

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS PLAN (SAP) AND IRB PROTOCOL

### **CONTENTS:**

- 1) Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP) (April 1, 2021)
- 2) Initial IRB Approved Protocol Version (July 27, 2017)
- 3) Amended IRB Approved Protocol (January 17, 2019)
- 4) Final IRB Approved Protocol (December 5, 2020)

**Protocol Title:**        ***Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment: A U.S. national randomized controlled trial (the “PRO-TECT” trial)***

Sponsor Name:        ALLIANCE FOUNDATION TRIALS (AFT)


NCORP Committee:    Cancer Care Delivery Research

This is the preliminary Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP) for the AFT-39 trial. This document will be updated as necessary throughout the life of the trial.


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I confirm that I have read & approved the above-referenced document for use in the AFT-39 trial.

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**Table of contents**

Glossary of abbreviations .....	3
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Study details .....	4
2.1. Study design .....	4
2.2. Study objectives .....	8
2.2.1. Primary and secondary objectives .....	8
2.2.2. Qualitative and implementation objectives .....	8
2.3. Randomization and stratification criteria .....	8
2.4. Number of patients – initial sample size estimation.....	8
2.4.1. Accrual rate and accrual duration .....	8
2.4.2. Primary endpoint completion date for ClinicalTrials.gov reporting .....	8
2.5. Number of patients – sample size re-estimation .....	9
2.6. Power.....	9
2.7. Data safety and monitoring the study.....	9
3. Statistical methods for analysis.....	10
3.1. Data handling conventions .....	10
3.1.1. EORTC QLQ-C30 and CAHPS scoring algorithms .....	10
3.1.2. Data entry errors and potential outliers .....	10
3.1.3. Cleaning EORTC QLQ-C30, CAHPS, and other data .....	10
3.1.4. Missing data.....	11
3.1.5. Stratification errors .....	11
3.2. Types and time points of analyses.....	11
3.2.1. Interim analyses .....	11
3.2.2. Sample size re-estimation.....	11
3.2.3. Final analysis .....	11
3.3. Definition of populations for analyses .....	12
3.3.1. Modified intention-to-treat population for patient-level analysis.....	12
3.4. Study population description.....	12
3.4.1. Practice and patient disposition and exposure.....	12
3.4.2. Baseline demographic and other characteristics.....	12
3.5. Primary endpoint evaluation .....	13
3.5.1. Primary endpoint .....	13
3.5.2. Data set for primary endpoint.....	13
3.5.3. Analysis of primary endpoint .....	13
3.5.4. Sensitivity analyses for primary endpoint .....	14
3.6. Secondary and exploratory endpoint evaluation .....	14
3.6.1. Secondary and exploratory endpoints.....	14
3.6.2. Data sets for secondary endpoints .....	14
3.6.3. Analyses of secondary and exploratory endpoints .....	14
3.6.4. Sensitivity analyses for secondary endpoints .....	15
3.7. Safety endpoint evaluation .....	15
3.7.1. Safety endpoints .....	15
3.8. Subgroups.....	15
3.9. Software.....	16
4. Changes of analysis compared to study protocol.....	16
5. References.....	16

**Glossary of abbreviations**

AFT	Alliance Foundation Trials
CAHPS	Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
CRA	Clinical research associate or assistant
DSMB	Data and Safety Monitoring Board
eCRF	Electronic case report form
EORTC QLQ-C30	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire Core 30
GED	General Educational Development test or Graduate Equivalency Degree or General Educational Diploma
GLM	General(ized) linear model
HRQL, HRQOL, HRQoL	Health-related QOL
IRB	Institutional Review Board
mITT	Modified intent-to-treat
PECD	Primary expected completion date
PRO	Patient-reported outcome
PRO-CORE	PRO-CORE is a consulting services and suite of tools for data collection including such as electronic patient surveys housed at the University of North Carolina
QALY	Quality-adjusted life years
QOL, QoL, QL	Quality of life
SAP	Statistical analysis plan
SD	Standard deviation
SDC	Statistics and Data Center
UNC	University of North Carolina
US	United States
USA	United States of America

# 1. Introduction

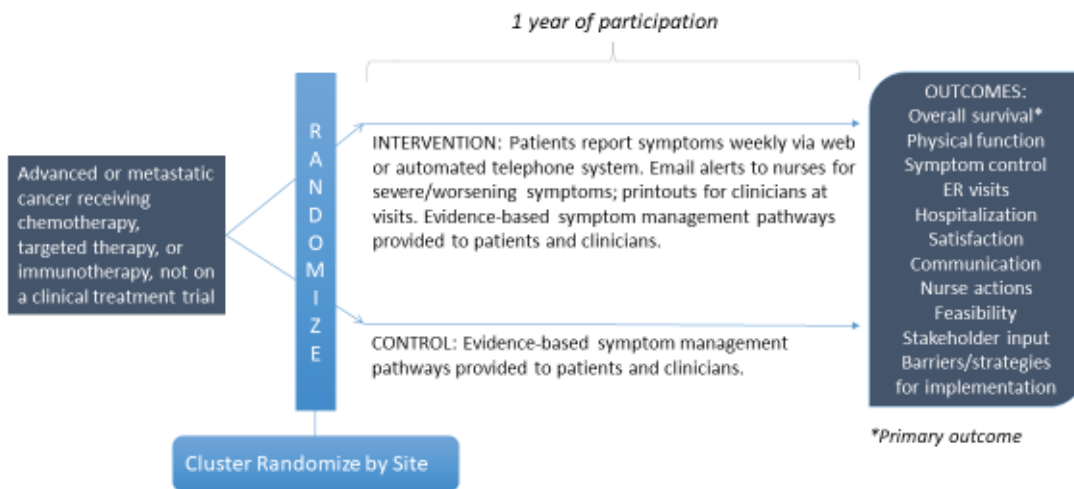
The SAP provides a detailed description of primary and secondary statistical analyses planned to be conducted within this trial at predefined time points. Subsequent and exploratory analyses are outside the scope of this document. Where possible, statistical analysis plans will be documented prior to initiation of subsequent statistical analyses.

## 2. Study details

### 2.1. Study design

This is a cluster randomized trial to evaluate the effects of systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures during routine cancer care delivery implemented at oncology practice sites in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese-speaking adult cancer patients with advanced/metastatic cancer of any type (except leukemia or indolent lymphoma) receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment.

#### PRO-TECT Schema:



The intervention is administered at the practice level. Data collection occurs at the patient, practice staff, and practice levels. Eligible patients will be approached at practices and asked to consent to participate. Patients who agree to consent will be registered through UNC’s PRO-CORE system. See Study Calendar on next pages for planned assessments during this clinical trial.

## Study Calendar

### Control Sites Only

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation												Post		
			Base-line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24
Patient Reported (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	P1. Patient Demographics	Baseline characteristics	X														
	P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X			X			X		
	P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*	CAHPS questions	X			X									X		
CRA Reported	C1. Site Registration & Characteristics	Site characteristics	Completed by CRA after a site has contracted to participate in the trial														
	C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X														
	C3. Patient Registration	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X														
	C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist		X														
	C5. Additional Contact Information Form		X														
	C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form	Info abstracted by CRA	X														
	C9. Date of Death Form	from participant's medical record													X	X	X
C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**														X			
UNC	UNC1. Site Training	Details of startup meeting	X														

\* The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection. The patient questionnaires may be "bundled" together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

**Intervention Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base-line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported  (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	Weekly PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only	Symptom questions reported from home	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	P1. Patient Demographics	Baseline characteristics	X															
	P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X						X			
	P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*	Questions about PRO system	X			X									X			
	P4. Patient PRO Feedback Booklet – Intervention Sites Only*	CAHPS questions				X									X			
CRA Reported	C1. Site Registration & Characteristics	Site characteristics	Completed by UNC after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	C3. Patient Registration	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist		X															
	C5. Additional Contact Information Form		X															
	C6. Missed Weekly Patient PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only <sup>6</sup>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Collected if participant misses a scheduled Weekly PRO Survey. Reason for missed survey should be selected.															
	C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record	X															
	C8. Patient Contact Log for Missed PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only <sup>6</sup>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Completed after successful or unsuccessful attempts to contact participants to collect information for Form C6.															
	C9. Date of Death Form	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X	X	X
	C10. CRA Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only <sup>6</sup>	Questions for CRAs about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open at site for at least 6 months.															
	C11. Nursing Alert Response Form– Intervention Sites Only	CRA obtains responses from clinical nurse who got the alert	Collected within 72 hours of each nursing alert notification, to elicit actions taken by clinical nurse in response to the alert															





## 2.2. Study objectives

### 2.2.1. Primary and secondary objectives

- Determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes including survival, quality of life, symptom control, emergency room visits, duration of chemotherapy administration, and patient satisfaction with care.

### 2.2.2. Qualitative and implementation objectives

- Elicit perspectives from patients, CRAs, and clinicians about effort, benefits, and burden of patient self-reporting of symptoms with alerts and reports to clinicians.
- Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate PROs into clinical workflow through interviews, questionnaires, and selected site visits, including impact of patient characteristics such as race, ethnicity, computer experience, or educational background.
- Obtain perspectives of stakeholders about PROs through debriefings at study completion.
- Evaluate financial impact of patient self-reporting.

The analysis of these objectives will be contained in separate SAPs.

## 2.3. Randomization and stratification criteria

Practices will be randomly assigned to each arm in a 1:1 ratio by the AFT Statistics and Data Center based at the Mayo Clinic, using permuted block randomization with random block size of 2 or 4 stratified by rural vs. urban location. The randomization sequences (one for each stratum) will remain concealed and arm assignments will only be generated and revealed one at a time as practices are registered by the UNC Coordinator.

## 2.4. Number of patients – initial sample size estimation

Initial target sample size was 1,000 patients from up to 50 U.S. practices. This was later amended to 1,200 patients from up to 50 (+/-5) U.S. practices.

### 2.4.1. Accrual rate and accrual duration

Accrual period is expected to be approximately 3 years. The intervention period is 12 months. The practices will follow patients for 24 months for overall survival. Annual national administrative database downloads will be used to capture overall survival status of patients to capture patient death status after this period.

### 2.4.2. Primary endpoint completion date for ClinicalTrials.gov reporting

At study activation, this study will have been registered within the ClinicalTrials.gov website. The Primary and Secondary Endpoints (i.e., “Outcome Measures”) along with other required information for this study will be reported on ClinicalTrials.gov.

- For purposes of timing of the Results Reporting, the initial estimated completion date for the Primary Endpoint of this study is 5 years after the study opens to accrual (3 years for accrual and 2 years of practice follow-up).
- The definition of “Primary Endpoint Completion Date” (PECD) for this study is the date of national administrative database download to support the primary overall survival analysis.

## 2.5. Number of patients – sample size re-estimation

There is no additional planned sample size re-estimation in this study.

## 2.6. Power

Initial sample size of 1,000 patients per each of 50 U.S. practices provided 95% power to measure the established clinically meaningful difference of 0.37 standard deviations on the QLQ-C30 Physical Function Scale based on a prior single-center randomized controlled trial (~9 points on the 100-point QLQ-C30 scale) between randomization groups using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  t-test assuming an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.055 (Adams G, et al. 2004), and assuming that 85% of patients are evaluable for the primary analysis at the 3-month time point. For overall survival with a total of 1,000 patients at 50 practices nationally, there will be 80% power for a hazard ratio of 0.76 (based on the prior single-center randomized controlled trial) which is considered clinically meaningful (Sobrero AF, et al. 2015; Ellis LM, et al. 2014) using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  log-rank test with 521 events observed during the observation period, computed using the formula by Xie and Waksman, 2003, with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.001 (estimated from the 10 largest legacy Alliance trials involving 12,717 total patients).

In order to optimize power, the sample size was amended to 1,200 patients per each of 50 (+/- 5) U.S. practices. Power for comparing physical functioning increased to 96-97% power and power remained 80% for comparing overall survival under the assumption that statistical analysis would be conducted after 522 events. Each analysis would be undertaken with a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$ .

Finally, after an additional amendment to increase type I error for the overall survival analysis, with a total of 1,200 patients at 52 practices nationally, there will be at least 90% power for a hazard ratio of 0.76 (based on the prior single-center randomized controlled trial) which is considered clinically meaningful using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05$  log-rank test with 576 observed events, computed using the formula by Xie and Waksman, 2003, with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.001 (estimated from the 10 largest legacy Alliance trials involving 12,717 total patients). This power calculation further assumes drop-out of 150 patients in the first 2.5 years.

## 2.7. Data safety and monitoring the study

This study is monitored by the IRB and study team. No formal DSMB will be employed because no safety concerns are associated with administering questionnaires (i.e., the intervention) to patients.

### 3. Statistical methods for analysis

#### 3.1. Data handling conventions

##### 3.1.1. EORTC QLQ-C30 and CAHPS scoring algorithms

The EORTC QLQ-C30 contains 30 questions that assess various domains of HRQL. Scoring for the EORTC QLQ-C30 can be found in the Scoring Manual available from the EORTC. The standard scoring of the EORTC QLQ-C30 generates scales or item scores. Gundy CM, et al. (2012) described additional composite scales. In planned analyses, Physical Functioning is based on Q1-5; Symptom Burden (“Control”) is based on 8 symptom scales/items (Q8-19); Health-Related Quality of Life is based on 5 functional scales and 8 symptom scales/items (Q1-27); Fatigue is based on Q10, Q12, & Q18; Nausea and Vomiting on Q14 & Q15; Pain on Q9 & Q19; Dyspnea on Q8; Insomnia on Q11; Appetite Loss on Q13; Constipation on Q16; and Diarrhea on Q17. Analysis of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) will additionally compute health utilities from EORTC QLQ-C30 data using the algorithm for U.S. patients published by Revicki DA, et al. (2021).

Items from the CAHPS survey were additionally administered. These items will be analyzed as individual items and no scoring algorithm will be applied to combine items into scale scores.

##### 3.1.2. Data entry errors and potential outliers

Electronic CRF (eCRF) fields may contain potential outliers or suspected data entry errors due to inconsistencies with other entered data values. If such values are identified, the data management team will evaluate the data and communicate with the practice for potential resolution. Sensitivity analyses excluding these measurements may be carried out to evaluate the influence of such values. Values found to be incorrect due to data entry error after data freeze may be hard-coded in the data preparation program.

##### 3.1.3. Cleaning EORTC QLQ-C30, CAHPS, and other data

Attempts will be made to obtain missing date information for primary and secondary endpoints including for evaluating whether questionnaires fall within acceptable time frames for inclusion in statistical analysis.

Dates of patient questionnaire completion will be reviewed to assess whether questionnaires were entered at the correct time points in the database. Note that UNC's PRO-CORE system will automatically date and time stamp electronically administered questionnaires. If duplicate questionnaires are suspected to be entered/completed, questionnaires are suspected to be entered at erroneous time points, or other data entry or completion errors pertaining to the questionnaires are suspected, the data management team will communicate with the practice for potential resolution. Data entry errors pertaining to the questionnaires found after data freeze may be hard-coded in the data preparation program.

After data cleaning, the following rules will be applied to select patient questionnaire data for inclusion in analysis of the EORTC QLQ-C30 and CAHPS data:

- Questionnaires will be included in the time point that was intended for administration
- If a patient completes the same questionnaire more than once at a given time point, the first questionnaire that was completed within the given time point will be retained

- If the patient ends the study early and completes an "end of study" questionnaire prior to 12 months, that questionnaire will be included in the nearest corresponding time point

In eCRF items with associated "other" free text fields, the free text values will be reviewed. If free text values are identified which match an available and specific response option, the data management team will communicate with the practice for potential updating of the eCRF field. Such values that are identified after data freeze may be hard-coded in the data preparation program.

#### 3.1.4. Missing data

We first plan to minimize missing data prospectively through the use of central data collection in PRO-CORE at UNC with prospective monitoring of data consistency and completeness. Prospectively, we also plan regular contact with practices to identify missing data problems early. Analytically, for the primary overall survival analysis we are employing a large national database to augment practice-reported death data to ensure that reported deaths are as complete as possible. If any questions arise regarding status of a patient, the last known date alive will be used for censoring. For patient questionnaire-based analyses, we will use model-based approaches to incorporate all available data and to minimize the impact of missing data. In the event of a high number of missing questionnaires, we will compare baseline patient characteristics between patients who do and don't complete questionnaires for a given patient questionnaire-based analysis. If selection bias is a concern, we will employ multiple imputation in sensitivity analyses.

#### 3.1.5. Stratification errors

If a stratification error is noted after a practice is randomized, there will be no change in the randomization system. The stratification factor on the eCRF will collect the correct stratification factor values. The stratification factor value as recorded in the eCRF will be used for the analysis.

### 3.2. **Types and time points of analyses**

#### 3.2.1. Interim analyses

There is no planned interim analysis in this study.

#### 3.2.2. Sample size re-estimation

There is no additional planned sample size re-estimation in this study.

#### 3.2.3. Final analysis

Analysis of intervention adherence rates, EORTC QLQ-C30 outcomes, and other data during the intervention phase will occur when all patients have been followed for 12 months (or ended participation prior to 12 months).

Overall survival analysis will be undertaken when at least the required number of survival events have been observed. Survival data will be derived from both eCRFs (practice reported) and through linkage to an administrative national database, therefore statistical analysis may not be able to be undertaken at the exact specified number of events and instead

would be timed according to data download (i.e., the number of deaths may be contingent on findings from downloaded data). Note that national death databases are delayed in releasing death information, so we anticipate the first download of data to occur towards the end of 2021 when death data from 2020 become available. Annual downloads will occur after that until the required number of deaths have been observed. Annual downloads will continue after primary analysis to acquire longer term follow-up. Statistical analysis will use all deaths recorded in the study database as well as downloaded data at time of analysis including deaths in excess of the number needed to trigger the planned analysis.

The analysis of emergency room visits and duration of chemotherapy administration will employ data derived from both eCRFs (practice reported) and through linkage to administrative national databases (including the database employed for survival data to assist in censoring). Like the overall survival analysis, analysis of these data will occur when data become available. The first analysis will occur when administrative data from 2020 becomes available and additional downloads will be undertaken as necessary for data completeness.

### **3.3. Definition of populations for analyses**

#### **3.3.1. Modified intention-to-treat population for patient-level analysis**

We will use a modified intention-to-treat (mITT) principle to define the population used for the analysis of the primary endpoint, which is based on data collected at the patient level. The mITT population will be comprised of all patients who consent to participate and are registered through UNC by any randomized practice. We will exclude any patient who discontinues their cancer treatment on or prior to their date of registration. Patients will be analyzed according to the practice in which they are registered, and practices will be analyzed according to the intervention group to which they were randomized. All available data will be included in each analysis. The number of patients included in a given analysis will depend on data availability (e.g., analysis of EORTC QLQ-C30 at 12 months will include all patients who completed the necessary EORTC QLQ-C30 items to produce each scale score at 12 months).

### **3.4. Study population description**

#### **3.4.1. Practice and patient disposition and exposure**

Practice randomization and practice status (eligibility, randomization, and discontinuation from study) as well as patient enrollment and patient status (eligibility and discontinuation from study) will be listed and summarized by randomized arm. A CONSORT diagram will be generated following conventions recommended for cluster randomized trials (Campbell MK, et al. 2012).

#### **3.4.2. Baseline demographic and other characteristics**

At the practice level, the stratification factor (practice location [rural vs urban]) will be summarized by randomized arm. At the patient level, the following will be summarized by randomized arm: demographic variables (age [median, minimum, maximum], sex, race, and ethnicity), weekly PRO survey mode (for intervention arm only), education level, employment status, practice location (stratification factor described at the patient level instead of the practice level), prior cell phone use, prior internet use, prior email use, difficulty paying monthly bills, and cancer type.

We do not anticipate formally comparing patient-level baseline characteristics between randomized arms to assess for balance. If comparison becomes necessary during analysis, we will use a generalized linear mixed model using the appropriate link function based on the distribution of the variable with a random practice intercept term to account for clustering within practice.

### **3.5. Primary endpoint evaluation**

#### **3.5.1. Primary endpoint**

At time of study activation, the protocol defined two primary endpoints: Physical function at 3 months as measured by the EORTC QLQ-C30 Physical Function Scale; and overall survival. The two associated hypotheses tested for superiority of the intervention arm:

Hypothesis (physical functioning): Within oncology practices that are randomized to systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures, physical functioning 3 months after registration of patients will be higher as compared to patients at oncology practices randomized to usual care.

Hypothesis (overall survival): Within oncology practices that are randomized to systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures, overall survival of patients will be higher as compared to patients at oncology practices randomized to usual care.

After amending the protocol, overall survival was identified as the primary endpoint.

Physical functioning as previously defined will be considered as a key secondary endpoint. Hypotheses remain unchanged.

#### **3.5.2. Data set for primary endpoint**

For the main analysis of the primary endpoint, the mITT population defined in SAP Section 3.3.1 will be used.

