaling to other settings. The proposed study is a hybrid effectiveness-implementation type I trial according to the Curran schema.<sup>131</sup> The study meets PRECIS-2 criteria for pragmatic trials based on scores of 4 or higher in each domain.<sup>132</sup> Reports will adhere to the revised Criteria for Reporting the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions in healthcare (CReDECI2),<sup>133</sup> the CONSORT PRO<sup>134</sup> and cluster randomized extensions,<sup>135</sup> and the stepped wedge reporting guidelines proposed by Grayling.<sup>136</sup>

The PICOTS FRAMEWORK. <sup>63</sup>	
Populations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Adult patients with GI, GYN, or Thoracic cancer having a new treatment plan</li><li>2) Adult patients with suspected GI, GYN, or thoracic cancer having a priority surgery</li></ol> <p><i>**Patients were seen at the participating sites between January 1, 2018 and March 31, 2024. Dates are subject to change.**</i></p>
Intervention	<p><b>eSyM:</b> A multi-component ePRO Symptom Management system based on PRO-CTCAE with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <u>Patient-facing components:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prompts for between-clinic visit symptom reporting and the ability to view profiles over time</li><li>• Evidenced-based education for self-management in response to symptom reports</li><li>• Alerts to contact the clinical team in response to severe or escalating symptoms</li></ul></li></ol>

	<p>2. <u>Clinician-facing components:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View patient profiles in EHR flowsheet, accessible between or during visits, easily added to notes</li> <li>• Receive alerts for severe symptoms in the EHR, same as for abnormal lab tests</li> <li>• Dashboard functionality to track symptoms for groups of patients</li> </ul>
Control	No eSyM symptom reporting
Outcomes	Emergency department visits culminating in discharge, hospitalizations, symptom burden, care satisfaction
Timing	4-year study of surgical and medical oncology patients each followed for up to 1 year after the trigger event (i.e. new chemotherapy treatment plan and/or surgery)
Setting	Six health care systems, all small cancer centers. All use an Epic EHR.
Design	A hybrid Type II effectiveness-implementation pragmatic cluster randomized trial, with stepped wedge rollout (6 steps), patient as the unit of analysis and closed (cross-sectional) cohort design

### **Randomization:**

We will conduct a stepped wedge cluster randomized trial to determine whether ePROs are clinically effective. This stepped wedge design has 6 steps, and we randomize 6 sites (Table) to the steps.

Table: Six participating sites and region

Site	Region
WVU	Southern
Baptist	
Dartmouth	Northern
Maine	
DFCI/BWH/MGH	Urban
Lifespan	

To ensure that two sites with the same attribution will not be assigned to the same rollout step group (early MO/late surgery or late MO/early surgery), we employ a stratified randomization by region. As a result, each of the two groups has a site from each of the three regions (Northern, Southern, and Metropolitan). The stepped wedge design includes seven time-periods, including a run-in period (Figure)..

Figure: Study design

Group	Step	Run-in	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Early MO /late surgery group	Step 1		MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
								Surgery
	Step 2		MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
							Surgery	Surgery

	Step 3			MO	MO	MO	MO
				Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
	Step 4				MO	MO	MO
				Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
	Step 5					MO	MO
			Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
	Step 6						MO
			Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery

MO: Medical oncology

Surgery: Surgical patients

**The sites were randomized on 11/6/18 as follows:**

Group	Step	Run-in	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Early MO /late surgery group	Baptist		MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
								Surgery
	Maine			MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
								Surgery
	Dana-Farber/BWH			MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
						Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
Late MO /early surgery group	Lifespan				MO	MO	MO	MO
				Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
	Dartmouth						MO	MO
				Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery
	WVU							
			Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery	Surgery

**Analysis of Activity 4d (Patient qualitative interviews):**

Qualitative interviews (audio recordings and notes) will be evaluated for common themes using NVIVO. Results from the qualitative interviews will be used to inform eSyM enhancements, program content, program rollout, and implementation strategies.