#### **3.5.3. Analysis of primary endpoint**

The primary analysis of overall survival will employ a stratified log-rank test (stratified by cancer type, with a sandwich estimator to account for site clustering). All deaths will be included in the analysis and patients without observed deaths will be censored on the last date known alive using all available eCRF and administrative database data. Additional details of this analysis may be documented in an updated version of this SAP between date of first administrative database download and initiation of primary overall survival analysis to account for necessary modifications for carrying out quality control of administrative data, defining events, and implementing censoring rules. Updated SAP will be finalized prior to initiation of overall survival analysis. Supplemental analysis will include comparison of QALYs between arms using health utilities computed based on the EORTC QLQ-C30. Patient QALYs will be computed using the area-under-the-curve approach (with and without discounting) and will include all data through a consistent time point to avoid bias related to censoring, such as the follow-up of the last consented patient (i.e., the earliest censored patient). A population-based approach will also be used such that the area-under-the-curve of a quality-adjusted survival curve (mean health utility multiplied by the proportion of patients surviving based on Kaplan-Meier or similar estimates) is the mean quality-adjusted survival for the population. Mean quality-adjusted survival will be compared between arms using a bootstrap approach.

#### 3.5.4. Sensitivity analyses for primary endpoint

Supplemental analyses will include model-based analysis with subgroupings based on patient and practice characteristics (see SAP Section 3.8). Also see SAP Section 3.1.4 for sensitivity analyses to assess the impact of missing data.

### 3.6. **Secondary and exploratory endpoint evaluation**

#### 3.6.1. Secondary and exploratory endpoints

As described above, the key secondary endpoint is physical function at 3 months as measured by the EORTC QLQ-C30 Physical Function Scale. Additional secondary endpoints include: EORTC QLQ-C30 symptom burden (control) score at 3 months, and EORTC QLQ-C30 HRQL score at 3 months

Exploratory endpoints include: EORTC QLQ-C30 appetite loss, constipation, diarrhea, dyspnea, fatigue, insomnia, nausea/vomiting, and pain score at 3 months; patient adherence to the intervention (i.e., completion of the weekly symptom surveys); CAHPS item scores at 3 months; emergency room visits; duration of chemotherapy administration.

#### 3.6.2. Data sets for secondary endpoints

For the main analysis of the postoperative complications, the mITT population defined in SAP Section 3.3.1 will be used.

#### 3.6.3. Analyses of secondary and exploratory endpoints

Mean change from baseline in physical function, symptom control, and HRQL at 3 months will be compared between arms using a linear combination of parameters from a general linear mixed model. Each model will include all available data from all time points (months 0, 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12). Fixed effects will include arm, time point, cancer type, and arm-by-time point interaction. A random practice intercept term will be included to account for clustering by practice. Repeated observations by patient will be modeled using compound symmetric correlation structure over time. Such values as the mean change from baseline at 3 months by arm, and difference in mean change from baseline at 3 months between arms will be estimated with confidence intervals based on the mixed model. Comparisons at other time points will also be carried out and graphically displayed using mean plots.

To supplement comparison of means, a responder analysis will also be employed. Patients who complete the QLQ-C30 at baseline and at 3 months will be categorized as improving on each outcome (physical function, symptom control, HRQL) if their score increased by 5 or more points from baseline; worsening if their score decrease by 5 or more points from baseline; and otherwise as stable. The selection of a 5-point change on the 100-point QLQ-C30 scale was selected as clinically meaningful based on work by Cocks K, et al. 2012. The proportion of patients with improvement, stability, or worsening will be compared between arms at 3 months using a cumulative logistic regression model with fixed effects for arm and cancer type and a random practice intercept term to account for clustering by practice. Similar to the mean comparisons, the responder analysis will be carried out at other time points as needed to supplement that primary analysis at 3 months.

Patient adherence to the intervention (i.e., completion of the weekly symptom surveys) is defined at each week as the proportion of participating patients completing a survey divided

by the number of participating patients who are expected to complete a survey. Completion will be computed at each week and overall.

CAHPS items will be analyzed descriptively using frequency and relative frequency of each response option. Items will be described at each time point.

Analysis of emergency room visits and duration of chemotherapy administration will employ similar approaches as the overall survival analysis. Additional details of these analyses will be documented in an updated version of this SAP between date of first administrative database download and initiation of analysis of these outcomes to account for necessary modifications for carrying out quality control of administrative data, defining events and competing risks, and implementing censoring rules. SAP will be finalized prior to initiation of statistical analysis.

#### 3.6.4. Sensitivity analyses for secondary endpoints

As described above, supplemental analyses will include mean and responder comparisons at time points other than 3 months. For the responder analysis, a 10-point change will also be applied to ensure results remain consistent with a higher threshold. Finally, impact of the COVID pandemic will be explored by repeating key between-arm analyses within the subset of patients enrolled prior to December 1, 2019 (date selected to ensure that the 3-month time point occurred prior to widespread COVID pandemic impacts on clinical practices in the US). Outcomes of patients enrolled after December 1, 2019, may also be tabulated and compared to outcomes of patients enrolled prior to December 1, 2019.

### 3.7. Safety endpoint evaluation

#### 3.7.1. Safety endpoints

As the intervention is the administration of questionnaires, no safety data will be collected as part of this study. See Section 3.6.3 for analysis describing patient adherence to the intervention.

### 3.8. Subgroups

The following baseline patient characteristics will be used to perform subgroup analyses:

Age (<60 versus  $\geq$ 60)

Gender (female versus male)

Race (white versus non-white)

Ethnicity (Hispanic versus non-Hispanic)

Education status (high school graduate/GED or less versus some college or more)

Employment status (working versus not currently working)

Marital status (married/partnered versus other)

Prior computer use (rarely or less versus sometimes or more)

Prior email use (rarely or less versus sometimes or more)

Prior internet use (rarely or less versus sometimes or more)

Practice location (rural versus urban)

Cancer type (thoracic, breast, colorectal, genitourinary, gynecologic, versus other)



Covariates may not be omitted from analyses or groupings (combinations of levels) may be adapted based on observed sample size. Additional covariates may be added but will be considered as post-hoc.

Subgroup analysis will be carried out for the primary endpoint (EORTC QLQ-C30 Physical Function Scale at 3 months). Additional subgroup analyses may be carried out for other time points and/or other EORTC QLQ-C30 scales as indicated though care will be taken to note inflation of type I error when incorporating additional analyses. To carry out subgroup analyses, a general linear mixed model within each level of the subgroup variable will be fit using data from all time points (months 0, 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12), and effect of the intervention at month 3 will be tested similar to the primary analysis using a linear combination of model parameters. Such values as the mean change from baseline at 3 months by arm, and difference in mean change from baseline at 3 months between arms will be estimated with confidence intervals based on these mixed models. Next, a general linear mixed model will be fit including all patients and including fixed effects for arm, time point, and the given subgrouping variable, as well as pairwise interactions between arm and time point, arm and subgroup variable, and time point and subgroup variable. Higher order interactions will initially be included in models but may be omitted if lacking statistical significance. A random practice intercept term will account for clustering by practice. Repeated observations by patient will be modeled using compound symmetric correlation structure over time. The Type 3 test of the interaction effect between arm and the given subgroup variable will be used to formally test for statistically significant subgroup effect. The value(s) of the coefficient(s) on the interactions effect between arm and subgroup will be used to assess the magnitude of the interaction.

### 3.9. Software

All analyses will be done using SAS version 9.4 or higher, or R version 3.5.1 or higher by members of the Alliance Statistics and Data Center. If necessary (e.g., if statistical tests are not offered in the software used) analyses will be carried out using other software.

## 4. Changes of analysis compared to study protocol

Existing subgroups were modified and additional subgroups were added to this SAP relative to the subgroupings listed in the protocol. These changes were made based on early descriptive analysis reported by Basch E, et al. 2020, and implemented prior to initiation of the primary analysis.

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ALLIANCE FOUNDATION TRIALS (AFT)

PROTOCOL NUMBER

**AFT – 39**

Protocol Title:

**Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment:  
A U.S. national randomized controlled trial (the “PRO-TECT” trial)**

Protocol Version Date:

July 27, 2017

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Landmark, Inc. Transcription

**Study Resources**

<p><b>Data Entry is through the UNC PRO-CORE</b>          Accessible at: <a href="https://pro.unc.edu/">https://pro.unc.edu/</a>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>
<p><b>Randomization Assignment</b>          Will be given to sites following IRB Approval, prior to site initiation</p>
<p><b>Site Training and Refresher Training</b>  <b>Will be Conducted by UNC Team</b>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>

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I. Synopsis and Study Schema

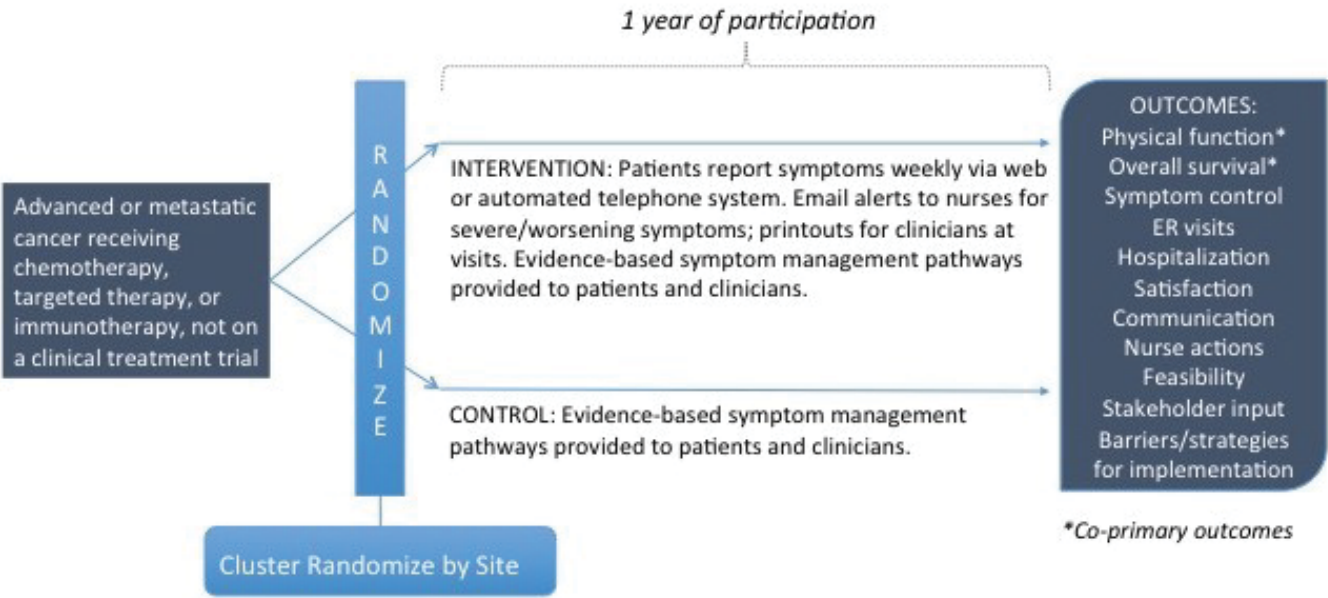
<b>Study Title</b>	Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment: A U.S. national randomized controlled trial
<b>Study Acronym</b>	PRO-TECT: <u>P</u> atient- <u>R</u> eported <u>O</u> utcomes to <u>E</u> nhance <u>C</u> ancer <u>T</u> reatment trial
<b>Study Number</b>	AFT-39
<b>Study Type/Phase</b>	RCT ( <u>not</u> a drug trial)
<b>Number of Study Patients</b>	1,000 patients, from up to 50 U.S. sites
<b>Estimated Duration of Study</b>	Each patient participates for up to 12 Months
<b>Anticipated Recruitment Start Date</b>	August 1, 2017
<b>Rationale</b>	Symptoms are common during cancer treatment, but frequently go undetected by clinicians between visits. Patient self-reporting of symptoms online (or automated telephone systems), with alerts to clinicians for severe symptoms, offers a potential approach to flag concerning symptoms and prevent downstream complications. A prior single-center RCT provided initial evidence of improved clinical outcomes and reduced ER visits using such an approach. The current study is designed to test nationally whether patients' outcomes and utilization of services can be improved through symptom monitoring via patient-reported outcomes between visits.
<b>Primary Objective</b>	Determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes.
<b>Secondary Objectives</b>	Elicit perspectives about benefit-burden tradeoffs for integrating patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow from different stakeholders, including patients, clinicians, site staff, and representatives of patient and professional organizations. Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow.
<b>Trial Design</b>	"Cluster" RCT, randomization unit: oncology practice site (up to 50 sites randomized in a 1:1 ratio to the "control" arm" or "intervention" arm).
<b>Site Requirements for Participation in Trial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead CRA</li> <li>• Clinical nursing staff champion ("Nurse Champion") for the study.</li> </ul>
<b>Participant Payments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150 gift card (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months)</li> <li>• Mailed directly to patient participants by UNC</li> </ul>

<p><b>Patient Inclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults (21+) with advanced/metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment with palliative/non-curative intent (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy)</li> <li>• Patients can be enrolled at any point in their cancer treatment trajectory (i.e., not just at initiation of first-line treatment)</li> <li>• Understands English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>
<p><b>Patient Exclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or study questionnaires</li> <li>• Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial</li> <li>• Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers)</li> <li>• Indolent/slow-growing lymphoma (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic)</li> <li>• Leukemia of any type</li> <li>• Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Study Procedures</b></p>	<p><u>PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.</li> <li>• At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.</li> <li>• All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.</li> <li>• CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.</li> <li>• Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.</li> <li>• CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.</li> <li>• Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.</li> </ul> <p><u>ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system <u>weekly</u> for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.</li> <li>• Whenever a concerning symptom is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).</li> <li>• A symptom report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit, and will be given to the oncologist and nurse caring for the patient.</li> </ul>
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**PRO-TECT SCHEMA**



**II. Table of Contents**

PRO-TECT SCHEMA ..... 7

1. Background Information ..... 11

1.1. Overview and Rationale ..... 11

1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention..... 11

1.3. Primary Objective..... 12

1.4. Secondary Objectives ..... 12

2. Patient Selection and Population..... 12

2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria ..... 12

3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities..... 13

3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1) ..... 13

3.2. Site Enrollment Requirement Documentation ..... 13

3.3. Site Role Requirements..... 14

3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA) ..... 14

3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion..... 14

3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”) ..... 15

3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training ..... 15

4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment ..... 16

4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants..... 16

4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)..... 16

4.3. Purposeful Enrollment ..... 16

4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3) ..... 16

4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C6) ..... 16

5. Study Procedures ..... 17

5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System ..... 17

5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants ..... 18

5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses..... 18

5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Symptom Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6) ..... 18

5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY ..... 19

5.4.4	CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11) .....	19
5.4.5	Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY.....	19
5.5.	Outcomes Assessments and Timeline.....	19
5.5.1	Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3, P4) .....	20
5.5.2	Date of Death Form (Form C9).....	21
5.5.3	CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1).....	21
5.5.4	Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12).....	21
6.	Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires .....	22
	Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only .....	22
	Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only .....	23
6.1.	Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment .....	24
6.2.	Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers.....	24
6.3.	Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants .....	24
6.4.	Off-Study Timing and Procedure.....	24
6.5.	Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs .....	24
7.	Statistical Considerations.....	25
7.1.	Statistical Tests.....	25
7.2.	Secondary Analyses.....	25
7.3.	Sample Size/Power .....	25
7.4.	Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses.....	26
7.5.	Qualitative data collection and analyses .....	26
7.6.	Randomization .....	26
8.	Protection of Human Subjects .....	26
8.1.	AFT Policies and Protections .....	26
8.2.	Computer and Electronic Protection .....	27
8.3.	Confidentiality.....	27
8.4.	Protection against Risks from Interviews .....	27
8.5.	Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge To Be Gained.....	27
9.	Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures.....	28
9.1.	Regulatory and Ethical Compliance .....	28
9.2.	Informed Consent .....	28

9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB ..... 28

9.4. Protocol Deviations ..... 29

9.5. Protocol Amendments ..... 29

9.6. Retention of Records ..... 29

9.7. Data Confidentiality ..... 29

9.8. Database Management and Quality Control ..... 29

9.9. Site Audits ..... 30

9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results ..... 30

10. References ..... 30

## 1. Background Information

### 1.1. Overview and Rationale

Symptoms are common among patients receiving treatment for advanced cancers and are a major cause of distress, functional disability, and emergency room/hospital utilization<sup>1,2,3</sup> but go undetected and unaddressed by clinicians up to half the time.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> There is substantial and growing national interest to integrate electronic patient-reported outcomes (PROs) into routine practice to improve detection and management of symptoms.<sup>8,9,10</sup> However, the value of integrating PRO collection into routine care, acceptability to patients and clinicians, and the required infrastructure and resource needs are uncertain.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

Multiple studies, largely at single centers, have reported associations between routine collection of electronic PROs (e.g. symptoms reported by patients using iPads or automated telephone systems, either between visits or at visits) with improved efficiency of symptom assessment, patient-clinician communication, and satisfaction as well as symptom control, well-being, reduced emergency room utilization, longer duration of chemotherapy treatment, and improved survival.<sup>14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21</sup>

Although this body of work suggests benefits, it is not yet definitive because a large, rigorous, multi-center controlled trial has not been conducted.

Therefore, this national multicenter cluster-randomized trial is being conducted to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via PROs during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes: the “Patient-Reported Outcomes to Enhance Cancer Treatment” trial (“PRO-TECT”). The design of this trial is based on a prior large single center RCT (N=766) showing significant clinical benefits of a similar approach.<sup>14</sup>

### 1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention

This is an RCT in up to 50 sites where randomization will occur in a 1:1 ratio at the site level (not at the individual patient level). Therefore, up to 25 sites will be randomized to the PRO-TECT intervention arm (patient-reporting of symptoms plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline), and up to 25 sites will be randomized to the control arm (usual care delivery plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline). Specifically:

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.
- At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.
- All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.
- CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks

each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.

- Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.
- CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.
- Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system weekly for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Whenever a concerning symptom is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).
- A symptom report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit, and will be given to the oncologist and nurse caring for the patient.

### 1.3. Primary Objective

The primary objective of this study is to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcomes (PROs) during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes, including quality of life, symptom control, survival, emergency room visits, duration of chemotherapy administration, and patient satisfaction with care.

### 1.4. Secondary Objectives

Secondary outcomes of this study are to:

- ☐ Elicit perspectives from patients, CRAs, and clinicians about effort, benefits, and burden of patient self-reporting of symptoms with alerts and reports to clinicians.
- ☐ Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate PROs into clinical workflow through interviews, questionnaires, and selected site visits.
- ☐ Obtain perspectives of stakeholders about PROs through debriefings at study completion.

## 2. Patient Selection and Population

### 2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria

***Inclusion Criteria:***

1. Adults (21+) with advanced/metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)
2. Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment for non-curative/palliative intent, including chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy.

3. Enrolled at any point in their treatment trajectory, meaning during any line of treatment, and at any point during a course or cycle of treatment.
4. Can understand English, Spanish, and/or Mandarin Chinese.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

1. Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or questionnaires.
2. Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial (because these often involve PRO questionnaires and intensive monitoring).
3. Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma).
4. Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers)
5. Indolent lymphomas (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic).
6. Leukemias (time courses inconsistent with other tumor types in chronic and acute leukemias).
7. Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.

### 3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities

#### 3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1)

Patients will be enrolled from up to 50 oncology clinical practice sites across the U.S. Sites will be contracted by AFT and adhere to the AFT central IRB and procedures for registration and data management (including outcomes data capture in the PRO-Core clinical trial software system, which will be used for participant registration and all study forms for this trial).

The unit of randomization for this trial is the oncology practice site. Each site will be assigned as either a “Control Arm Site” or as an “Intervention Arm Site”. Arm assignments will be provided to sites by the UNC study coordinating team by email to the lead CRA following site’s local IRB approval and before the site’s initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

CRA’s will complete the with the UNC Coordinator “Site Registration Characteristics Form” (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

#### 3.2. Site Enrollment Required Documentation

Each site must submit the below required essential documents to the Alliance through the AFT electronic Trial Master File, accessible via the AFT website, <https://alliancefoundationtrials.org/>

- ☐ IRB Documents/ Approvals (Protocol, Informed Consent Form (ICF), Participant Materials, etc.)
  - Institutional Informed Consent Form (a ‘model’ consent form will be provided to sites)
- ☐ Investigator FDA Form 1572
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae (CV) from site Principal Investigator
- ☐ Documentation of ICH Good Clinical Practice (ICH/GCP) training from site Principal Investigator
- ☐ Site CRA and site Nurse Champion study training certificates (provided by UNC after the site initiation webinar)

### 3.3. Site Role Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA)

Each site will allocate effort from at least one Clinical Research Associate (CRA) to oversee processes for this trial.