**Analysis of Activity 5:**

We will extract structured data from the six health systems participating in SIMPRO. These data include ePROs, demographics, diagnoses, treatment plans, medications, and inpatient and outpatient encounters. We will develop risk prediction models for adverse events, especially including, but not limited to hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Planned hospitalizations will be identified and excluded based on A) admissions within 24 hours of the

triggering surgery among surgical patients; and B) admissions associated with curative-intent surgeries among medical oncology patients with early-stage cancers. For models incorporating ePROs as predictors, the analytic cohort will include patients who completed at least one survey. For models excluding ePROs as predictors, the analytic cohort will include all patients in the database.

Data from at least one health system will be removed from the dataset to serve as an external test set. Among the remaining health systems, the population will be split at the patient level with 70% randomly assigned to a training cohort, 15% assigned a validation cohort and 15% assigned to an internal test set. To account for differences in clinical practice and demographics across health systems, randomization will be stratified by system. The same cohorts will be used to train and test all algorithms.

To determine the optimal machine learning model, we will evaluate multiple types of architectures, including logistic regression, random forests, gradient boosted machines, extreme gradient boosting, neural networks, and ensemble models. Hyperparameters will be tuned using the validation cohort and models iteratively trained until a final candidate model is identified. This model will then be evaluated on the held-out internal test set and the external test cohort, after which no further model training will be performed. These steps will be performed separately for the ePRO-responding cohort and the total cohort.

To develop clinical risk scores, we will select approximately 20 independent variables that can be easily abstracted from a patient's medical chart, such as diagnosis, treatment, comorbid conditions, recent hospitalizations, and demographics. Within the training cohort, we plan to use logistic regression with L1 regularization to select variables for inclusion and define the prediction model. The amount of regularization will be tuned using the validation cohort and models will be iteratively trained until a final candidate model is identified. Like above, these steps will be completed separately for the ePRO-responding and total cohorts. The area under the receiver operator characteristic curve (AUC-ROC) will be used to compare the performance (i.e., predictive ability) of different models.

## 11.0 Procedures Involved

The study design, study procedures and safety monitoring vary by activity. See section 5.0 for details.

## 12.0 Data Management and Confidentiality

DF/HCC uses a clinical trial management system (CTMS) called OnCore, which is managed by the Office of Data Quality (ODQ).

- **Activity 1** is research exempt from IRB review and involves engaging stakeholders. This will be achieved via emailed surveys or in group settings using discussion and handheld polling devices. We will collect basic demographic information. We will collect age group, gender, race, and ethnicity. We will NOT collect each participant's initials and date of birth. We will enter summary/batch accrual

information into Dana-Farber's CTMS OnCore for Activity 1. Individual registration is not feasible as OnCore mandates DOB.

- **Activity 2** is NHSR; registration in OnCore is not applicable.
- **Activities 3 and 4** will be largely automated. Epic will be programmed to identify and/or push eSyM out to applicable patient recipients. This is an implementation/QI study, not a traditional research study, so the consent/registration/intervention paradigm does not fit activities 3, 4a, 4b, and 4c. Activity 4d will include patient consent. Furthermore, activity 4 will accrue a *minimum* of 6048 participants. For these reasons, manual registration of each participant into OnCore before exposure to eSyM and/or the SASS questionnaire is not possible. Initials, date of birth, gender, race and ethnicity will be collected, and we will work with ODQ to provide ODQ with this data for all participants from all sites so that it can be imported into OnCore.
- **Activity 5** will involve a retrospective review of data collected in Activity 4. Registration in OnCore is not applicable.

**Data security:** PHI data will be collected using multiple applications: REDCap, eSyM/MyChart, Epic.

**REDCap:** For this study, data will be collected using the Partners instance of REDCap (redcap.partners.org). Consent for Activity 4D will also be collected using REDCap. In collaboration with the Harvard Catalyst | The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center, REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) is a free, secure, HIPAA compliant web-based application hosted by Partners HealthCare Research Computing, Enterprise Research Infrastructure & Services (ERIS). Vanderbilt University, with collaboration from a consortium of academic and non-profit institutional partners, develops this software application for electronic collection and management of research and clinical study data. Data collection is customized for each study or clinical trial by the research team with guidance from ERIS REDCap administrators. REDCap is built around HIPAA guidelines and is 21 CFR Part 11 capable.

**eSyM (which will be built into Epic):** Epic applications employ a variety of technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of personal information including supporting Transport Layer Security (TLS)/Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificate technology and encryption.

**To maximize data security, both REDCap and eSyM/Epic employ:**

**User Privileges.** To ensure that users have access only to data and information that they are supposed to have within the application, user privileges are utilized within the software. Each user has their own account, and their user account will only have access to information that they themselves have created or to which administrators have granted them access.

Password-protection & Authentication. Both systems are password protected and implement authentication to validate the identity of end-users that log in to the system.

Auto-logout setting will automatically log a user out of the system if they have not had any activity (e.g., typing, moving the mouse) on their current web page for the set amount of time. This prevents someone else from accessing their account and their data if they leave a workstation without properly logging out or closing their browser window.

Logging and Audit Trail. Both systems maintain built-in audit trails that log all user activity and all pages viewed by every user.

#### **Study specific procedure to maximize data security:**

Controlled access: The REDCap administrator at the coordinating site (Dana-Farber) will set up all user accounts so that each user only has access to their own site's data.

Use of unique study ID numbers: REDCap automatically assigns unique study ID numbers to each new case.

Extensive training: All personnel involved in this study are required to complete and document completion of extensive protocol training. Furthermore, all project investigators and staff are required to have valid certification of human subjects' research training.

Quality control: The staff at the coordinating center (Dana-Farber) will be responsible for monitoring the data for completion, accuracy, and compliance.

SFA storage: All study files will be maintained on a MGB HIPPA-compliant SFA. Backup copies will also be saved on an encrypted external hard drive. The study PI and PM will oversee user privileges to each of these storage areas and perform regular user audits to ensure proper access is maintained to all study files.

#### **Data collection and submission processes:**

At each local site: Hard copies of applicable study documents (i.e., printed SASS questionnaires, qualitative interview consent forms, etc.) will be kept in local study files in locked cabinets. Local copies of study materials may be destroyed 5-years after the primary completion date or at the discretion of the local site PI and local site IRB. NOTE: Prior to conducting any patient qualitative interviews, the coordinating center will request that a copy of the signed patient ICF be transmitted to DFCI. See below for data transmission methods. As appropriate, electronic ICF may also be obtained using REDCap.

**Data submission to the central coordinating site:** Local sites will transmit data to the central coordinating site using multiple methods: (1) study data will be submitted via REDCap; for this study, we will use the Partners Healthcare instance of REDCap available here: <https://redcap.partners.org/redcap/>. Sites will log into REDCap, fill out CRFs and upload source documentation and other files, and submit. (2) data downloads from eSyM/Epic will be transmitted to the central site using secure file transfer protocol (FTP). We will use a secure FTP managed by the Epic EHR vendor or we will use Partner's Healthcare secure FTP available here: <https://transfer.partners.org/courier/web/1000@/wmLogin.html> or the Partners automated Diplomat SFTP platform. (3) When appropriate, sites may transmit data via email. When appropriate, the email can be encrypted by typing "Send Secure" in the email subject line. (4) Epic may share site-specific data reports with the coordinating center (5) Due to the size and complexity of this project, other methods may be used if they are preapproved by the Dana-Farber PI and IT.

**Please note:** All sites will transmit a limited data set to the coordinating center in accordance with the SIMPRO-developed Data Use Agreement, which has been agreed upon by all participating sites.

**Summary of data collection:**

Data Sources & Representative Data Elements						
Epic Data			Patient survey	Collection/abstraction	Derived data	Patient interview
Entered by the patient	Entered by a clinician	Recorded processes				
PROs, medical history	Medical problems; chemo regimens	Hospital admissions; proportion of surveys completed	Quality of life; symptoms, self-efficacy	Cancer stage; disease status Provider/hospital type & volume	Number of urgent clinic visits for symptom management; Comorbidity	Feedback on eSyM experiences (to be recorded and transcribed)