CRA's at ALL SITES will:

- Oversee regulatory and logistical processes for the trial at their site
- Complete the "Site Registration Characteristics Form" (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC
- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (and provide a training certificate from this webinar to AFT)
- Screen for eligible patients
- Oversee informed consent
- Submit clinical data at baseline and off-study for participants, and abstract date of death information at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later, per the UNC studyteam
- Ensure completion of outcomes questionnaires by participants or their caregivers at baseline, month 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study
- Participate in teleconferences and individual telephone calls with the central data management team as needed to discuss accrual, retention, and compliance with forms.

CRA's at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:

- Participate in training for PRO ("patient-reported outcome") weekly symptom survey system
- Teach patients to use the PRO system
- Forward PRO system email alerts to nurses/clinicians
- Print PRO reports for clinicians at patient visits
- Follow up with nurses after alerts (within 72 hours) and enter information about their responses to alerts in a study form
- Complete the "CRA Perspectives Survey" form after at least 6 months of site participation
- Facilitate nurse completion of the "Nurse Perspectives Survey" and "Physician Response Survey" forms after at least 6 months of site participation
- Participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings with the study team to discuss PRO interventions and workflow.
- Contact patients after 48 hours of initial survey email/text/call to remind them to complete surveys. This will be done in coordination with the UNC Coordinator. (CRA's will be asked to avoid contacting patients more than three times each week)

#### 3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion

Each practice site must designate a Nurse Champion prior to site initiation/startup training.

Nurse Champions at ALL SITES will:

- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (the CRA will submit a training certificate for the nurse from this webinar to AFT)
- Facilitate dissemination of the standardized symptom management pathways to site nurses who care for study participants

Nurse Champions at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:



- Work with UNC to figure out the optimal way to integrate PROs into the practice
- Be a resource for other clinicians and participants
- Receive a copy of email alerts being sent to clinical nurses from the CRA at that site, as an added Quality Assurance (QA) step
- Complete, or designate a participating clinical nurse with patient(s) in the study to complete, the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” form after at least 6 months of site participation; may also participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings to discuss PRO interventions.

### 3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”)

All data entry for this study will be conducted through the online PRO-Core data management system (<https://pro.unc.edu>). This includes all forms that are completed by site CRAs, and patient questionnaires. As described in the following sections, CRAs and other site staff, including the designated Nurse Champion, will be trained to use the PRO-Core system during the site initiation/startup webinar. For intervention sites only, during this webinar, site staff will also be trained how to teach patients to use the PRO weekly symptom survey system.

### 3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training

Each site will undergo a required startup meeting webinar set up by the UNC Coordinator/team, attended by the site PI, CRA(s), and designated Nurse Champion at a minimum, but optimally including all clinical nurses who might be clinically responsible for patient participants. Following training, the UNC Coordinator (not the site CRA) will complete the “Site Training Form” (Form UNC-1). Training will include instructions for using the PRO-Core software for patient registration and completion of forms. The UNC Coordinator will provide training certificates for the CRA to provide to AFT, once both the CRA and Nurse Champion are trained. Refresher trainings and trainings for new site personnel will be available at anytime during the trial through the UNC coordinating center.

#### FOR SITES ASSIGNED TO INTERVENTION ARM ONLY:

- The CRA(s) and Nurse Champion will also be trained to use the PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) weekly symptom survey software, which is integrated with the PRO-Core data management software being used for this study. This training takes approximately 30 minutes. CRAs will be trained how to:
  - Register a patient into the PRO software
  - Select the patient’s preferred mode of completing the Weekly Symptom Survey (online or automated telephone)
  - Designate the clinical nurse(s) and oncologist responsible for the care of that patient
  - Teach patients to use the PRO system from home (online or automated telephone) (typically less than 10 minutes to train patients)
  - For patients who choose the automated telephone system, how to set/reset a PIN
- Site personnel will be familiarized with the automated email alerts that will go to the site CRA when a patient reports concerning or worsening symptoms. The automated emails must be forwarded by the CRA to the appropriate clinical nurse(s) caring for the participant with a CC to the site’s Nurse Champion.
- ☐ CRAs will be oriented to the wallet-sized quick-reference information cards for patient participants including instructions how to use the PRO system. These will be provided to CRAs by the UNC coordinating center.

## 4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment

### 4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants

Site CRAs will work with clinical nurses and oncologists at their practice sites to identify eligible patients. To identify potentially eligible patients, CRAs can review clinical documentation such as the patient's chart in the electronic medical record, clinical schedules, or ask clinical staff about potential eligible patients through a limited waiver of authorization from the IRB. Potential patient participants may be approached and invited to be in the study by site CRAs or designated clinical staff. All eligible patients should be approached consecutively, except when "purposeful enrollment" for specific target populations is directed for sites by the UNC study team, as described below. Patients who agree to participate will review and sign the Informed Consent Form after the study is explained.

### 4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)

*Patient refusals or ineligibility* to participate and reasons for refusal will be entered into the "Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility Form" (Form C2).

### 4.3. Purposeful Enrollment

We will use purposeful enrollment to enrich the sample for historically underserved populations. This will be managed through central monitoring of accrual by UNC, with close communication with site CRAs to assure targets are achieved. Enrollment targets include: Minimum of 20% Hispanic; 20% Black; 10% Asian; 5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 20% participants with high school education or less; and no more than 20% of any specific cancer type.

### 4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3)

Prior to registering the patient, site staff should verify the following:

- All eligibility criteria have been met within the protocol stated timeframes.
- The patient has signed an appropriate consent form and HIPAA authorization form (if applicable at your site)
- The patient has been informed about the \$150 in gift cards (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months) that will be sent to them by UNC for participating

After written informed consent has been obtained, the study site CRA will register the patient in the PRO-Core software system by completing the "Patient Registration Form" (Form C3). In this form, the CRA will assign a unique Study ID for the patient using the three-digit code assigned to their site for the study, followed by a hyphen then a three digit consecutive number for that patient. For example, the fifth patient registered as a participant at site #123 would be 123-005. In addition, in this form the CRA will specify, on behalf of the patient, how the patient prefers to complete questionnaires for the study: online or by an automated telephone system.

Patients enrolled but who do not participate for any reason will be considered as a Screening Failure and will not be considered as enrollees.

### 4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C7)

Each time a new participant is enrolled, the CRA will complete the baseline forms in the PRO-Core system, including: "Patient Eligibility Checklist" (Form C4), "Additional Contact Information Form" (Form C5), and "Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C7). For Forms C4 and C5, consultation with the participant and/or caregiver may be necessary. Form C7 includes detailed question about the

patient's health and treatment which may require consultation with a site nurse or physician in addition to reviewing the participant's medical record. CRAs must complete the Chart Abstraction within 1 week of patient enrollment.

## 5. Study Procedures

### 5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- At baseline, all participants will be trained by the CRA how to use the PRO-Core online system to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial.
- The outcomes questionnaires will be completed by all participants at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The questionnaires are described in Table 1 and Table 2 (below).
- When more than one questionnaire is due at a given time point, they will be bundled together automatically by the PRO-Core system so that they feel like a single longer questionnaire to participants.
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Participants should be informed that their caregivers (family, friends) may assist them in any way the participant likes. The CRA may provide technical assistance. If the participant cannot complete a questionnaire, we may ask their designated caregiver(s) to complete it on their behalf. If the participant/caregiver does not complete a questionnaire on time, the CRA will contact them to collect the information (and then enter it into PRO-Core).
- The baseline questionnaire will ideally be completed in clinic with technical assistance from the CRA before the patient leaves.
- At each subsequent questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, to emphasize the importance of completing the questionnaire, and to offer help.

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, participants will also be trained by the CRA to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO (patient-reported outcome") symptom survey system, weekly for up to a year.
- The participant will be given a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system, and a choice of preferred type of weekly reminders to self-report (email, text message, or automated call). *This information should be specified by the CRA in Form C3.*
- For participants who select the automated telephone system, they should be assisted selecting a PIN.
- The participant should be provided with the Wallet Information Card, with information to access the system and log in (blank wallet cards can be provided to the site CRA by mail or email by the UNC coordinating center).
- The participant should be informed that if they do not complete a scheduled questionnaire, they and/or their designated caregiver(s) will receive a call from the studyteam.
- The participant should be informed that any time a severe or worsening symptom is reported, their nurse will be alerted. The alert will only be received during business hours, so if there is a

severe symptom warranting attention off hours they should also contact the office directly. The patient should also be told that a printout of their full symptom report will be provided to their nurse and doctor at scheduled clinic visits.

- Participants should be informed that this system cannot be counted on as the sole means of communicating problems to their care team, and that any time a concerning symptom occurs, they should consider contacting a health care provider or calling 911 as they would do under usual circumstances.

## **5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants**

At baseline, the CRA will provide all participants with a symptom advice booklet, including a link to the booklet online. These are based on best available evidence, existing guidelines, and expert consensus and are developed by CareVive, and will be supplied to CRAs by UNC.

## **5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses**

Nurses involved with the clinical care of participants in this study will be provided with access to evidence-based symptom management pathways from CareVive on paper and/or electronically. The Nurse Champion and ideally the clinical nurses at all participating sites (intervention and control arm sites) will be provided with the pathways at the time of startup/training for this study. Whenever a new patient is enrolled to the study, the pathways should be sent to a clinical nurse responsible for their care.

## **5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Symptom Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

As described above, all participants in the intervention arm will be asked to complete weekly PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) symptom surveys from home each week via the PRO-Core system describing their symptoms and physical functioning. They will receive baseline training by the CRA with a choice to complete the surveys online or an automated telephone system, with automated reminders by email, text, or an automated call.

### **5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

Each week, patient participants at intervention sites will receive an email/text (for online) or automated call (for the phone system) as a reminder to self-report. At the time of registration, patients will be able to select their preferred day and time to receive their email/text/call each week. They will be able to change this if desired at anytime throughout the study.

The email/text will contain a link to the PRO symptom questions, and the call will allow the participant to answer and respond to the questions using the numbers on their phone (either a land line or a cell phone will work). If a patient participant does not complete a weekly PRO symptom survey after the initial email/text/call reminder, they will receive one additional automated reminders over the next 24 hours (during daytime hours).

### **5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6)**

If, after 48 hours, they have not completed the survey their CRA/UNC contacts them (be it phone, in person, email). The CRA/UNC Coordinator will complete the “Missed Weekly Patient PRO Form” (Form C6) to ascertain the reason for the missed report, and will administer the questions verbatim and enter them into the PRO-Core (marking that they were interviewer-administered). This information should be collected as soon as possible, and can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled PRO

weekly survey. We are asking that the patient not be contacted more than three times by the CRA/UNC each week (if possible). This backup strategy improves data completeness. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

#### 5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

Each time a patient self-reports a symptom of a concerning level or that increases from the prior self-report, an automatic email alert notification will be triggered to the site CRA. The alert will only include the participant's study ID, not their identifying information. The CRA will be responsible for adding the patient's name, medical record number, and contact information to the email, then forwarding the email to the appropriate site clinical nurse caring for the patient immediately upon receipt, with a CC to the Nurse Champion. These alert notifications will include a link to evidence-based symptom management pathway recommendations that can be quickly and easily referenced by the nurse.

#### 5.4.4 CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11)

Within 72 hours of each alert, the CRA should contact the nurse to ascertain what action(s) was taken in response to the alert using the "Nursing Alert Response Form" (Form C11). This form offers several options that should be asked or printed or pasted into an email and given to the nurse as choices (below), and the nurse's response should be used by the CRA to complete Form C11.

Discussed symptom with patient/counseling:

- In person
- By phone or text
- By email
- By patient portal
- Supportive medication - started or modified dose/schedule (anti-emetic, analgesic, etc.)
- Chemotherapy - dose changed or held
- Imaging or laboratory test ordered
- Appointment made to come in to clinic for evaluation
- Referral made to another clinic
- Sent to emergency room/urgent care/admitted to hospital

No intervention taken because:

- Already aware of symptom, so no action taken
- Will discuss with patient during next visit
- Patient will use self-management/OTC strategies at home to relieve symptom
- Patient is under the care of a different clinician
- Other: (please describe)

#### 5.4.5 Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

At each scheduled clinic visit for a participant, the site CRA will provide a Printed PRO Report for the participant to the nurse and oncologist seeing the participant, generated by the PRO-Core software system.

### 5.5. Outcomes Assessments and Timeline

This trial includes questionnaires for patients and forms for CRAs and nurses to complete. All of these are found in the PRO-Core software system. **Table 1 and Table 2**, at the bottom of this section, outline the various questionnaires/forms and time points for completion. There is a window of time for

completion of most forms. Form completion is monitored centrally by UNC, and assistance with form completion and data collection may be offered by or requested from UNC personnel.

### 5.5.1 Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3,P4)

As noted above, the participant questionnaires for assessing outcomes (P1, P2, P3, P4) in this trial may be bundled together automatically when administered electronically by the PRO-Core system, so that they feel like a continuous longer questionnaire, rather than individual questionnaires. They are available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).

If a patient questionnaire is completed on paper, the site CRA must scan (or mail) the paper questionnaire to the UNC Coordinator. The UNC coordinator will complete a QA check, comparing the hard copy to what was entered into PRO-Core. If discrepancies are found, the UNC Coordinator will review them with the CRA and correct any errors in PRO-Core.

If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will call them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. At each questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, and to offer help.

If the patient goes off study prior to week 52 the CRA must contact the patient as soon as possible to get the off-study surveys completed.

*Note for intervention sites only: The outcomes questionnaires are different from the Weekly Symptom Surveys that patients at intervention sites will be asked to complete. Therefore, participants at intervention sites will be asked to complete both the Weekly Symptom Surveys, and the periodic outcomes questionnaires. These will be completed separately from each other, although all of these are completed using the PRO-Core software.*

The patient outcomes questionnaires include:

- **Patient Demographics Questionnaire (Questionnaire P1) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire asks participants about their baseline information and will be administered at the time of enrollment.
- **Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire (Questionnaire P2) – ALL SITES:** The outcomes of physical functioning, health-related quality of life, and symptom control will be assessed by items from the “EORTC-QLQ-C30”, which will be administered to each patient participant in the “Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire” (Form P2) at baseline; at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); at months 3, 6, 9; and at month 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The EORTC QLQ-C30 is a well-established and frequently used questionnaire<sup>22,23,24</sup> that includes a 5-item physical functioning domain, individual symptom items corresponding to the symptoms in the PRO intervention system, and a composite quality of life score.<sup>22,23,24</sup> The QLQ-C30 has been rigorously tested for its psychometric properties in qualitative and quantitative studies and has been widely used in clinical studies in oncology, and is a standard measure used across oncology drug development trials and in many ALLIANCE national clinical trials.
- **Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (Questionnaire P3) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire will be administered to each participant at baseline and 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks for the month 3 form). The satisfaction questions are from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey system, which is maintained by the Agency for Healthcare

Research and Quality (AHRQ) to support and promote the assessment of consumers' experiences with health care,<sup>25</sup> and from the “Patient-Centered Communication in Cancer Care” short form questionnaire (PCC-CA-6).<sup>26</sup> Participants or their designated caregivers may also be contacted by UNC for follow up questions about their responses.

- **Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire (Questionnaire P4) – INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:** In the intervention arm only, this questionnaire will be administered to patients after 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks). This questionnaire includes items about the ease and perceived value of using the PRO system. This information will be useful for dissemination and future implementation efforts. Understanding these perspectives is essential to avoid unnecessary burden and to optimize convenience and benefits.

### 5.5.2 Date of Death Form (Form C9)

The CRA will abstract the medical chart and/or touch base with the clinical team caring for participants to assess if the patient has died. Form C9 should be completed at off-study for each participant, as well as 18 months and 24 months following the date of enrollment for that patient. Subsequent chart abstraction/information about date of death may be requested if needed for the outcomes assessment by the UNC study team. Dates of death for participants may be verified or sought by the UNC study team linking participant information to national governmental databases (e.g., the CDC National Death Index).

### 5.5.3 CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1)

The amount of staff effort for PRO-related activities will be assessed based on data completed by CRAs in the “CRA Perspectives Survey” (Form C10) and by nurses in the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” (Form N1), which will be completed at least six months from the time the initial participant at their site is enrolled. The nurse survey will also assess perceived value and use of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in practice, impressions of barriers to implementation of PROs in practice and facilitators. In addition, to supplement these surveys, telephone or on-site debriefings with staff and clinicians will be conducted to understand perceptions of PRO integration into clinical practice and workflow. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA and nurse to remind them to complete perspectives surveys at six months.

### 5.5.4 Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12)

A detailed form (Form C12) requiring information to be abstracted from the participant’s medical record must be completed by the CRA when the participant goes off study (+ 4 week window for form completion). Consultation with a site nurse or physician may be necessary for clarifications of some of the questions in this form. For example, this form includes information about dates and diagnoses related to ER visits and hospitalizations, prescription of selective supportive medications, dates of changes and/or discontinuation of cancer treatments, and initiation of hospice services. Additional outcomes data may be elicited by the UNC team by linking patient records to administrative databases. The UNC Study Team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data.

### 5.5.1 Physician Response Form (Form Onc1)

Physician impressions and usage of the Patient Symptom Report will be assessed based on data completed oncologists in the “Physician Responses Survey” (Form Onc 1). The CRA will ask one treating oncologist who had experience using the report to complete this brief survey after the study has been open at the site for at least 6 months. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA to remind them to ask the treating oncologist complete the survey.

## 6. Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires

- **Table 1**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **CONTROL** sites only.
- **Table 2**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **INTERVENTION** sites only.

**Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base-line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	P1. Patient Demographics	Baseline characteristics	X															
	P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X						X			
	P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*	CAHPS questions	X			X									X			
CRA Reported	C1. Site Registration & Characteristics	Site characteristics	Completed by CRA after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	C3. Patient Registration	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist		X															
	C5. Additional Contact Information Form		X															
	C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form	Info abstracted by CRA from participant’s medical record	X															
	C9. Date of Death Form														X	X	X	
C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**														X				
UNC	UNC1. Site Training	Details of startup meeting	X															

\* The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection. The patient questionnaires may be “bundled” together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.



**Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base- line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported  (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	<b>Weekly PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only</b>	Symptom questions reported from home	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<b>P1. Patient Demographics</b>	Baseline characteristics	X															
	<b>P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*</b>	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X			X			X			
	<b>P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*</b>	Questions about PRO system	X			X									X			
	<b>P4. Patient PRO Feedback Booklet – Intervention Sites Only*</b>	CAHPS questions				X									X			
CRA Reported	<b>C1. Site Registration &amp; Characteristics</b>	Site characteristics	Completed by UNC after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	<b>C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility</b>	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	<b>C3. Patient Registration</b>	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	<b>C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist</b>		X															
	<b>C5. Additional Contact Information Form</b>		X															
	<b>C6. Missed Weekly Patient PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Collected if participant is >24 hours late for a scheduled <i>Weekly PRO Survey</i> , by contacting patient/caregiver ASAP (up to the day before the next scheduled <i>Weekly PRO Survey</i> ).															
	<b>C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record	X															
	<b>C8. Patient Contact Log for Missed PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Completed after successful or unsuccessful attempts to contact participants to collect information for <i>Form C6</i> .															
	<b>C9. Date of Death Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X	X	X
	<b>C10. CRA Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions for CRAs about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open at site for at least 6 months.															
	<b>C11. Nursing Alert Response Form– Intervention Sites Only</b>	CRA obtains responses from clinical nurse who got the alert	Collected within 72 hours of each nursing alert notification, to elicit actions taken by clinical nurse in response to the alert															
	<b>C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X		
<b>Printed PRO Report</b>	Patients' symptoms	Printed for oncologist and nurse at clinic visits.																
Nurse Reported	<b>N1. Nurse Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
Oncologist Reported	<b>Onc1. Physician Response Form</b>	Questions about Symptom Report Usage	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
UNC	<b>UNC1. Site Training</b>	Details of startup meeting	X															

\* **The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection.** The patient questionnaires may be "bundled" together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

<sup>§</sup> To be completed after the study has been open at a site for at least 6 months. The form should be collected within a week of this time point, but there is no expiration on the timeframe for collecting these up through study closure.

<sup>‡</sup> The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who should be contacting their site's participants who do not complete the *Weekly PRO Survey on time (within 24 hours)* for backup/reminder/questions. This information should be collected as soon as possible but can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled *Weekly PRO Survey*.

### **6.1. Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment**

Additional information such as utilization of services or deaths may be collected from national databases to which participant records are linked. Information to link participants' records to these databases will be provided by sites or participants.

### **6.2. Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers**

Participants or their designated caregivers may be contacted by the UNC study team to follow up on responses to outcomes questionnaires.

### **6.3. Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants**

Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC Coordinator and site CRAs. The UNC Coordinator and AFT staff will continuously be in contact with site CRAs to monitor for any concerns or difficulties.

### **6.4. Off-Study Timing and Procedure**

Patient participants are asked to remain on the study completing questionnaires for 12 months (52 weeks), or until they go off-study prior to that time. Reasons for patients to go off-study include:

- Completion of 12 months (52 weeks) of participation
- Permanent discontinuation of chemotherapy treatment
- Initiation of hospice
- Death
- Moved to a different oncology practice for cancer care
- Voluntary disenrollment

When a patient completes their 12<sup>th</sup> months of participation or goes off-study prior to then, the "Off Study Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C12) must be completed. If the patient has died at that time, the "Date of Death Form" (Form C9) must be completed.