Data Levels, Descriptions & Representative Data Elements			
Patient-encounter	Patient	Population	Healthcare system
Patient features that could change/recur over time	Patient features that do not change over time	Feature of multiple patients	Feature of a site or provider
PROs Disease status Urgent clinic encounters ED encounters Hospitalizations Chemotherapy plans Health literacy	Date of birth/age Race/ethnicity Cancer type Cancer diagnosis date Surgery type and date	Proportion of patients reporting a serious (i.e., high grade) symptom Proportion of patients responding to a survey	Urban/rural setting Medical/surgical provider High/low volume facility Teaching hospital status

## **Data collection from EPIC:**

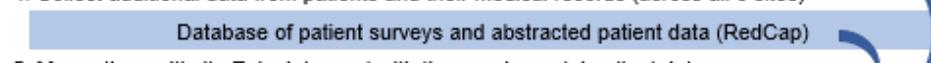
### **1. Use Epic to Deliver Health Care & Gather PROs**



### **2. Extract Epic Data – including PRO responses, RN documentation, chemotherapy plan details, surgery performed, problems, medications, hospitalizations, and outpatient visits**



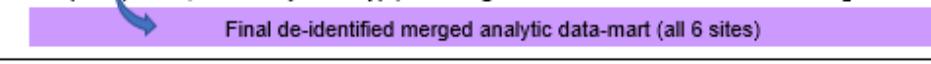
### **3. Gather, standardize, and combine all site Epic data-marts**



### **4. Collect additional data from patients and their medical records (across all 6 sites)**



### **5. Merge the multi-site Epic data-mart with the supplemental patient data**



## **Summary of Data Sharing:**

**Each Data Provider, including DFCI/BWH/MGH, will provide the following DATA SET to DFCI on a quarterly basis:**

**Activity 1 (Stakeholder Feedback):** Stakeholders include physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals, practice administrators, information technology support staff and administrators

- Email addresses for stakeholder participants (for REDCap administration ONLY)
- Basic demographic information from stakeholders (including # of years working for their organization, professional job category, gender, racial background, ethnicity, age group) collected via Clicker questions, REDCap, and/or email
- Audio recordings from UM1 focus groups and/or individual qualitative interviews
- Transcripts from UM1 focus groups and/or qualitative interviews
  - Meeting minutes from UM1 focus groups. Feedback may be collected in an identifiable fashion. For example, the CIO's comments may be attributed to "the CIO."
- Clicker-question responses from UM1 focus groups (i.e., NOMAD, CFIR, AIM items etc.)
- REDCap survey responses (i.e., NOMAD, CFIR, AIM Items, etc.)

**Activity 2 (Build & deploy eSyM)**

- NO data transfer required

Activity 3a (eSyM App Usage)

- Participant responses to the symptom reporting questions within eSyM (collected via Epic/MyChart)
- Participant MyChart activity including login dates, mode of usage, and number of messages sent to the care team
- Clinician responses to symptom reports (collected via Epic) including # of documented eSyM encounters and InBasket message responses
- Data on eSyM usage by all user types (collected via Epic/MyChart)

Activity 3b (eSyM User Acceptability Testing)

- Notes and observations taken during user acceptability testing

*\*\*No PHI will be collected during UAT*

Activity 3c (Medical Record Abstraction): This activity is necessary to understand how exposure to eSyM influences rates of acute care visits.

- Patient identifier - study ID # which may be an encrypted MRN (collected via Epic and encrypted as needed by site study team). Study teams at each site will encrypt actual MRNs and provide a study ID#. Suggested algorithms and code will be provided but this must be done at each site. Each site must separately store the “master key” that links real MRN to study ID#. Actual MRNs will not be released to the DFCI or shared with the NCI.
- Patient study site – identifying which hospital system and which clinic site a patient is seen at for those hospitals having more than one site.
- Patient zip code of residence (collected via Epic)
- Patient DOB – This may be encrypted. The year of birth is required. However, sites can elect to encrypt birth date and month. For example, a site may encrypt through an algorithm that: a) adds 4 months and 11 days to all birth dates that are in even number calendar years and subtracts 3 months and 16 days from all birth dates that are in odd number years. Each site is responsible for developing and deploying its own encryption file and storing it locally in secure fashion.
- Patient vital status
- Patient demographic information, including sex, race, ethnicity, language, marital status, employment status, and education level
- Patient eSyM inclusion information, including cancer diagnosis data and/or procedure data
  - Cancer diagnosis code (ICD-10 codes), date and description
  - Complete Epic problem list
  - Procedure code (CPT code), date, description, and goal
  - Cancer staging code
  - Treatment plan information, including start date, end date, intention
  - Medications list
- Patient dates of service including surgery, chemo administration, follow-up appointments, etc. (collected via Epic)
- Study-outcomes collected via Epic including:
  - Hospital readmission rates within 90 days for surgical patients

- Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
- Hospital admission rates within 90 days of chemotherapy for medical oncology patients.
  - Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
- Emergency department visits (including those that culminate in admission versus those that culminate in discharge) for surgical and medical oncology patients
  - Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
- Dates of chemotherapy administration

*\*\*Please note – Additional medical record data and outcomes will be collected via Epic as determined by the SIMPRO consortium. All requested items will still fall within the parameters of a limited data set\*\**

#### Activity 4a (eSyM App Usage)

- Participant MyChart activity including login dates, mode of usage, and number of messages sent to the care team
- Data on eSyM usage by all user types
- Clinician responses to symptom reports (collected via Epic) including # of documented eSyM encounters and InBasket message responses

#### Activity 4b (SASS Questionnaire)

- Patient contact information (email address and/or postal address) to be inputted into Partners REDCap for survey administration ONLY. There is no other use of patient emails as part of this study.
- Patient-reported self-efficacy, attainment of information needs, symptom burden, and satisfaction with care using validated metrics.

#### Activity 4c (Medical Record Abstraction)

- Patient identifier for all patients in the denominator cohort (eSyM users and non-users) - study ID # and/or encrypted MRN (collected via Epic and encrypted as needed by site study team)
- Patient study site ID for all patients in the denominator cohort (eSyM users and non-users)
- Patient zip code of residence (collected from Epic registration field)
- Patient DOB for all patients in the denominator cohort (eSyM users and non-users) – DOB can have encrypted birth month and day as described above under activity 3c.
- Patient vital status
- Patient demographic information, including sex, race, ethnicity, language, marital status, employment status, and education level
- Patient eSyM inclusion information, including cancer diagnosis data and/or procedure data
  - Cancer diagnosis code (ICD-10 codes), date and description
  - Complete Epic problem list
  - Procedure code (CPT code), date, description, and goal
  - Cancer staging code

- Treatment plan information, including start date, end date, intention
- Medications list
- Patient dates of service including surgery, chemo administration, follow-up appointments (collected via Epic) for all patients in the denominator cohort (eSyM users and non-users)  
Please see detail under Activity 3c.
- Study-outcomes collected via Epic including:
  - Hospital readmission rates within 90 days for surgical patients
    - Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
  - Hospital admission rates within 90 days of chemotherapy for medical oncology patients.
    - Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
  - Emergency department visits (including those that culminate in admission versus those that culminate in discharge) for surgical and medical oncology patients
    - Information will include visit dates, discharge diagnosis codes
  - Dates of chemotherapy administration

**Activity 4d (Patient Interviews)\*\***

- Name, phone number, and email addresses for consented patient participants (for interview scheduling purposes)
- Basic demographic and diagnosis information as well as eSyM history will be collected directly from patients
- Audio recordings from qualitative interviews
- Transcripts from qualitative interviews
  - Transcripts will be deidentified (e.g. names, treatment location, state, etc)

\*\*NOTE: As Activity 4d is a consented protocol activity, identifiable information will be shared with the coordinating center. During the consenting process, enrolling participants will be made aware and attest through their written consent that their contact information will be shared with the coordinating center and that interviews will be conducted directly by the coordinating center, not the local study team. Participants will have the option to opt out at any time. After consent and upon completion of the qualitative interviews, audio recordings will be transcribed and interview transcripts will be deidentified prior to analyses, publications, or future data sharing activities

*Please note – Additional medical record data and outcomes will be collected via Epic as determined by the SIMPRO consortium. All requested items will still fall within the parameters of a limited data set.*