In addition, if a patient goes off study early for any reason other than death, they should complete the final Outcomes Questionnaires (including: "Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire" (Form P2), the "Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire" (Form P3), and *for intervention sites only* the "Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire" (Form P4) as soon as possible.

### **6.5. Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs**

At the completion of the trial when preliminary results are available, semi-structured teleconferences will be held with representatives of national patient and professional organizations to elicit perspectives on whether the observed level of staff/patient effort and cost for PRO collection is 'worth it' for the observed benefits. No identifying information will be collected from the interviewees. These results will anchor the trial's results to organizational impressions of value towards dissemination and implementation.

## 7. Statistical Considerations

### 7.1. Statistical Tests

The two principal outcomes are physical functioning and overall survival. Physical functioning will be measured via the QLQ-C30 with a primary time point for analysis at 3 months. Results for each will be compared between arms using a general linear mixed model approach including a fixed effect for cancer type (gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, breast, lung/head and neck, melanoma, or other), a random effect for oncology practice site, and a continuous covariate for the baseline physical functioning score. For patients who die, have missing data, or go off study before the 3-month time point, 1-month data may be used in the analysis. Overall survival will be compared between arms using a stratified log-rank test (stratified by cancer type, with a sandwich estimator to account for site clustering). Each patient will be analyzed according to his/her site's randomized assignment (intent-to-treat approach). A Bonferroni adjustment will be used for these two outcomes (two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  for each analysis). For physical functioning for patients without 3-month data available, 1-month or off study data prior to 3 months (whichever is later) may be carried forward.

### 7.2. Secondary Analyses

For the trial's secondary analyses, emergency room/hospital utilization and duration of cancer treatment will be compared between arms using stratified Fine-Gray competing risk regression with death as a competing event (stratified by cancer type, with robust sandwich covariance matrix estimates to account for site clustering). Health-related quality of life and symptom burden as measured by the QLQ-C30 at 3 months and patient satisfaction/communication as measured by CAHPS items will each be compared between arms using a general linear mixed model approach including a fixed effect for cancer type, a random effect for site, and a continuous covariate for the corresponding baseline score. All other quantitative outcomes will be tabulated within arms descriptively (see below for separate description of qualitative analyses). While the focus of the non-survival assessments is the 3-month time point, supplemental analyses may include analysis of each post-baseline assessment time point (1, 6, 9, and 12 months) as well as longitudinal analyses incorporating all post-baseline PRO data. Two-sided p-values  $<0.05$  will be considered statistically significant throughout for all analyses other than the pre-specified primary analysis, where two-sided p-values of  $<0.025$  will be considered statistically significant.

### 7.3. Sample Size/Power

For physical functioning, with a total of 1000 patients at 30, 40, or 50 sites nationally, there will be 87%, 92%, or 95% power, respectively, to measure the established clinically meaningful difference of 0.37 standard deviations based on the prior single-center RCT (~9 points on the 100-point QLQ-C30 scale) between randomization groups using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  t-test assuming an intracluster correlation coefficient of 0.055,<sup>27</sup> and assuming that 85% of patients are evaluable for the primary analysis at the 3-month time point. For overall survival with a total of 1000 patients at 30, 40, or 50 sites nationally, there will be 80% power for a hazard ratio of 0.76 (based on the prior single-center RCT) which is considered clinically meaningful<sup>28,29</sup> using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  log-rank test with 528, 524, or 521 events, respectively, observed during the observation period, computed using the formula by Xie and Waksman<sup>30</sup> with an intracluster correlation coefficient of 0.001 (estimated from the 10 largest legacy ALLIANCE trials involving 12,717 total patients). The primary analysis of physical functioning will

occur after all patients have been followed for 3 months (or ended participation prior to 3 months). Overall survival analysis will be undertaken based on the number of events observed, determined by employing data from the prior single center RCT.

#### 7.4. Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses

Missing data will be minimized through site training, human backup calls to patients for missed assessments, and automatic and human real-time central monitoring of data compliance. The impact of missing data will be investigated using sensitivity analyses.

#### 7.5. Qualitative Data Collection and Analyses

UNC personnel will conduct interviews with intervention sites during site visits and over the phone with personnel and patients from multiple practice sites, supported by the UNC CHAI-Core. Standardized interview guides will provide interviewers with a detailed script to follow, and open-ended probes will allow stakeholders the opportunity to answer questions in their own way.<sup>31,32, 33</sup> Potential follow-up probes to clarify answers from stakeholders will also be included. Interview scripts will be tailored based on the type of stakeholder (e.g., administrative staff ~~or~~, clinician, or patient). Patient interviews will be exclusively completed over the phone. Interviews will be audio recorded and interviewers will populate standardized summary sheets during interviews. Transcripts will be produced by a professional transcription service and will be coded for analysis themes using standard qualitative software.

In addition, if an intervention patient voluntarily dis-enrolls from the study UNC Staff will reach out to the patient to determine why they made this decision. They will also ask the patient questions about their experience with the weekly questionnaire reporting system. This call will be brief and not audio recorded.

#### 7.6. Randomization

Sites will be randomly assigned to each arm in a 1:1 ratio by the AFT Statistical Center based at the Mayo Clinic, using permuted block randomization with random block size of 2 or 4 stratified by rural vs. urban location. The randomization sequences (one for each stratum) will remain concealed and arm assignments will only be revealed one at a time as sites are registered by the UNC Coordinator.

### 8. Protection of Human Subjects

Potential risks for participants include inconvenience (clinic or home schedule interrupted), questionnaire burden (being asked to respond to a series of questions), disinterest (not finding the study involvement to be meaningful), loss of anonymity (being seen by others on the clinical team when the study team approaches to inform them of the study), or loss of confidentiality (if a study team member shared information given by the participant to others not involved in the study). Research team members at all sites will be instructed to keep all patient participation and data confidential. We do not anticipate physical, financial, or legal risks to participation. Registrations of human subjects on AFT studies require that institutions obtain informed consent prior to registration and the start of study interventions.

#### 8.1. AFT Policies and Protections

AFT has in place policies and procedures to ensure the protection of human subjects and to safeguard the rights and welfare of human subjects. AFT requires that institutions participating in AFT research

studies hold a Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). The AFT also ensures that IRBs are registered and that site IRBs provide a level of IRB review that is appropriate to the type of research being conducted. The AFT staff works closely with AFT site personnel to assist them with their questions and any corrective actions necessary to ensure the protection of human subjects. To protect against potential risks across all sites, study team members will

be instructed not to disclose participation or content of participation to anyone outside of the study team.

## 8.2. Computer and Electronic Protection

Data collection across sites will be through the University of North Carolina (UNC) PRO-Core web-based platform for secure questionnaire administration. Data are stored in a secure enterprise-level Oracle database managed by the ITS Research Computing group at UNC, and web servers are hosted by the UNC Center for Bioinformatics. Data transmitted between the server and end-users are encrypted using SSL, and all databases are encrypted. The PRO-Core also has additional protections when multiple sites are involved. For instance, recruitment sites will only be able to see their own patients' information.

## 8.3. Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality will be maintained. Hard-copy research data will be minimal and stored in locked filing cabinets in locked offices at the enrolling site. Research data will be maintained in separate charts, identified by ID number only, and secured in locked files. A master list connecting names and ID numbers will be kept in a separate, secure location. Only authorized members of the investigative group will have access to secured files, and will be educated regarding the protection of patients' rights to confidentiality. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

## 8.4. Protection Against Risks from Interviews

Telephone debriefings and site visits will be conducted to understand site workflows and uptake of PROs. UNC study team members will be trained in interviewing procedures in order to conduct these debriefings. The team has conducted multiple studies with in-depth interviews. Interviewers will be reminded to conduct interviews in a private office. Audio recordings of interviews will be stored as electronic files on password-protected computers. The recordings will not be labeled with personal identifiers. The information linking study ID numbers/initials with the participant's identity will be kept in a separate, secure location. Interviews will be supported by the UNC CHAI Core.

Transcription will be conducted by Landmark Associates, Inc. ("Landmark"). All Landmark employees have completed CITI training and NIH's Protecting Human Research Participants training. All of Landmark's employees, contractors, and executive staff are also under non-disclosure agreements. For maximum security, Landmark transfers data from its customers and its offsite servers via SSL encrypted endpoints. All files are uploaded and downloaded through Salesforce.com's Customer Portal. The servers that store all of Landmark's client data are managed by Amazon Web Services, a division of Amazon.com LLC. Specifically, the files are located on their Simple Storage Service (S3). The files are protected behind pre-signed URL's that are generated for each file that is uploaded to the server. The generated links are set to expire in 60 seconds. Access to the Amazon Web Services dashboard requires the admin user to have possession of a Hardware Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Device. A link to the AWS White Paper on Security is here: [http://media.amazonaws.com/pdf/AWS\\_Security\\_Whitepaper.pdf](http://media.amazonaws.com/pdf/AWS_Security_Whitepaper.pdf) Upon receiving a password-protected login, only authorized project personnel will be able to upload files to Landmark's website through the Customer Portal.

## 8.5. Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge to Be Gained

Patient-reporting of symptoms and physical function may improve quality of care by identifying symptoms before they lead to adverse outcomes such as functional impairment, hospitalization, or chemotherapy dose reduction. No harms of patient symptom reporting have been identified in prior

research. Therefore, participants in these studies may benefit by burdensome symptoms being identified earlier and communicated to clinicians. Moreover, completing symptom questionnaires may assist patients to become more aware of their symptoms, and move towards better communication and self- efficacy (as suggested in prior work).

The knowledge sought in the proposed research can have direct clinical benefits for patients with cancer enrolled in future clinical trials and/or routine cancer treatment. These gains include more accurate monitoring of symptoms and toxicities that can prompt clinician intervention. This will allow for broad collection of patients' symptoms in clinical research and practice, potentially benefitting many patients whose symptoms might otherwise go undetected. Although the risks in the proposed research are not non-existent, the current and future benefits of improved quality of care and symptom monitoring balance the risks of inconvenience, questionnaire burden, loss of anonymity, disinterest, and/or loss of confidentiality.

## **9. Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures**

### **9.1. Regulatory and Ethical Compliance**

The Investigator agrees to treat all of the information that is provided with the strictest confidentiality and to require the same of his or her personnel and local IRB. Study documents will be stored in an appropriate manner in order to ensure confidentiality. The information provided to the investigator by AFT must not be made available to other parties without a direct written authorization by the aforesaid parties, with the exception of the extent to which disclosure is necessary in order to obtain informed consent from the patients who wish to participate in the study. This study will be conducted in compliance with the study protocol, subsequent amendment(s) and with the study-specific manuals/guidelines. The investigator agrees to comply with the instructions and procedures described therein and thus to adhere to the principles of good clinical practice, which these instructions and procedures reflect.

### **9.2. Informed Consent**

It is the responsibility of the Investigator, or a person designated by the Investigator including the CRA (if acceptable by local guidelines), to obtain written informed consent from each patient participating in this study, after adequate explanation of the aims, methods, anticipated benefits, and potential hazards of the study. This information must be provided to the patient prior to undertaking any trial-related procedure which is not part of the routine clinical management of the patient (i.e. would not be indicated outside the study). Consent forms will be available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. It is the investigator's (or designee's) responsibility to obtain the signed Informed Consent Form, and a signature from the person conducting the informed consent discussion, prior to undertaking any trial-related procedure.

### **9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB**

The Investigator is responsible for ensuring that their study team maintains and retains all study related documentation, including but not limited to: signed Informed Consent Forms, medical records that are applicable for this study and source documents, the study protocol, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, relevant IRB and Sponsor correspondence, and assorted regulatory documents. The Investigator is responsible for retaining and keeping safe all patient related documentation. In order to do this, the site staff will complete electronic forms in the PRO-Core software system in a timely manner.

#### 9.4. Protocol Deviations

The Investigator is responsible to document and explain any deviations from the approved protocol. The Investigator should promptly report any deviations that might impact patient safety and data integrity to the respective IRB in accordance with local IRB policies and procedures.

#### 9.5. Protocol Amendments

Any modifications to the protocol or the Informed Consent Form which may impact on the conduct of the study, potential benefit of the study, or may affect patient safety, including substantial changes of study objectives, study design, patient population, sample sizes, study procedures, or significant administrative aspects will require a formal amendment to the protocol. Such amendment will be released by AFT, agreed by the Investigator(s) and approved by relevant IRBs prior to implementation. Administrative changes of the protocol or small changes to study forms or questionnaires are considered minor corrections and/or clarifications that have no effect on the way the study is to be conducted. These changes will be released by the AFT, agreed by the investigator(s), and notified to the IRB.

#### 9.6. Retention of Records

Any records and documents relating to the conduct of this study must be retained by the Investigator until notification by UNC/AFT, or for the length of time required by relevant national or local health authorities, whichever is longer. After that period of time, the documents may be destroyed, subject to local regulations. Written notification should be provided to AFT prior to transferring any records to another party or moving them to another location.

#### 9.7. Data Confidentiality

Patient medical information is confidential and may only be disclosed to third parties as permitted by the Informed Consent Form (or separate authorization for use and disclosure of personal health information) which has been signed by the patient, unless permitted or required by law. The overall results of any research study will be available in accordance with the effective AFT policy on study data publication. Patient information may be used to link to national databases for retrieve outcomes assessment information, which will be stored in de-identified databases.

#### 9.8. Database Management and Quality Control

The Site Principal Investigator and/or his/her designee will provide accurate participant data into study forms with observations pertinent to the study.

The Clinical Research Associate (CRA) or designated study site personnel will complete the Forms in a timely manner. Subjects will not be identified by name in the study database or on any study documents to be collected by the AFT (or designee), but will be identified by a site number, subject number. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

UNC and/or AFT study personnel will review Forms for completeness and accuracy; any discrepancies will be resolved with the site CRAS, investigator or designee, as appropriate. All changes to the study database will be documented.

If an Investigator becomes unable for any reason to continue to retain study records for the required period (eg, retirement, relocation), AFT should be prospectively notified. The study records must be transferred to a designee acceptable to AFT, such as another investigator, another institution, or to AFT



itself. The Investigator must obtain AFT’s written permission before disposing of any records, even if retention requirements have been met.

### 9.9. Site Audits

The UNC study team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data. Site audits may also be conducted by representatives of AFT according to AFT policies and procedures.

### 9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results

Alliance Foundation Trials, LLC prioritizes the timely presentation and publication of study results. Publications and any kind of presentations of results from the study shall be in accordance with accepted scientific practice, academic standards and customs. No investigator may present or publish any portion of this trial without written approval from UNC and AFT.

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ALLIANCE FOUNDATION TRIALS (AFT)

PROTOCOL NUMBER

**AFT – 39**

Protocol Title:

**Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment:  
A U.S. national randomized controlled trial (the “PRO-TECT” trial)**

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03249090

Protocol Version Date:

January 17, 2019

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Landmark, Inc. Transcription

**Study Resources**

<p><b>Data Entry is through the UNC PRO-CORE</b>          Accessible at: <a href="https://pro.unc.edu/">https://pro.unc.edu/</a>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>
<p><b>Randomization Assignment</b>          Will be given to sites following IRB Approval, prior to site initiation</p>
<p><b>Site Training and Refresher Training</b>  <b>Will be Conducted by UNC Team</b>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>

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I. Synopsis and Study Schema

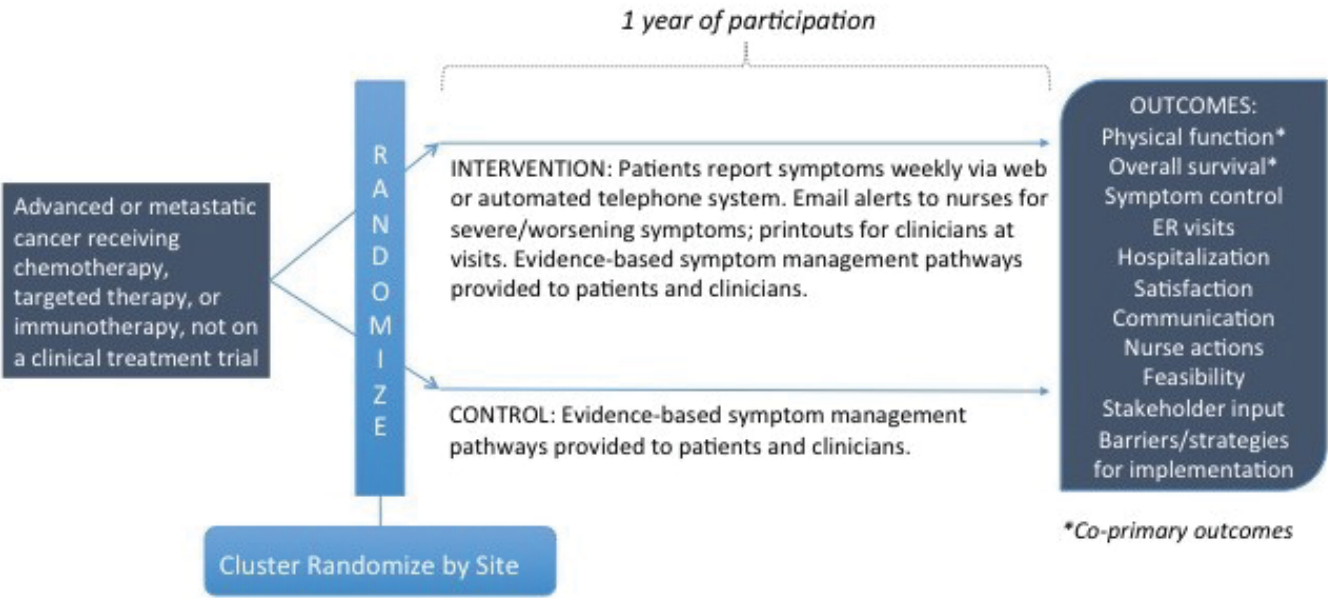
<b>Study Title</b>	Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment: A U.S. national randomized controlled trial
<b>Study Acronym</b>	PRO-TECT: <u>P</u> atient- <u>R</u> eported <u>O</u> utcomes to <u>E</u> nhance <u>C</u> ancer <u>T</u> reatment trial
<b>Study Number</b>	AFT-39
<b>Study Type/Phase</b>	RCT ( <u>not</u> a drug trial)
<b>Number of Study Patients</b>	1,200 patients, from 50 (+/- 5) U.S. sites
<b>Estimated Duration of Study</b>	Each patient participates for up to 12 Months
<b>Anticipated Recruitment Start Date</b>	August 1, 2017
<b>Rationale</b>	Symptoms are common during cancer treatment, but frequently go undetected by clinicians between visits. Patient self-reporting of symptoms online (or automated telephone systems), with alerts to clinicians for severe symptoms, offers a potential approach to flag concerning symptoms and prevent downstream complications. A prior single-center RCT provided initial evidence of improved clinical outcomes and reduced ER visits using such an approach. The current study is designed to test nationally whether patients' outcomes and utilization of services can be improved through symptom monitoring via patient-reported outcomes between visits.
<b>Primary Objective</b>	Determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes.
<b>Secondary Objectives</b>	Elicit perspectives about benefit-burden tradeoffs for integrating patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow from different stakeholders, including patients, clinicians, site staff, and representatives of patient and professional organizations. Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow.
<b>Trial Design</b>	"Cluster" RCT, randomization unit: oncology practice site (approximately 50 sites randomized in a 1:1 ratio to the "control" arm"
<b>Site Requirements for Participation in Trial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead CRA</li> <li>• Clinical nursing staff champion ("Nurse Champion") for the study.</li> </ul>
<b>Participant Payments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150 gift card (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months)</li> <li>• Mailed directly to patient participants by UNC</li> </ul>

<p><b>Patient Inclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults (21+) with advanced/metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment with palliative/non-curative intent (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy)</li> <li>• Patients can be enrolled at any point in their cancer treatment trajectory (i.e., not just at initiation of first-line treatment)</li> <li>• Understands English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>
<p><b>Patient Exclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or study questionnaires</li> <li>• Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial</li> <li>• Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers; ibrance/palbociclib)</li> <li>• Indolent/slow-growing lymphoma (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic)</li> <li>• Leukemia of any type</li> <li>• Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Study Procedures</b></p>	<p><u>PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.</li> <li>• At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.</li> <li>• All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.</li> <li>• CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.</li> <li>• Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.</li> <li>• CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.</li> <li>• Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.</li> <li>• At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.</li> </ul> <p><u>ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system <u>weekly</u> for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.</li> <li>• Whenever a concerning symptom is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).</li> <li>• A symptom report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit and will be given to the oncologist and nurse</li> </ul>
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**PRO-TECT SCHEMA**