***Please note: All data stored at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (SIMPRO Coordinating Center) is kept under double password protected servers that routinely have audits to examine access.***

**Investigators at all SIMPRO Data Provider institutions will have access to the full compiled program limited data set (e.g., all data explicitly listed above as well as any other data**

**collected and shared through this limited data set agreement). In addition, this complete data set will be shared with the designated study chair and team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.**

**DFCI will provide the following limited dataset to the National Cancer Institute (IMS):**

- Stakeholder Data
  - Aggregate site participation #'s
  - Hospital and provider characteristics (as available)
  - Transcripts from UM1 focus groups and/or qualitative interviews
    - Meeting minutes from UM1 focus groups. Feedback may be collected in an identifiable fashion. For example, the CIO's comments may be attributed to "the CIO."
  - Stakeholder clicker-question responses from UM1 focus groups (i.e., NOMAD, CFIR, AIM items etc.)
  - Stakeholder REDCap survey responses (i.e., NOMAD, CFIR, AIM Items, etc.)
- Patient Data
  - Study ID for SASS survey respondents
  - Responses for each survey respondent
  - Patient demographics
    - Patient zip code
    - Age (interval linked to anchor date)
    - Sex, race, ethnicity, language, marital status, employment status, state of residence and education level
  - Enrollment
    - Procedure type and category
    - Tx plan and type
  - Clinical encounters and appointments
    - Encrypted date of procedure
    - Interval between surgery and hospital discharge
    - Interval between hospital discharge and eSyM symptom reports
    - Interval between hospital discharge and ED visits
    - Interval between hospital discharge and rehospitalizations
    - Encrypted date of new chemo and treatment administrations
    - Interval between new chemo and eSyM reports
    - Interval between new chemo and ED visits
    - Interval between new chemo and rehospitalizations
    - Hospital readmission and ED rates within 30 and 90 days of chemo/surgery
  - Cancer diagnoses
  - Comorbid condition diagnoses
  - Procedures performed during encounters
    - Laboratory data with encrypted date fields (i.e., intervals based on anchor date)
  - Cancer-directed medication administrations and/or orders

- Medication list with encrypted date fields (i.e., intervals based on anchor date)
  - Symptom-directed medication administrations and/or orders
  - Vital signs data (body mass index (BMI) measurements only)

*\*\*Please note – Additional medical record data and outcomes will be collected via Epic as determined by the SIMPRO consortium and may be shared with the NCI. All requested items will still fall within the parameters of a limited data set\*\**

**Please note:**

- Deidentified, patient level data will be compiled from the SIMPRO consortium (*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Maine Health, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Lifespan Cancer Institute/Rhode Island Hospital, West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc.*)
- The PI and project manager of each of the 6 SIMPRO sites will review all data to be shared with the NCI.

## **13.0 Provisions to Monitor the Data to Ensure the Safety of Subjects**

Please see the Data Safety and Monitoring Plan (Appendix S).

## **14.0 Future Use of Data**

This study does not involve any specimen collection/banking of any kind. Personal health information will be collected as part of this study.

All data collected during this study will be stored and used for future research. Any personal identifiers will be removed so that the information cannot be linked back to a patient. Details on data use cases can be found below:

- 1) **Local site investigators utilizing SIMPRO data collected at their home institution (one site)** – Investigators should receive local site PI approval to obtain and analyze internal site data. IRB approval should be obtained locally as needed.
- 2) **SIMPRO investigators utilizing SIMPRO data** – All analyses are covered through this protocol. No additional approvals are needed.
- 3) **Investigators at SIMPRO sites utilizing SIMPRO data outside of the scope of the original grant** - Investigators, including those from collaborating institutions, can request the data collected from this study for new research. Requests must be sent to the Coordinating Center Site PI (Michael Hassett MD, MPH). All data requests and analysis plans must be approved by the coordinating center sIRB (WIRB) and local site IRBs, as required, through this protocol or stand-alone protocols.
- 4) **NCI and IMPACT collaborators utilizing SIMPRO data** - Per the SIMPRO-developed data use agreement, a limited data set will be shared with the National

Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute) and IMPACT consortium member sites in accordance with funding requirements. Publications and presentations resulting from analyses using SIMPRO data will include appropriate credits and authorship as agreed to with SIMPRO investigators.