**II. Table of Contents**

PRO-TECT SCHEMA ..... 7

1. Background Information ..... 11

1.1. Overview and Rationale ..... 11

1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention..... 11

1.3. Primary Objective..... 12

1.4. Secondary Objectives ..... 12

2. Patient Selection and Population..... 12

2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria ..... 12

3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities..... 13

3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1) ..... 13

3.2. Site Enrollment Requirement Documentation ..... 13

3.3. Site Role Requirements..... 14

3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA) ..... 14

3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion..... 14

3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”) ..... 15

3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training ..... 15

4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment ..... 16

4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants..... 16

4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)..... 16

4.3. Purposeful Enrollment ..... 16

4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3) ..... 16

4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C6) ..... 16

5. Study Procedures ..... 17

5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System ..... 17

5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants ..... 18

5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses..... 18

5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Symptom Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6) ..... 18

5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY ..... 19

5.4.4	CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11) .....	19
5.4.5	Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY.....	19
5.5.	Outcomes Assessments and Timeline.....	19
5.5.1	Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3, P4) .....	20
5.5.2	Date of Death Form (Form C9).....	21
5.5.3	CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1).....	21
5.5.4	Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12).....	21
6.	Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires .....	22
Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only .....		22
Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only .....		23
6.1.	Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment .....	24
6.2.	Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers.....	24
6.3.	Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants .....	24
6.4.	Off-Study Timing and Procedure.....	24
6.5.	Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs .....	24
7.	Statistical Considerations.....	25
7.1.	Statistical Tests.....	25
7.2.	Secondary Analyses.....	25
7.3.	Sample Size/Power .....	25
7.4.	Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses.....	26
7.5.	Qualitative data collection and analyses .....	26
7.6.	Randomization .....	26
8.	Protection of Human Subjects .....	26
8.1.	AFT Policies and Protections .....	26
8.2.	Computer and Electronic Protection .....	27
8.3.	Confidentiality.....	27
8.4.	Protection against Risks from Interviews .....	27
8.5.	Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge To Be Gained.....	27
9.	Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures.....	28
9.1.	Regulatory and Ethical Compliance .....	28
9.2.	Informed Consent .....	28

9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB ..... 28

9.4. Protocol Deviations ..... 29

9.5. Protocol Amendments ..... 29

9.6. Retention of Records ..... 29

9.7. Data Confidentiality ..... 29

9.8. Database Management and Quality Control ..... 29

9.9. Site Audits ..... 30

9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results ..... 30

10. References ..... 30

## 1. Background Information

### 1.1. Overview and Rationale

Symptoms are common among patients receiving treatment for advanced cancers and are a major cause of distress, functional disability, and emergency room/hospital utilization<sup>1,2,3</sup> but go undetected and unaddressed by clinicians up to half the time.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> There is substantial and growing national interest to integrate electronic patient-reported outcomes (PROs) into routine practice to improve detection and management of symptoms.<sup>8,9,10</sup> However, the value of integrating PRO collection into routine care, acceptability to patients and clinicians, and the required infrastructure and resource needs are uncertain.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

Multiple studies, largely at single centers, have reported associations between routine collection of electronic PROs (e.g. symptoms reported by patients using iPads or automated telephone systems, either between visits or at visits) with improved efficiency of symptom assessment, patient-clinician communication, and satisfaction as well as symptom control, well-being, reduced emergency room utilization, longer duration of chemotherapy treatment, and improved survival.<sup>14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21</sup>

Although this body of work suggests benefits, it is not yet definitive because a large, rigorous, multi-center controlled trial has not been conducted.

Therefore, this national multicenter cluster-randomized trial is being conducted to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via PROs during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes: the “Patient-Reported Outcomes to Enhance Cancer Treatment” trial (“PRO-TECT”). The design of this trial is based on a prior large single center RCT (N=766) showing significant clinical benefits of a similar approach.<sup>14</sup>

### 1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention

This is an RCT in up to 50 (+/- 5) sites where randomization will occur in a 1:1 ratio at the site level (not at the individual patient level). Therefore, approximately 25 sites will be randomized to the PRO-TECT intervention arm (patient-reporting of symptoms plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline), and approximately 25 sites will be randomized to the control arm (usual care delivery plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline). Specifically:

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.
- At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.
- All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.
- CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks

each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.

- Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.
- CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.
- Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system weekly for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Whenever a concerning symptom is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).
- A symptom report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit, and will be given to the oncologist and nurse caring for the patient.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

### 1.3. Primary Objective

The primary objective of this study is to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcomes (PROs) during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes, including quality of life, symptom control, survival, emergency room visits, duration of chemotherapy administration, and patient satisfaction with care.

### 1.4. Secondary Objectives

Secondary outcomes of this study are to:

- Elicit perspectives from patients, CRAs, and clinicians about effort, benefits, and burden of patient self-reporting of symptoms with alerts and reports to clinicians.
- Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate PROs into clinical workflow through interviews, questionnaires, and selected site visits.
- Obtain perspectives of stakeholders about PROs through debriefings at study completion.

## 2. Patient Selection and Population

### 2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria

***Inclusion Criteria:***

1. Adults (21+) with advanced/metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)
2. Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment for non-curative/palliative intent, including chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy.

3. Enrolled at any point in their treatment trajectory, meaning during any line of treatment, and at any point during a course or cycle of treatment.
4. Can understand English, Spanish, and/or Mandarin Chinese.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

1. Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or questionnaires.
2. Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial (because these often involve PRO questionnaires and intensive monitoring).
3. Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma).
4. Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers; ibrance/palbociclib)
5. Indolent lymphomas (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic).
6. Leukemias (time courses inconsistent with other tumor types in chronic and acute leukemias).
7. Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.

### 3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities

#### 3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1)

Patients will be enrolled from up to 50 oncology clinical practice sites across the U.S. Sites (+/- 5 sites) will be contracted by AFT and adhere to the AFT central IRB and procedures for registration and data management (including outcomes data capture in the PRO-Core clinical trial software system, which will be used for participant registration and all study forms for this trial).

The unit of randomization for this trial is the oncology practice site. Each site will be assigned as either a “Control Arm Site” or as an “Intervention Arm Site”. Arm assignments will be provided to sites by the UNC study coordinating team by email to the lead CRA following site’s local IRB approval and before the site’s initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

CRAs will complete the with the UNC Coordinator “Site Registration Characteristics Form” (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

#### 3.2. Site Enrollment Required Documentation

Each site must submit the below required essential documents to the Alliance through the AFT electronic Trial Master File, accessible via the AFT website, <https://alliancefoundationtrials.org/>

- ☐ IRB Documents/ Approvals (Protocol, Informed Consent Form (ICF), Participant Materials, etc.)
  - Institutional Informed Consent Form (a ‘model’ consent form will be provided to sites)
- ☐ Investigator FDA Form 1572
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae (CV) from site Principal Investigator
- ☐ Documentation of ICH Good Clinical Practice (ICH/GCP) training from site Principal Investigator
- ☐ Site CRA and site Nurse Champion study training certificates (provided by UNC after the site initiation webinar)



### 3.3. Site Role Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA)

Each site will allocate effort from at least one Clinical Research Associate (CRA) to oversee processes for this trial.

CRA's at ALL SITES will:

- Oversee regulatory and logistical processes for the trial at their site
- Complete the "Site Registration Characteristics Form" (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC
- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (and provide a training certificate from this webinar to AFT)
- Screen for eligible patients
- Oversee informed consent
- Submit clinical data at baseline and off-study for participants, and abstract date of death information at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later, per the UNC studyteam
- Ensure completion of outcomes questionnaires by participants or their caregivers at baseline, month 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study
- Participate in teleconferences and individual telephone calls with the central data management team as needed to discuss accrual, retention, and compliance with forms.

CRA's at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:

- Participate in training for PRO ("patient-reported outcome") weekly symptom survey system
- Teach patients to use the PRO system
- Forward PRO system email alerts to nurses/clinicians
- Print PRO reports for clinicians at patient visits
- Follow up with nurses after alerts (within 72 hours) and enter information about their responses to alerts in a study form
- Complete the "CRA Perspectives Survey" form after at least 6 months of site participation
- Facilitate nurse completion of the "Nurse Perspectives Survey" and "Physician Response Survey" forms after at least 6 months of site participation
- Participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings with the study team to discuss PRO interventions and workflow.
- Contact patients after 48 hours of initial survey email/text/call to remind them to complete surveys. This will be done in coordination with the UNC Coordinator. (CRA's will be asked to avoid contacting patients more than three times each week)

#### 3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion

Each practice site must designate a Nurse Champion prior to site initiation/startup training.

Nurse Champions at ALL SITES will:

- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (the CRA will submit a training certificate for the nurse from this webinar to AFT)
- Facilitate dissemination of the standardized symptom management pathways to site nurses who care for study participants

Nurse Champions at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:

- Work with UNC to figure out the optimal way to integrate PROs into the practice
- Be a resource for other clinicians and participants
- Receive a copy of email alerts being sent to clinical nurses from the CRA at that site, as an added Quality Assurance (QA) step
- Complete, or designate a participating clinical nurse with patient(s) in the study to complete, the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” form after at least 6 months of site participation; may also participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings to discuss PRO interventions.

### 3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”)

All data entry for this study will be conducted through the online PRO-Core data management system (<https://pro.unc.edu>). This includes all forms that are completed by site CRAs, and patient questionnaires. As described in the following sections, CRAs and other site staff, including the designated Nurse Champion, will be trained to use the PRO-Core system during the site initiation/startup webinar. For intervention sites only, during this webinar, site staff will also be trained how to teach patients to use the PRO weekly symptom survey system.

### 3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training

Each site will undergo a required startup meeting webinar set up by the UNC Coordinator/team, attended by the site PI, CRA(s), and designated Nurse Champion at a minimum, but optimally including all clinical nurses who might be clinically responsible for patient participants. Following training, the UNC Coordinator (not the site CRA) will complete the “Site Training Form” (Form UNC-1). Training will include instructions for using the PRO-Core software for patient registration and completion of forms. The UNC Coordinator will provide training certificates for the CRA to provide to AFT, once both the CRA and Nurse Champion are trained. Refresher trainings and trainings for new site personnel will be available at any time during the trial through the UNC coordinating center.

#### FOR SITES ASSIGNED TO INTERVENTION ARM ONLY:

- The CRA(s) and Nurse Champion will also be trained to use the PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) weekly symptom survey software, which is integrated with the PRO-Core data management software being used for this study. This training takes approximately 30 minutes. CRAs will be trained how to:
  - Register a patient into the PRO software
  - Select the patient’s preferred mode of completing the Weekly Symptom Survey (online or automated telephone)
  - Designate the clinical nurse(s) and oncologist responsible for the care of that patient
  - Teach patients to use the PRO system from home (online or automated telephone) (typically less than 10 minutes to train patients)
  - For patients who choose the automated telephone system, how to set/reset a PIN
- Site personnel will be familiarized with the automated email alerts that will go to the site CRA when a patient reports concerning or worsening symptoms. The automated emails must be forwarded by the CRA to the appropriate clinical nurse(s) caring for the participant with a CC to the site’s Nurse Champion.
- ☐ CRAs will be oriented to the wallet-sized quick-reference information cards for patient participants including instructions how to use the PRO system. These will be provided to CRAs by the UNC coordinating center.

## 4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment

### 4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants

Site CRAs will work with clinical nurses and oncologists at their practice sites to identify eligible patients. To identify potentially eligible patients, CRAs can review clinical documentation such as the patient's chart in the electronic medical record, clinical schedules, or ask clinical staff about potential eligible patients through a limited waiver of authorization from the IRB. Potential patient participants may be approached and invited to be in the study by site CRAs or designated clinical staff. All eligible patients should be approached consecutively, except when "purposeful enrollment" for specific target populations is directed for sites by the UNC study team, as described below. Patients who agree to participate will review and sign the Informed Consent Form after the study is explained.

### 4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)

*Patient refusals or ineligibility* to participate and reasons for refusal will be entered into the "Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility Form" (Form C2).

### 4.3. Purposeful Enrollment

We will use purposeful enrollment to enrich the sample for historically underserved populations. This will be managed through central monitoring of accrual by UNC, with close communication with site CRAs. Enrollment methods may include restricting enrollment to specific populations after sites reach a certain number of participants (e.g. 50 or 20), and/or recruiting sites with varying patient demographics, and/or training sites to approach potential patients regardless of race, ethnicity, age, education level, or any other patient level characteristics.

### 4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3)

Prior to registering the patient, site staff should verify the following:

- All eligibility criteria have been met within the protocol stated timeframes.
- The patient has signed an appropriate consent form and HIPAA authorization form (if applicable at your site)
- The patient has been informed about the \$150 in gift cards (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months) that will be sent to them by UNC for participating

After written informed consent has been obtained, the study site CRA will register the patient in the PRO-Core software system by completing the "Patient Registration Form" (Form C3). In this form, the CRA will assign a unique Study ID for the patient using the three-digit code assigned to their site for the study, followed by a hyphen then a three-digit consecutive number for that patient. For example, the fifth patient registered as a participant at site #123 would be 123-005. In addition, in this form the CRA will specify, on behalf of the patient, how the patient prefers to complete questionnaires for the study: online or by an automated telephone system.

Patients enrolled but who do not participate for any reason will be considered as a Screening Failure and will not be considered as enrollees.

### 4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C7)

Each time a new participant is enrolled, the CRA will complete the baseline forms in the PRO-Core system, including: "Patient Eligibility Checklist" (Form C4), "Additional Contact Information Form" (Form C5), and "Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C7). For Forms C4 and C5, consultation with the participant and/or caregiver may be necessary. Form C7 includes detailed question about the

patient's health and treatment which may require consultation with a site nurse or physician in addition to reviewing the participant's medical record. CRAs must complete the Chart Abstraction within 1 week of patient enrollment.

## 5. Study Procedures

### 5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- At baseline, all participants will be trained by the CRA how to use the PRO-Core online system to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial.
- The outcomes questionnaires will be completed by all participants at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The questionnaires are described in Table 1 and Table 2 (below).
- When more than one questionnaire is due at a given time point, they will be bundled together automatically by the PRO-Core system so that they feel like a single longer questionnaire to participants.
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Participants should be informed that their caregivers (family, friends) may assist them in any way the participant likes. The CRA may provide technical assistance. If the participant cannot complete a questionnaire, we may ask their designated caregiver(s) to complete it on their behalf. If the participant/caregiver does not complete a questionnaire on time, the CRA will contact them to collect the information (and then enter it into PRO-Core).
- The baseline questionnaire will ideally be completed in clinic with technical assistance from the CRA before the patient leaves.
- At each subsequent questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, to emphasize the importance of completing the questionnaire, and to offer help.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, participants will also be trained by the CRA to self-report symptoms and physical functioning using the PRO (patient-reported outcome") symptom survey system, weekly for up to a year.
- The participant will be given a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system, and a choice of preferred type of weekly reminders to self-report (email, text message, or automated call). *This information should be specified by the CRA in Form C3.*
- For participants who select the automated telephone system, they should be assisted selecting a PIN.
- The participant should be provided with the Wallet Information Card, with information to access the system and log in (blank wallet cards can be provided to the site CRA by mail or email by the UNC coordinating center).
- The participant should be informed that if they do not complete a scheduled questionnaire, they and/or their designated caregiver(s) will receive a call from the studyteam.
- The participant should be informed that any time a severe or worsening symptom is reported, their nurse will be alerted. The alert will only be received during business hours, so if there is a

severe symptom warranting attention off hours they should also contact the office directly. The patient should also be told that a printout of their full symptom report will be provided to their nurse and doctor at scheduled clinic visits.

- Participants should be informed that this system cannot be counted on as the sole means of communicating problems to their care team, and that any time a concerning symptom occurs, they should consider contacting a health care provider or calling 911 as they would do under usual circumstances.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

## 5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants

At baseline, the CRA will provide all participants with a symptom advice booklet, including a link to the booklet online. These are based on best available evidence, existing guidelines, and expert consensus and are developed by CareVive, and will be supplied to CRAs by UNC.

## 5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses

Nurses involved with the clinical care of participants in this study will be provided with access to evidence-based symptom management pathways from CareVive on paper and/or electronically. The Nurse Champion and ideally the clinical nurses at all participating sites (intervention and control arm sites) will be provided with the pathways at the time of startup/training for this study. Whenever a new patient is enrolled to the study, the pathways should be sent to a clinical nurse responsible for their care.

## 5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Symptom Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

As described above, all participants in the intervention arm will be asked to complete weekly PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) symptom surveys from home each week via the PRO-Core system describing their symptoms and physical functioning. They will receive baseline training by the CRA with a choice to complete the surveys online or an automated telephone system, with automated reminders by email, text, or an automated call.

### 5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

Each week, patient participants at intervention sites will receive an email/text (for online) or automated call (for the phone system) as a reminder to self-report. At the time of registration, patients will be able to select their preferred day and time to receive their email/text/call each week. They will be able to change this if desired at anytime throughout the study.

The email/text will contain a link to the PRO symptom questions, and the call will allow the participant to answer and respond to the questions using the numbers on their phone (either a land line or a cell phone will work). If a patient participant does not complete a weekly PRO symptom survey after the initial email/text/call reminder, they will receive one additional automated reminder over the next 24 hours (during daytime hours).

### 5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6)

If, after 48 hours, they have not completed the survey their CRA/UNC contacts them (be it phone, in person, email). The CRA/UNC Coordinator will complete the “Missed Weekly Patient PRO Form” (Form C6) to ascertain the reason for the missed report, and will administer the questions verbatim and enter them into the PRO-Core (marking that they were interviewer-administered). This information should be collected as soon as possible, and can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled PRO

weekly survey. We are asking that the patient not be contacted more than three times by the CRA/UNC each week (if possible). This backup strategy improves data completeness.

#### 5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

Each time a patient self-reports a symptom of a concerning level or that increases from the prior self-report, an automatic email alert notification will be triggered to the site CRA. The alert will only include the participant's study ID, not their identifying information. The CRA will be responsible for adding the patient's name, medical record number, and contact information to the email, then forwarding the email to the appropriate site clinical nurse caring for the patient immediately upon receipt, with a CC to the Nurse Champion. These alert notifications will include a link to evidence-based symptom management pathway recommendations that can be quickly and easily referenced by the nurse.

#### 5.4.4 CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11)

Within 72 hours of each alert, the CRA should contact the nurse to ascertain what action(s) was taken in response to the alert using the "Nursing Alert Response Form" (Form C11). This form offers several options that should be asked or printed or pasted into an email and given to the nurse as choices (below), and the nurse's response should be used by the CRA to complete Form C11.

Was the patient contacted?

- Yes
- No

How was the patient contacted (select all that apply)?

- In person
- By phone or text
- By email
- By patient portal

If by phone, did you leave a voicemail?

- Yes
- No

Select any discussion that occurred (select all that apply):

- Discussed symptom with patient
- Discussed symptom with caregiver
- Discussed with other clinician(s)

Select any action/advice that occurred (select all that apply):

- Supportive medication – prescribed or modified dose/schedule (e.g., anti-emetic)
- Patient will use over-the-counter (OTC) medication at home (e.g., analgesic, Senna)
- Chemotherapy - dose changed or held
- Sent to emergency room/urgent care/admitted to hospital
- Imaging or laboratory test ordered
- Appointment made to come in to clinic for evaluation
- Referral made to another clinic
- Patient will use self-management strategies at home (e.g., meditation, walking)

Select reason if no action/advice occurred (select all that apply):

- Already aware of symptom, so no action taken

- Symptom resolved itself
- Symptom unrelated to chemo (e.g., cold symptoms)
- Will discuss with patient during next visit

Brief description (you can describe any detail or reason that action was taken or not taken):

#### 5.4.5 Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY

At each scheduled clinic visit for a participant, the site CRA will provide a Printed PRO Report for the participant to the nurse and oncologist seeing the participant, generated by the PRO-Core software system.

### 5.5. Outcomes Assessments and Timeline

This trial includes questionnaires for patients and forms for CRAs and nurses to complete. All of these are found in the PRO-Core software system. **Table 1 and Table 2**, at the bottom of this section, outline the various questionnaires/forms and time points for completion. There is a window of time for completion of most forms. Form completion is monitored centrally by UNC, and assistance with form completion and data collection may be offered by or requested from UNC personnel.

#### 5.5.1 Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3, P4)

As noted above, the participant questionnaires for assessing outcomes (P1, P2, P3, P4) in this trial may be bundled together automatically when administered electronically by the PRO-Core system, so that they feel like a continuous longer questionnaire, rather than individual questionnaires. They are available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).

If a patient questionnaire is completed on paper, the site CRA must scan (or mail) the paper questionnaire to the UNC Coordinator. The UNC coordinator will complete a QA check, comparing the hard copy to what was entered into PRO-Core. If discrepancies are found, the UNC Coordinator will review them with the CRA and correct any errors in PRO-Core.

If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will call them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. At each questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, and to offer help.

If the patient goes off study prior to week 52 the CRA must contact the patient as soon as possible to get the off-study surveys completed.