- 5) **External collaborators utilizing SIMPRO data** – Data may also be shared with outside non-profit academic investigators as well as with for-profit pharmaceutical investigators or commercial entities with whom Dana-Farber collaborates. Requests must be sent to the Coordinating Center Site PI (Michael Hassett MD, MPH). All data requests and analysis plans must be approved by the coordinating center and appropriate IRB approvals and data transfer agreements will be obtained.

The study letters inform the participant that data collected for this study may be used in the future. Participants will not be asked to provide additional informed consent for the use of de-identified information in future research.

There is no scheduled date on which the information and data that is being used or shared for this research will be destroyed, because research is an ongoing process. The eventual goal is to make deidentified SIMPRO data publicly available through collaborations with the NCI.

## 15.0 Withdrawal of Subjects

Symptom reporting via eSyM per protocol will continue for 60-180-days; after this period, the local site may decide whether to continue having the patient report symptoms via eSyM or not. Observational follow-up will continue for 1-year. If a patient submits a request in writing to be removed from eSyM, then their local site will deactivate their account. Any data collected up to that point will be kept and included in analyses. Patient status [denominator group, eSyM active in 60-90-day window, eSyM active beyond 60-90-day window, written request of withdrawal, 1-year observational window, or post-1-year observational window] will be captured via eSyM and REDCap CRF.

## 16.0 Risks to Subjects

There are risks to taking part in any research study. The primary risk of this study is loss of privacy or confidentiality. The risk of loss of privacy or confidentiality by using eSyM or taking part in this study is minimal. The study team has taken many steps to prevent any loss of privacy or confidentiality, including training of all clinic and research staff in best practices, rules, and regulations surrounding privacy and confidentiality, collecting research data using unique study ID numbers instead of names or other identifying information, and use of data collection systems that meet the NIH's data security standards.

## **17.0 Potential Benefits to Subjects**

Using eSyM may or may not benefit participants. We hope that by using eSyM, patients are able to better manage their symptoms and the increased flow of information between a patient and their care team improves their experiences. We also hope the information learned from this research study will provide more information about how to best help patients, caregivers, and their care team work together during and between visits to achieve better symptom management in cancer patients.

## **18.0 Vulnerable Populations**

This protocol does not involve vulnerable populations of prisoners and children. Prisoners and children are excluded.

Cognitively impaired adults may participate because the risk is negligible. This protocol only involves questionnaires, opinion surveys and symptom reporting via an internet enabled app (MyChart). Additionally, cognitive status is not reliably captured in the EHR and, as this project involves automated identification of patients, we will not be able to exclude patients prior to eSyM assignment based on cognitive status.

Pregnant women may participate because the risk to the woman and her fetus is negligible. This protocol only involves questionnaires, opinion surveys and symptom reporting via an internet enabled app (MyChart).

## **19.0 Sharing of Results with Subjects**

Participants will be directed to clinicaltrials.gov for research study results.

## **20.0 Setting**

This is a multi-site study that will take place at 6 sites in the US. Dana-Farber will serve as the coordinating site.

## **21.0 Resources Available**

The feasibility of this study is based on estimates obtained from the 2016 analytic cases of the tumor registrar at each of the participating sites. Although there is some heterogeneity based on tumor type, there are more than adequate new cancer cases at each participating site to meet the study minimum accrual goals of 144 surgical and 144 medical oncology patients per year. The entire statistical analysis section is predicated on minimum accrual targets. Because the goal is

broad-based systems-level implementation, we anticipate having much higher accrual which will enable us to examine effectiveness in subgroups of interest. Additional patient accrual adds relatively little to the cost of executing the study given that we propose a limited number of surveys and limited manual record review. Ascertaining potential subjects, their outcomes and relevant covariates can be done through Epic. The hard work is implementation and changing clinical workflow. Once successfully implemented, we project that the incremental work of engaging more patients in eSyM will be minimal.

## **22.0 Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects**

Please see sections 11 and 12 for details.

## **23.0 Compensation for Research-Related Injury**

There is no compensation in the event of research related injury.