*Note for intervention sites only: The outcomes questionnaires are different from the Weekly Symptom Surveys that patients at intervention sites will be asked to complete. Therefore, participants at intervention sites will be asked to complete both the Weekly Symptom Surveys, and the periodic outcomes questionnaires. These will be completed separately from each other, although all of these are completed using the PRO-Core software.*

The patient outcomes questionnaires include:

- **Patient Demographics Questionnaire (Questionnaire P1) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire asks participants about their baseline information and will be administered at the time of enrollment.
- **Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire (Questionnaire P2) – ALL SITES:** The outcomes of physical functioning, health-related quality of life, and symptom control will be assessed by items from the “EORTC-QLQ-C30”, which will be administered to each patient participant in the “Patient Quality of

Life Questionnaire” (Form P2) at baseline; at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); at months 3, 6, 9; and at month 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The EORTC QLQ-C30 is a well-established and frequently used questionnaire<sup>22,23,24</sup> that includes a 5-item physical functioning domain, individual symptom items corresponding to the symptoms in the PRO intervention system, and a composite quality of life score.<sup>22,23,24</sup> The QLQ-C30 has been rigorously tested for its psychometric properties in qualitative and quantitative studies and has been widely used in clinical studies in oncology, and is a standard measure used across oncology drug development trials and in many ALLIANCE national clinical trials.

- **Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (Questionnaire P3) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire will be administered to each participant at baseline and 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks for the month 3 form). The satisfaction questions are from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey system, which is maintained by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to support and promote the assessment of consumers' experiences with health care,<sup>25</sup> and from the “Patient-Centered Communication in Cancer Care” short form questionnaire (PCC-CA-6).<sup>26</sup> Participants or their designated caregivers may also be contacted by UNC for follow up questions about their responses.
- **Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire (Questionnaire P4) – INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:** In the intervention arm only, this questionnaire will be administered to patients after 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks). This questionnaire includes items about the ease and perceived value of using the PRO system. This information will be useful for dissemination and future implementation efforts. Understanding these perspectives is essential to avoid unnecessary burden and to optimize convenience and benefits.

#### 5.5.2 Date of Death Form (Form C9)

The CRA will abstract the medical chart and/or touch base with the clinical team caring for participants to assess if the patient has died. Form C9 should be completed at off-study for each participant, as well as 18 months and 24 months following the date of enrollment for that patient. Subsequent chart abstraction/information about date of death may be requested if needed for the outcomes assessment by the UNC study team. Dates of death for participants may be verified or sought by the UNC study team linking participant information to national governmental databases (e.g., the CDC National Death Index).

#### 5.5.3 CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1)

The amount of staff effort for PRO-related activities will be assessed based on data completed by CRAs in the “CRA Perspectives Survey” (Form C10) and by nurses in the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” (Form N1), which will be completed at least six months from the time the initial participant at their site is enrolled. The nurse survey will also assess perceived value and use of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in practice, impressions of barriers to implementation of PROs in practice and facilitators. In addition, to supplement these surveys, telephone or on-site debriefings with staff and clinicians will be conducted to understand perceptions of PRO integration into clinical practice and workflow. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA and nurse to remind them to complete perspectives surveys at six months.

#### 5.5.4 Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12)

A detailed form (Form C12) requiring information to be abstracted from the participant’s medical record must be completed by the CRA when the participant goes off study (+ 4 week window for form completion). Consultation with a site nurse or physician may be necessary for clarifications of some of the questions in this form. For example, this form includes information about dates and diagnoses related to ER visits and hospitalizations, prescription of selective supportive medications, dates of changes and/or discontinuation of cancer treatments, and initiation of hospice services. Additional outcomes data may be elicited by the UNC team by linking patient records to administrative databases. The UNC Study Team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data.



### 5.5.5 Physician Response Form (Form Onc1)

Physician impressions and usage of the Patient Symptom Report will be assessed based on data provided by oncologists in the “Physician Responses Survey” (Form Onc 1). The CRA will ask one treating oncologist who had experience using the report to complete this brief survey after the study has been open at the site for at least 6 months. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA to remind them to ask the treating oncologist to complete the survey.

## 6. Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires

- **Table 1**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **CONTROL** sites only.
- **Table 2**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **INTERVENTION** sites only.

**Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base-line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	P1. Patient Demographics	Baseline characteristics	X															
	P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X				X			X		
	P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*	CAHPS questions	X			X										X		
CRA Reported	C1. Site Registration & Characteristics	Site characteristics	Completed by CRA after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	C3. Patient Registration	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist		X															
	C5. Additional Contact Information Form		X															
	C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form	Info abstracted by CRA from participant’s medical record	X															
	C9. Date of Death Form															X	X	X
C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**															X			
UNC	UNC1. Site Training	Details of startup meeting	X															

\* The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection. The patient questionnaires may be “bundled” together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

**Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base- line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported  (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	<b>Weekly PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only</b>	Symptom questions reported from home	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<b>P1. Patient Demographics</b>	Baseline characteristics	X															
	<b>P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*</b>	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X				X					
	<b>P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*</b>	Questions about PRO system	X			X												
	<b>P4. Patient PRO Feedback Booklet – Intervention Sites Only*</b>	CAHPS questions				X												
CRA Reported	<b>C1. Site Registration &amp; Characteristics</b>	Site characteristics	Completed by UNC after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	<b>C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility</b>	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	<b>C3. Patient Registration</b>	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	<b>C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist</b>		X															
	<b>C5. Additional Contact Information Form</b>		X															
	<b>C6. Missed Weekly Patient PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Collected if participant is >24 hours late for a scheduled <i>Weekly PRO Survey</i> , by contacting patient/caregiver ASAP (up to the day before the next scheduled <i>Weekly PRO Survey</i> ).															
	<b>C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record	X															
	<b>C8. Patient Contact Log for Missed PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Completed after successful or unsuccessful attempts to contact participants to collect information for <i>Form C6</i> .															
	<b>C9. Date of Death Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X	X	X
	<b>C10. CRA Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions for CRAs about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open at site for at least 6 months.															
	<b>C11. Nursing Alert Response Form– Intervention Sites Only</b>	CRA obtains responses from clinical nurse who got the alert	Collected within 72 hours of each nursing alert notification, to elicit actions taken by clinical nurse in response to the alert															
	<b>C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X		
<b>Printed PRO Report</b>	Patients’ symptoms	Printed for oncologist and nurse at clinic visits.																
Nurse Reported	<b>N1. Nurse Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
Oncologist Reported	<b>Onc1. Physician Response Form</b>	Questions about Symptom Report Usage	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
UNC	<b>UNC1. Site Training</b>	Details of startup meeting	X															

\* **The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection.** The patient questionnaires may be “bundled” together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

<sup>§</sup> To be completed after the study has been open at a site for at least 6 months. The form should be collected within a week of this time point, but there is no expiration on the timeframe for collecting these up through study closure.

<sup>‡</sup> The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who should be contacting their site’s participants who do not complete the *Weekly PRO Survey on time (within 24 hours)* for backup/reminder/questions. This information should be collected as soon as possible but can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled *Weekly PRO Survey*.

### **6.1. Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment**

Additional information such as utilization of services or deaths may be collected from national databases to which participant records are linked. Information to link participants' records to these databases will be provided by sites or participants.

### **6.2. Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers**

Participants or their designated caregivers may be contacted by the UNC study team to follow up on responses to outcomes questionnaires.

### **6.3. Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants**

Accrual will be monitored by regular contacts between the UNC Coordinator and site CRAs. The UNC Coordinator and AFT staff will continuously be in contact with site CRAs to monitor for any concerns or difficulties.

### **6.4. Off-Study Timing and Procedure**

Patient participants are asked to remain on the study completing questionnaires for 12 months (52 weeks), or until they go off-study prior to that time. Reasons for patients to go off-study include:

- Completion of 12 months (52 weeks) of participation
- Permanent discontinuation of chemotherapy treatment
- Initiation of hospice
- Death
- Moved to a different oncology practice for cancer care
- Voluntary disenrollment

When a patient completes their 12<sup>th</sup> months of participation or goes off-study prior to then, the "Off Study Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C12) must be completed. If the patient has died at that time, the "Date of Death Form" (Form C9) must be completed.

In addition, if a patient goes off study early for any reason other than death, they should complete the final Outcomes Questionnaires (including: "Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire" (Form P2), the "Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire" (Form P3), and *for intervention sites only* the "Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire" (Form P4) as soon as possible.

### **6.5. Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs**

At the completion of the trial when preliminary results are available, semi-structured teleconferences will be held with representatives of national patient and professional organizations to elicit perspectives on whether the observed level of staff/patient effort and cost for PRO collection is 'worth it' for the observed benefits. No identifying information will be collected from the interviewees. These results will anchor the trial's results to organizational impressions of value towards dissemination and implementation.

## 7. Statistical Considerations

### 7.1. Statistical Tests

The two principal outcomes are physical functioning and overall survival. Physical functioning will be measured via the QLQ-C30 with a primary time point for analysis at 3 months. Results for each will be compared between arms using a general linear mixed model approach including a fixed effect for cancer type (gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, breast, lung/head and neck, melanoma, or other), a random effect for oncology practice site (i.e., randomized cluster identifier), and a continuous covariate for the baseline physical functioning score. For patients who die, have missing data, or go off study before the 3-month time point, 1-month data may be used in the analysis. Overall survival will be compared between arms using a stratified log-rank test (stratified by cancer type, with a sandwich estimator to account for site clustering). Each patient will be analyzed according to his/her site's randomized assignment (intent-to-treat approach). A Bonferroni adjustment will be used for these two outcomes (two-sided  $\alpha=0.05/2$  for each analysis). For physical functioning for patients without 3-month data available, 1-month or off study data prior to 3 months (whichever is later) may be carried forward.

### 7.2. Secondary Analyses

For the trial's secondary analyses, emergency room/hospital utilization and duration of cancer treatment will be compared between arms using stratified Fine-Gray competing risk regression with death as a competing event (stratified by cancer type, with robust sandwich covariance matrix estimates to account for site clustering). Health-related quality of life and symptom burden as measured by the QLQ-C30 at 3 months and patient satisfaction/communication as measured by CAHPS items will each be compared between arms using a general linear mixed model approach including a fixed effect for cancer type, a random effect for site, and a continuous covariate for the corresponding baseline score. All other quantitative outcomes will be tabulated within arms descriptively (see below for separate description of qualitative analyses). While the focus of the non-survival assessments is the 3-month time point, supplemental analyses may include analysis of each post-baseline assessment time point (1, 6, 9, and 12 months) as well as longitudinal analyses incorporating all post-baseline PRO data. Supplemental analysis will also include multivariable analysis of each primary outcome including the following covariates: age (<60 versus  $\geq 60$ ), gender (female versus male), race/ethnicity (white non-Hispanic versus other), education status (high school graduate/GED or less versus some college or more), disease type (gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, breast, lung/head and neck, melanoma, versus other), prior computer/email/internet use (rarely or less versus sometimes or more), and oncology practice site location (predominantly urban/suburban vs rural). Subgroup analyses may also be conducted for each of these covariates. Two-sided p-values <0.05 will be considered statistically significant throughout for all analyses other than the pre-specified primary analysis, where two-sided p-values of <0.025 will be considered statistically significant.

### 7.3. Sample Size/Power

For physical functioning, with a total of 1,200 patients at 50 to 55 sites nationally, there will be 96%, or 97% power, respectively, to measure the established clinically meaningful difference of 0.37 standard deviations based on the prior single-center RCT (~9 points on the 100-point QLQ-C30 scale) between randomization groups using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.025/2$  t-test assuming an intracluster correlation coefficient of 0.055,<sup>27</sup> and assuming that 85% of patients are evaluable for the primary analysis at the 3-month time point. For overall survival with a total of 1,200 patients at 30, 50 to 55 sites nationally, there will be at least 80% power for a hazard ratio of 0.76 (based on the prior single-center RCT) which is considered clinically meaningful<sup>28,29</sup> using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.025/2$  log-rank test with 522 observed

events, respectively, computed using the formula by Xie and Waksman<sup>30</sup> with an intracluster correlation coefficient of 0.001 (estimated from the 10 largest legacy ALLIANCE trials involving 12,717 total patients). The primary analysis of physical functioning will occur after all patients have been followed for 3 months (or ended participation prior to 3 months). Overall survival analysis will be undertaken based on the number of events observed, determined by employing data from the prior single center RCT.

#### **7.4. Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses**

Missing data will be minimized through site training, human backup calls to patients for missed assessments, and automatic and human real-time central monitoring of data compliance. The impact of missing data will be investigated using sensitivity analyses.

#### **7.5. Qualitative Data Collection and Analyses**

UNC personnel will conduct interviews with intervention sites during site visits and over the phone with personnel and patients, supported by the UNC CHAI-Core. Patient interviews will be exclusively completed over the phone. Standardized interview guides will provide interviewers with a detailed script to follow, and open-ended probes will allow stakeholders the opportunity to answer questions in their own way.<sup>31,32,33</sup> Potential follow-up probes to clarify answers from stakeholders will also be included. Interview scripts will be tailored based on the type of stakeholder (e.g., administrative staff, clinician, or patient). Interviews should last between 45 and 60 minutes and will be audio recorded. Interviewers will populate standardized summary sheets during the interviews. Transcripts will be produced by a professional transcription service and will be coded for analysis themes using standard qualitative software.

#### **7.6. Randomization**

Sites will be randomly assigned to each arm in a 1:1 ratio by the AFT Statistical Center based at the Mayo Clinic, using permuted block randomization with random block size of 2 or 4 stratified by rural vs. urban location. The randomization sequences (one for each stratum) will remain concealed and arm assignments will only be revealed one at a time as sites are registered by the UNC Coordinator.

### **8. Protection of Human Subjects**

Potential risks for participants include inconvenience (clinic or home schedule interrupted), questionnaire burden (being asked to respond to a series of questions), disinterest (not finding the study involvement to be meaningful), loss of anonymity (being seen by others on the clinical team when the study team approaches to inform them of the study), or loss of confidentiality (if a study team member shared information given by the participant to others not involved in the study). Research team members at all sites will be instructed to keep all patient participation and data confidential. We do not anticipate physical, financial, or legal risks to participation. Registrations of human subjects on AFT studies require that institutions obtain informed consent prior to registration and the start of study interventions.

#### **8.1. AFT Policies and Protections**

AFT has in place policies and procedures to ensure the protection of human subjects and to safeguard the rights and welfare of human subjects. AFT requires that institutions participating in AFT research studies hold a Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). The AFT also ensures that IRBs are registered, and that site IRBs provide a level of IRB review that is appropriate to the type of research being conducted. The AFT staff works closely with site personnel to assist them with their questions and any corrective actions necessary to ensure the protection of human

subjects. To protect against potential risks across all sites, study team members will be instructed not to disclose participation or content of participation to anyone outside of the study team.

## 8.2. Computer and Electronic Protection

Data collection across sites will be through the University of North Carolina (UNC) PRO-Core web-based platform for secure questionnaire administration. Data are stored in a secure enterprise-level Oracle database managed by the ITS Research Computing group at UNC, and web servers are hosted by the UNC Center for Bioinformatics. Data transmitted between the server and end-users are encrypted using SSL, and all databases are encrypted. The PRO-Core also has additional protections when multiple sites are involved. For instance, recruitment sites will only be able to see their own patients' information.

## 8.3. Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality will be maintained. Hard-copy research data will be minimal and stored in locked filing cabinets in locked offices at the enrolling site. Research data will be maintained in separate charts, identified by ID number only, and secured in locked files. A master list connecting names and ID numbers will be kept in a separate, secure location. Only authorized members of the investigative group will have access to secured files, and will be educated regarding the protection of patients' rights to confidentiality. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

## 8.4. Protection Against Risks from Interviews

Telephone debriefings and site visits will be conducted to understand site workflows and uptake of PROs. UNC study team members will be trained in interviewing procedures in order to conduct these debriefings. The team has conducted multiple studies with in-depth interviews. Interviewers will be reminded to conduct interviews in a private office. Audio recordings of interviews will be stored as electronic files on password-protected computers. The recordings will not be labeled with personal identifiers. The information linking study ID numbers/initials with the participant's identity will be kept in a separate, secure location. Interviews will be supported by the UNC CHAI Core.

Transcription will be conducted by Landmark Associates, Inc. ("Landmark"). All Landmark employees have completed CITI training and NIH's Protecting Human Research Participants training. All of Landmark's employees, contractors, and executive staff are also under non-disclosure agreements. For maximum security, Landmark transfers data from its customers and its offsite servers via SSL encrypted endpoints. All files are uploaded and downloaded through Salesforce.com's Customer Portal. The servers that store all of Landmark's client data are managed by Amazon Web Services, a division of Amazon.com LLC. Specifically, the files are located on their Simple Storage Service (S3). The files are protected behind pre-signed URL's that are generated for each file that is uploaded to the server. The generated links are set to expire in 60 seconds. Access to the Amazon Web Services dashboard requires the admin user to have possession of a Hardware Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Device. A link to the AWS White Paper on Security is here:

[http://media.amazonwebservices.com/pdf/AWS\\_Security\\_Whitepaper.pdf](http://media.amazonwebservices.com/pdf/AWS_Security_Whitepaper.pdf) Upon receiving a password-protected login, only authorized project personnel will be able to upload files to Landmark's website through the Customer Portal.

## 8.5. Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge to Be Gained

Patient-reporting of symptoms and physical function may improve quality of care by identifying symptoms before they lead to adverse outcomes such as functional impairment, hospitalization, or chemotherapy dose reduction. No harms of patient symptom reporting have been identified in prior

research. Therefore, participants in these studies may benefit by burdensome symptoms being identified earlier and communicated to clinicians. Moreover, completing symptom questionnaires may assist patients to become more aware of their symptoms, and move towards better communication and self- efficacy (as suggested in prior work).

The knowledge sought in the proposed research can have direct clinical benefits for patients with cancer enrolled in future clinical trials and/or routine cancer treatment. These gains include more accurate monitoring of symptoms and toxicities that can prompt clinician intervention. This will allow for broad collection of patients' symptoms in clinical research and practice, potentially benefitting many patients whose symptoms might otherwise go undetected. Although the risks in the proposed research are not non-existent, the current and future benefits of improved quality of care and symptom monitoring balance the risks of inconvenience, questionnaire burden, loss of anonymity, disinterest, and/or loss of confidentiality.

## **9. Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures**

### **9.1. Regulatory and Ethical Compliance**

The Investigator agrees to treat all of the information that is provided with the strictest confidentiality and to require the same of his or her personnel and local IRB. Study documents will be stored in an appropriate manner in order to ensure confidentiality. The information provided to the investigator by AFT must not be made available to other parties without a direct written authorization by the aforesaid parties, with the exception of the extent to which disclosure is necessary in order to obtain informed consent from the patients who wish to participate in the study. This study will be conducted in compliance with the study protocol, subsequent amendment(s) and with the study-specific manuals/guidelines. The investigator agrees to comply with the instructions and procedures described therein and thus to adhere to the principles of good clinical practice, which these instructions and procedures reflect.

### **9.2. Informed Consent**

It is the responsibility of the Investigator, or a person designated by the Investigator including the CRA (if acceptable by local guidelines), to obtain written informed consent from each patient participating in this study, after adequate explanation of the aims, methods, anticipated benefits, and potential hazards of the study. This information must be provided to the patient prior to undertaking any trial-related procedure which is not part of the routine clinical management of the patient (i.e. would not be indicated outside the study). Consent forms will be available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. It is the investigator's (or designee's) responsibility to obtain the signed Informed Consent Form, and a signature from the person conducting the informed consent discussion, prior to undertaking any trial-related procedure.

### **9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB**

The Investigator is responsible for ensuring that their study team maintains and retains all study related documentation, including but not limited to: signed Informed Consent Forms, medical records that are applicable for this study and source documents, the study protocol, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, relevant IRB and Sponsor correspondence, and assorted regulatory documents. The Investigator is responsible for retaining and keeping safe all patient related documentation. In order to do this, the site staff will complete electronic forms in the PRO-Core software system in a timely manner.

#### **9.4. Protocol Deviations**

The Investigator is responsible to document and explain any deviations from the approved protocol. The Investigator should promptly report any deviations that might impact patient safety and data integrity to the respective IRB in accordance with local IRB policies and procedures.

#### **9.5. Protocol Amendments**

Any modifications to the protocol or the Informed Consent Form which may impact on the conduct of the study, potential benefit of the study, or may affect patient safety, including substantial changes of study objectives, study design, patient population, sample sizes, study procedures, or significant administrative aspects will require a formal amendment to the protocol. Such amendment will be released by AFT, agreed by the Investigator(s) and approved by relevant IRBs prior to implementation. Administrative changes of the protocol or small changes to study forms or questionnaires are considered minor corrections and/or clarifications that have no effect on the way the study is to be conducted. These changes will be released by the AFT, agreed by the investigator(s), and notified to the IRB.

#### **9.6. Retention of Records**

Any records and documents relating to the conduct of this study must be retained by the Investigator until notification by UNC/AFT, or for the length of time required by relevant national or local health authorities, whichever is longer. After that period of time, the documents may be destroyed, subject to local regulations. Written notification should be provided to AFT prior to transferring any records to another party or moving them to another location.

#### **9.7. Data Confidentiality**

Patient medical information is confidential and may only be disclosed to third parties as permitted by the Informed Consent Form (or separate authorization for use and disclosure of personal health information) which has been signed by the patient, unless permitted or required by law. The overall results of any research study will be available in accordance with the effective AFT policy on study data publication. Patient information may be used to link to national databases to retrieve outcomes assessment information, which will be stored in de-identified databases.

#### **9.8. Database Management and Quality Control**

The Site Principal Investigator and/or his/her designee will provide accurate participant data into study forms with observations pertinent to the study.

The Clinical Research Associate (CRA) or designated study site personnel will complete the Forms in a timely manner. Subjects will not be identified by name in the study database or on any study documents to be collected by the AFT (or designee), but will be identified by a site number, subject number. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

UNC and/or AFT study personnel will review forms for completeness and accuracy; any discrepancies will be resolved with the site CRAS, investigator or designee, as appropriate. All changes to the study database will be documented.

If an Investigator becomes unable for any reason to continue to retain study records for the required period (e.g., retirement, relocation), AFT should be prospectively notified. The study records must be transferred to a designee acceptable to AFT, such as another investigator, another institution, or to AFT



itself. The Investigator must obtain AFT’s written permission before disposing of any records, even if retention requirements have been met.

### 9.9. Site Audits

The UNC study team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data. Site audits may also be conducted by representatives of AFT according to AFT policies and procedures.

### 9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results

Alliance Foundation Trials, LLC prioritizes the timely presentation and publication of study results. Publications and any kind of presentations of results from the study shall be in accordance with accepted scientific practice, academic standards and customs. No investigator may present or publish any portion of this trial without written approval from UNC and AFT.

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ALLIANCE FOUNDATION TRIALS (AFT)

PROTOCOL NUMBER

**AFT – 39**

Protocol Title:

**Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment:  
A U.S. national randomized controlled trial (the “PRO-TECT” trial)**

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03249090

Protocol Version Date:

December 5, 2020

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**Study Resources**

<p><b>Data Entry is through the UNC PRO-CORE</b>          Accessible at: <a href="https://pro.unc.edu/">https://pro.unc.edu/</a>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>
<p><b>Randomization Assignment</b>          Will be given to sites following IRB Approval, prior to site initiation</p>
<p><b>Site Training and Refresher Training</b>  <b>Will be Conducted by UNC Team</b>          With questions, contact UNC coordinator at: <a href="mailto:symptom_study@unc.edu">symptom_study@unc.edu</a>          Or at below contact emails/telephone numbers for UNC</p>

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I. Synopsis and Study Schema

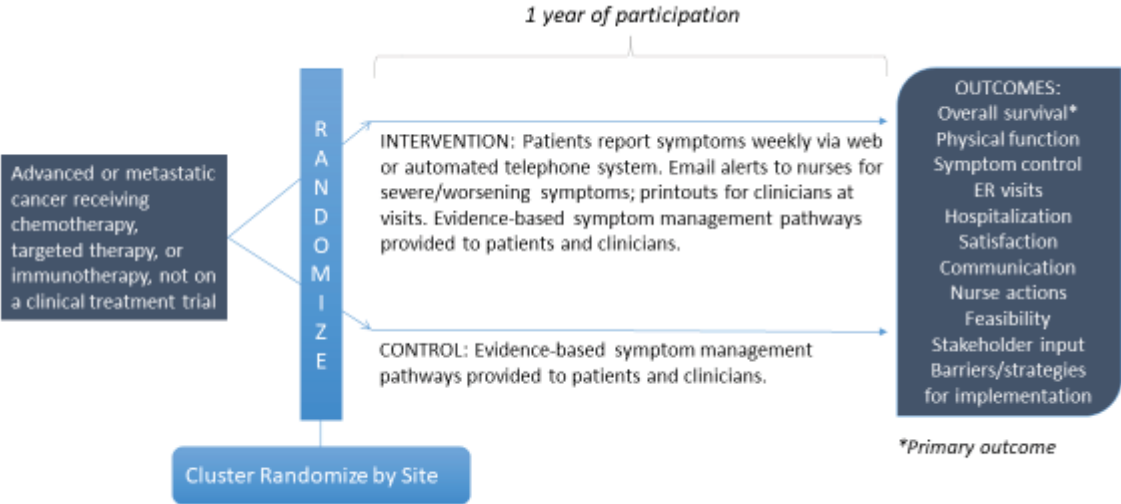
<b>Study Title</b>	Electronic patient reporting of symptoms during outpatient cancer treatment: A U.S. national randomized controlled trial
<b>Study Acronym</b>	PRO-TECT: <u>P</u> atient- <u>R</u> eported <u>O</u> utcomes to <u>E</u> nhance <u>C</u> ancer <u>T</u> reatment trial
<b>Study Number</b>	AFT-39
<b>Study Type/Phase</b>	RCT ( <u>not</u> a drug trial)
<b>Number of Study Patients</b>	1,200 patients, from 50 (+/- 5) U.S. sites
<b>Estimated Duration of Study</b>	Each patient participates for up to 12 Months
<b>Anticipated Recruitment Start Date</b>	August 1, 2017
<b>Rationale</b>	Symptoms are common during cancer treatment, but frequently go undetected by clinicians between visits. Patient self-reporting of symptoms online (or automated telephone systems), with alerts to clinicians for severe symptoms, offers a potential approach to flag concerning symptoms and prevent downstream complications. A prior single-center RCT provided initial evidence of improved clinical outcomes and reduced ER visits using such an approach. The current study is designed to test nationally whether patients' outcomes and utilization of services can be improved through symptom monitoring via patient-reported outcomes between visits.
<b>Study Objective and Outcomes</b>	The objective is to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcome measures during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes. The principal (primary) outcome is overall survival. Secondary outcomes include physical functioning/ health-related quality of life/financial burden/symptom burden, emergency room/hospital utilization, duration of cancer treatment, and patient satisfaction/communication.
<b>Qualitative and Implementation Objectives and Outcomes</b>	Elicit perspectives about benefit-burden tradeoffs for integrating patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow from different stakeholders, including patients, clinicians, site staff, and representatives of patient and professional organizations. Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate patient-reported outcomes into clinical workflow. Analysis of financial impact.
<b>Trial Design</b>	"Cluster" RCT, randomization unit: oncology practice site (approximately 50 sites randomized in a 1:1 ratio to the "control" arm" or "intervention" arm).
<b>Site Requirements for Participation in Trial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead CRA</li> <li>• Clinical nursing staff champion ("Nurse Champion") for the study.</li> </ul>
<b>Participant Payments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150 gift card (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months)</li> <li>• Mailed directly to patient participants by UNC</li> </ul>

<p><b>Patient Inclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults (21+) with metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment with palliative/non-curative intent (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy)</li> <li>• Patients can be enrolled at any point in their cancer treatment trajectory (i.e., not just at initiation of first-line treatment)</li> <li>• Understands English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>
<p><b>Patient Exclusion Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or study questionnaires</li> <li>• Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial</li> <li>• Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma)</li> <li>• Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers; ibrance/palbociclib)</li> <li>• Indolent/slow-growing lymphoma (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic)</li> <li>• Leukemia of any type</li> <li>• Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese</li> </ul>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Study Procedures</b></p>	<p><u>PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.</li> <li>• At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.</li> <li>• All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.</li> <li>• CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.</li> <li>• Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.</li> <li>• CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.</li> <li>• Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.</li> <li>• At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.</li> </ul> <p><u>ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms, financial burden, and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system <u>weekly</u> for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.</li> <li>• Whenever a concerning issue is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).</li> <li>• A PRO report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit and will be given to the oncologist and nurse caring for the patient.</li> </ul>
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**PRO-TECT SCHEMA**



**II. Table of Contents**

PRO-TECT SCHEMA ..... 7

1. Background Information ..... 11

1.1. Overview and Rationale ..... 11

1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention..... 11

1.3. Primary Objective..... 12

1.4. Secondary Objectives ..... 12

2. Patient Selection and Population..... 12

2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria ..... 12

3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities..... 13

3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1) ..... 13

3.2. Site Enrollment Requirement Documentation ..... 13

3.3. Site Role Requirements..... 14

3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA) ..... 14

3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion..... 14

3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”) ..... 15

3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training ..... 15

4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment ..... 16

4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants..... 16

4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)..... 16

4.3. Purposeful Enrollment ..... 16

4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3) ..... 16

4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C6) ..... 16

5. Study Procedures ..... 17

5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System ..... 17

5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants ..... 18

5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses..... 18

5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Symptom Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY..... 18

5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6) ..... 18

5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY ..... 19

5.4.4	CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11) .....	19
5.4.5	Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY.....	19
5.5.	Outcomes Assessments and Timeline.....	19
5.5.1	Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3, P4) .....	20
5.5.2	Date of Death Form (Form C9).....	21
5.5.3	CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1).....	21
5.5.4	Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12).....	21
6.	Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires .....	22
	Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only .....	22
	Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only .....	23
6.1.	Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment .....	24
6.2.	Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers.....	24
6.3.	Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants .....	24
6.4.	Off-Study Timing and Procedure.....	24
6.5.	Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs .....	24
7.	Statistical Considerations.....	25
7.1.	Statistical Tests.....	25
7.2.	Secondary Analyses.....	25
7.3.	Sample Size/Power .....	25
7.4.	Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses.....	26
7.5.	Qualitative data collection and analyses .....	26
7.6.	Randomization .....	26
8.	Protection of Human Subjects .....	26
8.1.	AFT Policies and Protections .....	26
8.2.	Computer and Electronic Protection .....	27
8.3.	Confidentiality.....	27
8.4.	Protection against Risks from Interviews .....	27
8.5.	Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge To Be Gained.....	27
9.	Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures.....	28
9.1.	Regulatory and Ethical Compliance .....	28
9.2.	Informed Consent .....	28

9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB ..... 28

9.4. Protocol Deviations ..... 29

9.5. Protocol Amendments ..... 29

9.6. Retention of Records ..... 29

9.7. Data Confidentiality ..... 29

9.8. Database Management and Quality Control ..... 29

9.9. Site Audits ..... 30

9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results ..... 30

10. References ..... 30

## 1. Background Information

### 1.1. Overview and Rationale

Symptoms are common among patients receiving treatment for advanced cancers and are a major cause of distress, functional disability, and emergency room/hospital utilization<sup>1,2,3</sup> but go undetected and unaddressed by clinicians up to half the time.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> There is substantial and growing national interest to integrate electronic patient-reported outcomes (PROs) into routine practice to improve detection and management of symptoms.<sup>8,9,10</sup> However, the value of integrating PRO collection into routine care, acceptability to patients and clinicians, and the required infrastructure and resource needs are uncertain.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

Multiple studies, largely at single centers, have reported associations between routine collection of electronic PROs (e.g. symptoms reported by patients using tablets or automated telephone systems, either between visits or at visits) with improved efficiency of symptom assessment, patient-clinician communication, and satisfaction as well as symptom control, well-being, reduced emergency room utilization, longer duration of chemotherapy treatment, and improved survival.<sup>14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21</sup> Although this body of work suggests benefits, it is not yet definitive because a large, rigorous, multi-center controlled trial has not been conducted.

Therefore, this national multicenter cluster-randomized trial is being conducted to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via PROs during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes: the “Patient-Reported Outcomes to Enhance Cancer Treatment” trial (“PRO-TECT”). The design of this trial is based on a prior large single center RCT (N=766) showing significant clinical benefits of a similar approach.<sup>14</sup>

### 1.2. Brief Description of Study Design and Intervention

This is an RCT in up to 50 (+/- 5) sites where randomization will occur in a 1:1 ratio at the site level (not at the individual patient level). Therefore, approximately 25 sites will be randomized to the PRO-TECT intervention arm (patient-reporting of symptoms plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline), and approximately 25 sites will be randomized to the control arm (usual care delivery plus access to a standardized symptom management guideline). Specifically:

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- Site staff (CRA and Nurse Champion required) will attend the site initiation webinar with UNC staff, including training for the PRO-Core online data management system and orientation to the symptom management guidelines.
- At enrollment, all participants will be given a booklet with patient-level symptom advice and a link to the content online.
- All participants will receive \$150 for participation (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3-months), mailed to them as gift cards by UNC.
- CRAs will train all participants how to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial using the PRO-Core online system. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core). If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will contact them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks

each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. At each time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire and offer help.

- Chart abstraction will be conducted by CRAs at baseline and at off-study for each participant, with data entered into the PRO-Core system. Date of death information will additionally be abstracted at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later per the UNC study team.
- CRAs will be asked to complete a feedback survey (entered by the CRA into the PRO-Core online system) and may be asked to participate in a brief telephone debriefing and/or site visit.
- Accrual will be monitored in a weekly teleconference between the UNC team and site CRAs.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, CRAs will also train patients to self-report symptoms, financial burden, and physical functioning using the PRO-Core system weekly for up to a year, with a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system (patient choice), and a choice of English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Whenever a concerning issue is reported, an automated “email alert” notification will be sent to the site CRA. The CRA will forward the email alert to the responsible clinical nurse (or other covering clinician) and CC the site’s Nurse Champion. Within 72 hours, the CRA will document what action(s), if any, were taken by the nurse in response to the alert (entered by the CRA into a form in the PRO-Core system).
- A PRO report will be printed/generated by the site CRA whenever the patient has a clinic visit, and will be given to the oncologist and nurse caring for the patient.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

### 1.3. Study Objective and Outcomes

The objective of this study is to determine whether systematic monitoring of symptoms via patient-reported outcomes (PROs) during routine cancer care delivery improves meaningful clinical outcomes, including survival, quality of life, symptom control, emergency room visits, duration of chemotherapy administration, and patient satisfaction with care. The principal (primary) outcome for the analysis is overall survival. The secondary outcomes include physical functioning/health-related quality of life/symptom burden, emergency room/hospital utilization, duration of cancer treatment, and patient satisfaction/communication.

### 1.4. Qualitative and Implementation Objectives and Outcomes

Additional outcomes of this study are to:

- Elicit perspectives from patients, CRAs, and clinicians about effort, benefits, and burden of patient self-reporting of symptoms with alerts and reports to clinicians.
- Identify barriers, facilitators, and strategies used by practices to integrate PROs into clinical workflow through interviews, questionnaires, and selected site visits, including impact of patient characteristics such as race, ethnicity, computer experience, or educational background.
- Obtain perspectives of stakeholders about PROs through debriefings at study completion.
- Evaluate financial impact of patient self-reporting.

## 2. Patient Selection and Population

## 2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Eligibility Criteria

### ***Inclusion Criteria:***

1. Adults (21+) with metastatic cancer of any type (EXCEPT leukemia or indolent [slow growing] lymphoma)
2. Receiving outpatient systemic cancer treatment for non-curative/palliative intent, including chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy.
3. Enrolled at any point in their treatment trajectory, meaning during any line of treatment, and at any point during a course or cycle of treatment.
4. Can understand English, Spanish, and/or Mandarin Chinese.

### ***Exclusion Criteria:***

1. Cognitive deficits that would preclude understanding of consent form and/or questionnaires.
2. Current participation in a therapeutic clinical trial (because these often involve PRO questionnaires and intensive monitoring).
3. Patients being treated with curative intent (e.g., adjuvant chemotherapy for breast, lung, or ovarian cancer; primary curative therapy for testis cancer or lymphoma).
4. Receiving hormonal therapy only (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors in breast cancer; androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer; or octreotide in neuroendocrine cancers; ibrance/palbociclib)
5. Indolent lymphomas (due to their prolonged time courses that may be minimally symptomatic).
6. Leukemias (time courses inconsistent with other tumor types in chronic and acute leukemias).
7. Does not understand English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.

## 3. Site Enrollment and Responsibilities

### 3.1. Study Site Arm Assignment and Registration (Form C1)

Patients will be enrolled from up to 50 oncology clinical practice sites across the U.S. Sites (+/- 5 sites) will be contracted by AFT and adhere to the AFT central IRB and procedures for registration and data management (including outcomes data capture in the PRO-Core clinical trial software system, which will be used for participant registration and all study forms for this trial).

The unit of randomization for this trial is the oncology practice site. Each site will be assigned as either a “Control Arm Site” or as an “Intervention Arm Site”. Arm assignments will be provided to sites by the UNC study coordinating team by email to the lead CRA following site’s local IRB approval and before the site’s initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

CRAs will complete the with the UNC Coordinator “Site Registration Characteristics Form” (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC.

### 3.2. Site Enrollment Required Documentation

Each site must submit the below required essential documents to the Alliance through the AFT electronic Trial Master File, accessible via the AFT website, <https://alliancefoundationtrials.org/>

- IRB Documents/ Approvals (Protocol, Informed Consent Form (ICF), Participant Materials, etc.)
- Institutional Informed Consent Form (a ‘model’ consent form will be provided to sites)
- Investigator FDA Form 1572
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) from site Principal Investigator



- Documentation of ICH Good Clinical Practice (ICH/GCP) training from site Principal Investigator
- Site CRA and site Nurse Champion study training certificates (provided by UNC after the site initiation webinar)

### 3.3. Site Role Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Clinical Research Associate (CRA)

Each site will allocate effort from at least one Clinical Research Associate (CRA) to oversee processes for this trial.

CRA's at ALL SITES will:

- Oversee regulatory and logistical processes for the trial at their site
- Complete the "Site Registration Characteristics Form" (Form C1) prior to the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC
- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (and provide a training certificate from this webinar to AFT)
- Screen for eligible patients
- Oversee informed consent
- Submit clinical data at baseline and off-study for participants, and abstract date of death information at 18 and 24 months, and possibly later, per the UNC studyteam
- Ensure completion of outcomes questionnaires by participants or their caregivers at baseline, month 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study
- Participate in teleconferences and individual telephone calls with the central data management team as needed to discuss accrual, retention, and compliance with forms.

CRA's at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:

- Participate in training for PRO ("patient-reported outcome") weekly survey system
- Teach patients to use the PRO system
- Forward PRO system email alerts to nurses/clinicians
- Print PRO reports for clinicians at patient visits
- Follow up with nurses after alerts (within 72 hours) and enter information about their responses to alerts in a study form
- Complete the "CRA Perspectives Survey" form after at least 6 months of site participation
- Facilitate nurse completion of the "Nurse Perspectives Survey" and "Physician Response Survey" forms after at least 6 months of site participation
- Participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings with the study team to discuss PRO interventions and workflow.
- Contact patients after 48 hours of initial survey email/text/call to remind them to complete surveys. This will be done in coordination with the UNC Coordinator. (CRAs will be asked to avoid contacting patients more than three times each week)

#### 3.3.2 Site Nurse Champion

Each practice site must designate a Nurse Champion prior to site initiation/startup training.

Nurse Champions at ALL SITES will:

- Participate in the site initiation/startup training webinar with UNC (the CRA will submit a training certificate for the nurse from this webinar to AFT)
- Facilitate dissemination of the standardized symptom management pathways to site nurses who care for study participants

Nurse Champions at INTERVENTION SITES ONLY will additionally:

- Work with UNC to figure out the optimal way to integrate PROs into the practice
- Be a resource for other clinicians and participants
- Receive a copy of email alerts being sent to clinical nurses from the CRA at that site, as an added Quality Assurance (QA) step
- Complete, or designate a participating clinical nurse with patient(s) in the study to complete, the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” form after at least 6 months of site participation; may also participate in brief telephone or in-person debriefings to discuss PRO interventions.

### **3.4. Data Management Software (“PRO-Core”)**

All data entry for this study will be conducted through the online PRO-Core data management system (<https://pro.unc.edu>). This includes all forms that are completed by site CRAs, and patient questionnaires. As described in the following sections, CRAs and other site staff, including the designated Nurse Champion, will be trained to use the PRO-Core system during the site initiation/startup webinar. For intervention sites only, during this webinar, site staff will also be trained how to teach patients to use the PRO weekly symptom survey system.

### **3.5. Site Initiation/Startup Webinar with PRO-Core Software Training**

Each site will undergo a required startup meeting webinar set up by the UNC Coordinator/team, attended by the site PI, CRA(s), and designated Nurse Champion at a minimum, but optimally including all clinical nurses who might be clinically responsible for patient participants. Following training, the UNC Coordinator (not the site CRA) will complete the “Site Training Form” (Form UNC-1). Training will include instructions for using the PRO-Core software for patient registration and completion of forms. The UNC Coordinator will provide training certificates for the CRA to provide to AFT, once both the CRA and Nurse Champion are trained. Refresher trainings and trainings for new site personnel will be available at any time during the trial through the UNC coordinating center.