## **24.0 Economic Burden to Subjects**

Costs that subjects may be responsible for because of participation in the research: Subjects participating in this study will be asked to complete online surveys and/or report their symptoms from home using an internet-enabled device. Participants will have to use their own hardware (e.g., smartphone, tablet, computer) and their own Wi-Fi or Data Plan which may cost them money; subjects are responsible for these costs. Devices and/or data plans will not be provided by the study.

Patients who participate in the SASS questionnaire and/or patient qualitative interviews will each be offered a \$15.00 gift card as a thank you.

## **25.0 Consent Process**

Each activity utilizes different consent methods. See section 5.0 for details.

## **26.0 Appendices**

*\*\*All appendices may be branded with site-specific logos as needed; wherever applicable, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute logo may be removed and replaced with the applicable site logo. In addition, all materials will regularly be reviewed and updated as eSyM content is revised*

Question Banks:

- Appendix A: CFIR Qualitative Question Bank
- Appendix B: ORCA Quantitative Question Bank
- Appendix B2: OCM Quantitative Question Bank
- Appendix B3: eHIQ Quantitative Interview Question Bank
- Appendix C: CAHPS Question Bank for cancer surgery
- Appendix D: CAHPS Question Bank for cancer drugs
- Appendix E: CAHPS Question Bank supplemental questions
- Appendix F: PROMIS Question Bank
- Appendix G: AIM/IAM Question Bank
- Appendix H: PROCTCAE Question Bank – English
- Appendix I: PROCTCAE Question Bank – Spanish
- Appendix J: NOMAD Question Bank

Recruitment/Consent Materials:

- Appendix K: Stakeholder recruitment email 1 (informing development)
- Appendix L: Stakeholder recruitment email 2 (evaluating implementation)
- Appendix M: Patient Invitation to participate in research questionnaire
- Appendix N: Patient Invitation to use eSyM
- Appendix O: Model Study Letter for Activity 3b (UAT) (waiver of documentation of consent)
- Appendix P: UAT Observation Guide
- Appendix Q: eSyM Disclaimer (NHSR)
- Appendix R: Model Study Letter for Activity 4b (SASS Questionnaire) (waiver of documentation of consent)
- Appendix S: DSMP

Study References:

- Appendix T1: eSyM Medical Oncology Patient-Facing Tip Sheets
- Appendix T2: eSyM Surgical Patient-Facing Tip Sheets
- Appendix U1: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – MO eSyM+ Version
- Appendix U2: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – MO eSyM+ Non-Responder Version
- Appendix V: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – MO eSyM- Version
- Appendix W1: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – SO eSyM+ Version
- Appendix W2 : Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – SO eSyM+ Non-Responder Version
- Appendix X: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire – SO eSyM- Version
- Appendix Y: Stakeholder Interview Guide
- Appendix Z: Patient-Facing SASS Questionnaire Cover Letter

eSyM Training & Marketing Materials:

Appendix AA: eSyM Clinician User Guide

Appendix BB: Clinician-Facing eSyM Flyer

Appendix CC: Clinician-Facing FAQs Page

Appendix DD: Patient-Facing eSyM Flyer

Appendix EE: Patient-Facing eSyM Pamphlet

Appendix FF: Patient-Facing eSyM User Guide

Appendix GG: Patient-Facing FAQs Page

Appendix HH: Patient-Facing FAQs Page for eSyM Home Page

Appendix II: Site Staff eSyM User Guide

Appendix JJ: Patient eSyM Promo Video

Appendix KK: Provider eSyM Promo Video

Appendix LL: Project Website

Appendix MM: Other Resources Medical Oncology

Appendix NN: Other Resources Surgical

Appendix OO: Patient-Facing eSyM Additional Questions (Activity Level & Overall Wellbeing)

Appendix PP: Training Flipbooks (Patient & Staff-Facing)

Additional Appendices:

Appendix QQ: Model Informed Consent Form for Activity 4d

Appendix RR: Qualitative Patient Interview Guide

Appendix SS: Qualitative Patient Interview Intro Letter

Appendix TT: Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP)

## 27.0 References

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