FOR SITES ASSIGNED TO INTERVENTION ARM ONLY:

- The CRA(s) and Nurse Champion will also be trained to use the PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) weekly survey software, which is integrated with the PRO-Core data management software being used for this study. This training takes approximately 30 minutes. CRAs will be trained how to:
  - Register a patient into the PRO software
  - Select the patient’s preferred mode of completing the Weekly Survey (online or automated telephone)
  - Designate the clinical nurse(s) and oncologist responsible for the care of that patient
  - Teach patients to use the PRO system from home (online or automated telephone) (typically less than 10 minutes to train patients)
  - For patients who choose the automated telephone system, how to set/reset a PIN
- Site personnel will be familiarized with the automated email alerts that will go to the site CRA when a patient reports concerning or worsening symptoms. The automated emails must be forwarded by the CRA to the appropriate clinical nurse(s) caring for the participant with a CC to the site’s Nurse Champion.
- CRAs will be oriented to the wallet-sized quick-reference information cards for patient participants including instructions how to use the PRO system. These will be provided to CRAs by the UNC coordinating center.

## 4. Patient Recruitment and Enrollment

### 4.1. Identify/Select/Recruit Participants

Site CRAs will work with clinical nurses and oncologists at their practice sites to identify eligible patients. To identify potentially eligible patients, CRAs can review clinical documentation such as the patient's chart in the electronic medical record, clinical schedules, or ask clinical staff about potential eligible patients through a limited waiver of authorization from the IRB. Potential patient participants may be approached and invited to be in the study by site CRAs or designated clinical staff. All eligible patients should be approached consecutively, except when "purposeful enrollment" for specific target populations is directed for sites by the UNC study team, as described below. Patients who agree to participate will review and sign the Informed Consent Form after the study is explained.

### 4.2. Documentation of Refusals/Ineligibility (Form C2)

*Patient refusals or ineligibility* to participate and reasons for refusal will be entered into the "Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility Form" (Form C2).

### 4.3. Purposeful Enrollment

We will use purposeful enrollment to enrich the sample for historically underserved populations. This will be managed through central monitoring of accrual by UNC, with close communication with site CRAs. Enrollment methods may include restricting enrollment to specific populations after sites reach a certain number of participants (e.g. 50 or 20), and/or recruiting sites with varying patient demographics, and/or training sites to approach potential patients regardless of race, ethnicity, age, education level, or any other patient level characteristics.

### 4.4. Participant Registration and Study ID (Form C3)

Prior to registering the patient, site staff should verify the following:

- All eligibility criteria have been met within the protocol stated timeframes.
- The patient has signed an appropriate consent form and HIPAA authorization form (if applicable at your site)
- The patient has been informed about the \$150 in gift cards (\$75 at baseline and \$75 at 3 months) that will be sent to them by UNC for participating

After written informed consent has been obtained, the study site CRA will register the patient in the PRO-Core software system by completing the "Patient Registration Form" (Form C3). In this form, the CRA will assign a unique Study ID for the patient using the three-digit code assigned to their site for the study, followed by a hyphen then a three-digit consecutive number for that patient. For example, the fifth patient registered as a participant at site #123 would be 123-005. In addition, in this form the CRA will specify, on behalf of the patient, how the patient prefers to complete questionnaires for the study: online or by an automated telephone system.

Patients enrolled but who do not participate for any reason will be considered as a Screening Failure and will not be considered as enrollees.

### 4.5. Baseline CRA Forms (Forms C4, C5, C7)

Each time a new participant is enrolled, the CRA will complete the baseline forms in the PRO-Core system, including: "Patient Eligibility Checklist" (Form C4), "Additional Contact Information Form" (Form C5), and "Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C7). For Forms C4 and C5, consultation with the participant and/or caregiver may be necessary. Form C7 includes detailed question about the

patient's health and treatment which may require consultation with a site nurse or physician in addition to reviewing the participant's medical record. CRAs must complete the Chart Abstraction within 1 week of patient enrollment.

## 5. Study Procedures

### 5.1. Participant Training and Use of the PRO-Core System

#### PROCEDURES AT ALL SITES (CONTROL SITES AND INTERVENTION SITES):

- At baseline, all participants will be trained by the CRA how to use the PRO-Core online system to complete outcomes questionnaires for the trial.
- The outcomes questionnaires will be completed by all participants at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The questionnaires are described in Table 1 and Table 2 (below).
- When more than one questionnaire is due at a given time point, they will be bundled together automatically by the PRO-Core system so that they feel like a single longer questionnaire to participants.
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).
- Participants will be given a choice to complete these in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese.
- Participants should be informed that their caregivers (family, friends) may assist them in any way the participant likes. The CRA may provide technical assistance. If the participant cannot complete a questionnaire, we may ask their designated caregiver(s) to complete it on their behalf. If the participant/caregiver does not complete a questionnaire on time, the CRA will contact them to collect the information (and then enter it into PRO-Core).
- The baseline questionnaire will ideally be completed in clinic with technical assistance from the CRA before the patient leaves.
- At each subsequent questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, to emphasize the importance of completing the questionnaire, and to offer help.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:

- At baseline, participants will also be trained by the CRA to self-report symptoms, financial burden, and physical functioning using the PRO (patient-reported outcome™) survey system, weekly for up to a year.
- The participant will be given a choice to do this online or via an automated telephone system, and a choice of preferred type of weekly reminders to self-report (email, text message, or automated call). *This information should be specified by the CRA in Form C3.*
- For participants who select the automated telephone system, they should be assisted selecting a PIN.
- The participant should be provided with the Wallet Information Card, with information to access the system and log in (blank wallet cards can be provided to the site CRA by mail or email by the UNC coordinating center).
- The participant should be informed that if they do not complete a scheduled questionnaire, they and/or their designated caregiver(s) will receive a call from the studyteam.
- The participant should be informed that any time a severe or worsening symptom is reported, their nurse will be alerted. The alert will only be received during business hours, so if there is a severe symptom warranting attention off hours they should also contact the office directly. The patient should also be told that a printout of their full symptom report (i.e., PRO report) will be provided to their nurse and doctor at scheduled clinic visits.
- Participants should be informed that this system cannot be counted on as the sole means of communicating problems to their care team, and that any time a concerning symptom occurs, they should consider contacting a health care provider or calling 911 as they would do under usual circumstances.
- At completion of the study, sites may be offered the PRO Core system for broad implementation at their site.

### 5.2. Provision of Symptom Advice Booklets to Participants

At baseline, the CRA will provide all participants with a symptom advice booklet, including a link to the booklet online.

These are based on best available evidence, existing guidelines, and expert consensus and are developed by CareVive, and will be supplied to CRAs by UNC.

### **5.3. Provision of Symptom Management Pathways to Nurses**

Nurses involved with the clinical care of participants in this study will be provided with access to evidence-based symptom management pathways from CareVive on paper and/or electronically. The Nurse Champion and ideally the clinical nurses at all participating sites (intervention and control arm sites) will be provided with the pathways at the time of startup/training for this study. Whenever a new patient is enrolled to the study, the pathways should be sent to a clinical nurse responsible for their care.

### **5.4. Participant Weekly PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

As described above, all participants in the intervention arm will be asked to complete weekly PRO (“patient-reported outcome”) surveys from home each week via the PRO-Core system describing their symptoms, financial burden, and physical functioning. They will receive baseline training by the CRA with a choice to complete the surveys online or an automated telephone system, with automated reminders by email, text, or an automated call.

#### **5.4.1 Automated Reminders for PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

Each week, patient participants at intervention sites will receive an email/text (for online) or automated call (for the phone system) as a reminder to self-report. At the time of registration, patients will be able to select their preferred day and time to receive their email/text/call each week. They will be able to change this if desired at anytime throughout the study.

The email/text will contain a link to the PRO questions, and the call will allow the participant to answer and respond to the questions using the numbers on their phone (either a land line or a cell phone will work). If a patient participant does not complete a weekly PRO survey after the initial email/text/call reminder, they will receive one additional automated reminder over the next 24 hours (during daytime hours).

#### **5.4.2 CRA Backup Calls for Missed PRO Surveys - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C6)**

If, after 48 hours, they have not completed the survey their CRA/UNC contacts them (e.g. by phone, in person, or email). The CRA/UNC Coordinator will administer the questions verbatim and enter them into PRO Core (marking that they were interview administered.). Reasons for the patient not completing the study questionnaire on their own should be entered into the C8 Patient Contact Log. If the patient does not complete the weekly study questionnaire, the CRA/UNC Coordinator will complete the C6 Missing Data Form to ascertain the reason for the missed questionnaire. This information should be collected as soon as possible, and can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled PRO weekly survey. We are asking that the patient not be contacted more than three times by the CRA/UNC each week (if possible). This backup strategy improves data completeness.

#### **5.4.3 Automated Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

Each time a patient self-reports an issue of a concerning level or that increases from the prior self-report, an automatic email alert notification will be triggered to the site CRA. The alert will only include the participant’s study ID, not their identifying information. The CRA will be responsible for adding the patient’s name, medical record number, and contact information to the email, then forwarding the email to the appropriate site clinical nurse caring for the patient immediately upon receipt, with a CC to the Nurse Champion. These alert notifications will include a link to evidence-based symptom management pathway recommendations when applicable that can be quickly and easily referenced by the nurse.

#### **5.4.4 CRA Follow Up of Nurse Actions Taken in Response to Alerts - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY (Form C11)**

Within 72 hours of each alert, the CRA should contact the nurse to ascertain what action(s) was taken in response to the alert using the “Nursing Alert Response Form” (Form C11). This form offers several options that should be asked or printed

or pasted into an email and given to the nurse as choices (below), and the nurse's response should be used by the CRA to complete Form C11.

Was the patient contacted?

- Yes
- No

How was the patient contacted (select all that apply)?

- In person
- By phone or text
- By email
- By patient portal

If by phone, did you leave a voicemail?

- Yes
- No

Select any discussion that occurred (select all that apply):

- Discussed symptom with patient
- Discussed symptom with caregiver
- Discussed with other clinician(s)

Select any action/advice that occurred (select all that apply):

- Supportive medication – prescribed or modified dose/schedule (e.g., anti-emetic)
- Patient will use over-the-counter (OTC) medication at home (e.g., analgesic, Senna)
- Chemotherapy - dose changed or held
- Sent to emergency room/urgent care/admitted to hospital
- Imaging or laboratory test ordered
- Appointment made to come in to clinic for evaluation
- Referral made to another clinic
- Patient will use self-management strategies at home (e.g., meditation, walking)

Select reason if no action/advice occurred (select all that apply):

- Already aware of symptom, so no action taken
- Symptom resolved itself
- Symptom unrelated to chemo (e.g., cold symptoms)
- Will discuss with patient during next visit

Brief description (you can describe any detail or reason that action was taken or not taken):

#### **5.4.5 Printed PRO Reports for Clinicians at Visits - INTERVENTION SITES ONLY**

At each scheduled clinic visit for a participant, the site CRA will provide a Printed PRO Report for the participant to the nurse and oncologist seeing the participant, generated by the PRO-Core software system.

### **5.5. Outcomes Assessments and Timeline**

This trial includes questionnaires for patients and forms for CRAs and nurses to complete. All of these are found in the PRO-Core software system. **Table 1 and Table 2**, at the bottom of this section, outline the various questionnaires/forms and time points for completion. There is a window of time for completion of most forms. Form completion is monitored centrally by UNC, and assistance with form completion and data collection may be offered by or requested from UNC personnel.

#### **5.5.1 Outcomes Questionnaires for Participants (Questionnaires P1, P2, P3, P4)**

As noted above, the participant questionnaires for assessing outcomes (P1, P2, P3, P4) in this trial may be bundled together automatically when administered electronically by the PRO-Core system, so that they feel like a continuous longer questionnaire, rather than individual questionnaires. They are available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. The outcomes questionnaires will be completed at baseline; and at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); and at months 3, 6, 9, and 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each), and will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin Chinese. Participants will be given a choice to complete these in clinic or from home online, or if necessary via paper in clinic (with the CRA entering the data into PRO-Core).

If a patient questionnaire is completed on paper, the site CRA must scan (or mail) the paper questionnaire to the UNC Coordinator. The UNC coordinator will complete a QA check, comparing the hard copy to what was entered into PRO-Core. If discrepancies are found, the UNC Coordinator will review them with the CRA and correct any errors in PRO-Core.

If the patient does not self-complete this information, the CRA will call them to collect the information and then enter it into PRO-Core. At each questionnaire time point, the CRA will contact the participant to remind them about the upcoming questionnaire, and to offer help.

If the patient goes off study prior to week 52 the CRA must contact the patient as soon as possible to get the off-study surveys completed.

*Note for intervention sites only: The outcomes questionnaires are different from the Weekly Symptom Surveys that patients at intervention sites will be asked to complete. Therefore, participants at intervention sites will be asked to complete both the Weekly Symptom Surveys, and the periodic outcomes questionnaires. These will be completed separately from each other, although all of these are completed using the PRO-Core software.*

The patient outcomes questionnaires include:

- **Patient Demographics Questionnaire (Questionnaire P1) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire asks participants about their baseline information and will be administered at the time of enrollment.
- **Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire (Questionnaire P2) – ALL SITES:** The outcomes of physical functioning, health-related quality of life, and symptom control will be assessed by items from the “EORTC-QLQ-C30”, which will be administered to each patient participant in the “Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire” (Form P2) at baseline; at month 1 (+/- 2 weeks); at months 3, 6, 9; and at month 12/off-study (+/- 4 weeks each). The EORTC QLQ-C30 is a well-established and frequently used questionnaire<sup>22,23,24</sup> that includes a 5-item physical functioning domain, individual symptom items corresponding to the symptoms in the PRO intervention system, and a composite quality of life score.<sup>22,23,24</sup> The QLQ-C30 has been rigorously tested for its psychometric properties in qualitative and quantitative studies and has been widely used in clinical studies in oncology, and is a standard measure used across oncology drug development trials and in many ALLIANCE national clinical trials.
- **Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (Questionnaire P3) – ALL SITES:** This questionnaire will be administered to each participant at baseline and 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks for the month 3 form). The satisfaction questions are from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey system, which is maintained by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to support and promote the assessment of consumers' experiences with health care,<sup>25</sup> and from the “Patient-Centered Communication in Cancer Care” short form questionnaire (PCC-CA-6).<sup>26</sup> Participants or their designated caregivers may also be contacted by UNC for follow up questions about their responses.
- **Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire (Questionnaire P4) – INTERVENTION SITES ONLY:** In the intervention arm only, this questionnaire will be administered to patients after 3 months of participation (+/- 4 weeks). This questionnaire includes items about the ease and perceived value of using the PRO system. This information will be useful for dissemination and future implementation efforts. Understanding these perspectives is essential to avoid unnecessary burden and to optimize convenience and benefits.

### 5.5.2 Date of Death Form (Form C9)

The CRA will abstract the medical chart and/or touch base with the clinical team caring for participants to assess if the

patient has died, the date of death, and whether COVID may have played a role. Form C9 should be completed at off-study for each participant, as well as 18 months and 24 months following the date of enrollment for that patient. Subsequent chart abstraction/information about date of death may be requested if needed for the outcomes assessment by the UNC study team. Dates of death for participants will be verified or sought by the UNC study team linking participant information to national governmental databases (e.g., the CDC National Death Index).

### 5.5.3 CRA and Nurse Perspectives Surveys - Intervention Sites Only (Forms C10 & N1)

The amount of staff effort for PRO-related activities will be assessed based on data completed by CRAs in the “CRA Perspectives Survey” (Form C10) and by nurses in the “Nurse Perspectives Survey” (Form N1), which will be completed at least six months from the time the initial participant at their site is enrolled. The nurse survey will also assess perceived value and use of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in practice, impressions of barriers to implementation of PROs in practice and facilitators. In addition, to supplement these surveys, telephone or on-site debriefings with staff and clinicians will be conducted to understand perceptions of PRO integration into clinical practice and workflow. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA and nurse to remind them to complete perspectives surveys at six months.

### 5.5.4 Off Study Chart Abstraction Form (Form C12)

A detailed form (Form C12) requiring information to be abstracted from the participant’s medical record must be completed by the CRA when the participant goes off study (+ 4 week window for form completion). Consultation with a site nurse or physician may be necessary for clarifications of some of the questions in this form. For example, this form includes information about dates and diagnoses related to ER visits and hospitalizations, prescription of selective supportive medications, dates of changes and/or discontinuation of cancer treatments, and initiation of hospice services. Additional outcomes data may be elicited by the UNC team by linking patient records to administrative databases. The UNC Study Team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data.

### 5.5.5 Physician Response Form (Form Onc1)

Physician impressions and usage of the Patient PRO Report will be assessed based on data provided by oncologists in the “Physician Responses Survey” (Form Onc 1). The CRA will ask one treating oncologist who had experience using the report to complete this brief survey after the study has been open at the site for at least 6 months. These data will be informative towards future implementation efforts. The UNC Coordinator may contact the CRA to remind them to ask the treating oncologist to complete the survey.

## 6. Timeline for Study Forms and Questionnaires

- **Table 1**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **CONTROL** sites only.
- **Table 2**, below, shows the schedule of study assessments by patients, CRAs, and clinicians (nurses/oncologists) for **INTERVENTION** sites only.



**Table 1. Timeline for Control Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post	
			Base- line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24
Patient Reported (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	<b>P1. Patient Demographics</b>	Baseline characteristics	X														
	<b>P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*</b>	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X				X					X		
	<b>P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*</b>	CAHPS questions	X			X									X		
CRA Reported	<b>C1. Site Registration &amp; Characteristics</b>	Site characteristics	Completed by CRA after a site has contracted to participate in the trial														
	<b>C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility</b>	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X														
	<b>C3. Patient Registration</b>	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting	X														
	<b>C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist</b>	medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X														
	<b>C5. Additional Contact Information Form</b>		X														
	<b>C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from participant's medical record	X														
	<b>C9. Date of Death Form</b>														X	X	X
	<b>C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**</b>														X		
UNC	<b>UNC1. Site Training</b>	Details of startup meeting	X														

\* **The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection.** The patient questionnaires may be "bundled" together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

**Table 2. Timeline for Intervention Sites Only**

Source	Measure	Contents/Notes	Month of Patient Participation													Post		
			Base- line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 (or Off Study)	18	24	
Patient Reported  (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)	<b>Weekly PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only</b>	Symptom questions reported from home	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	<b>P1. Patient Demographics</b>	Baseline characteristics	X															
	<b>P2. Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire*</b>	EORTC QLQ-C30 questions	X	X		X			X			X			X			
	<b>P3. Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire*</b>	Questions about PRO system	X			X									X			
	<b>P4. Patient PRO Feedback Booklet – Intervention Sites Only*</b>	CAHPS questions				X									X			
CRA Reported	<b>C1. Site Registration &amp; Characteristics</b>	Site characteristics	Completed by UNC after a site has contracted to participate in the trial															
	<b>C2. Patient Refusal to Participate/Ineligibility</b>	Reason(s) and basic patient data	X															
	<b>C3. Patient Registration</b>	CRA must create/enter a unique patient ID; Some info requires abstracting medical record and input from patient or clinicians	X															
	<b>C4. Patient Eligibility Checklist</b>		X															
	<b>C5. Additional Contact Information Form</b>		X															
	<b>C6. Missed Weekly Patient PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Collected if participant misses a scheduled <i>Weekly PRO Survey</i> . Reason for missed survey should be selected.															
	<b>C7. Patient Baseline Chart Abstraction Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record	X															
	<b>C8. Patient Contact Log for Missed PRO Survey – Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Info collected from patients by site CRA (or assisted by UNC)	Completed after successful or unsuccessful attempts to contact participants to collect information for <i>Form C6</i> .															
	<b>C9. Date of Death Form</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X	X	X
	<b>C10. CRA Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions for CRAs about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open at site for at least 6 months.															
	<b>C11. Nursing Alert Response Form– Intervention Sites Only</b>	CRA obtains responses from clinical nurse who got the alert	Collected within 72 hours of each nursing alert notification, to elicit actions taken by clinical nurse in response to the alert															
	<b>C12. Off Study Chart Abstraction Form**</b>	Info abstracted by CRA from medical record														X		
<b>Printed PRO Report</b>	Patients’ symptoms	Printed for oncologist and nurse at clinic visits.																
Nurse Reported	<b>N1. Nurse Perspectives– Intervention Sites Only<sup>§</sup></b>	Questions about PRO system	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
Oncologist Reported	<b>Onc1. Physician Response Form</b>	Questions about PRO Report Usage	To be completed after study has been open a site for at least 6 months.															
UNC	<b>UNC1. Site Training</b>	Details of startup meeting	X															

\* **The 3-month data collection is the key time point and is the most important date to have complete data collection.** The patient questionnaires may be “bundled” together automatically by the PRO-Core software so it feels like a single longer questionnaire to participants. For Form P2, the timeframe is +/- 2 weeks for the month 1 form, and +/- 4 weeks for the months 3, 6, 9, and 12 forms. For Form P3 and Form P4, the timeframe for the month 3 and month 12 forms is +/- 4 weeks. If a participant does not complete a form within the specified time frame, the site CRA or UNC Coordinator should contact the patient to obtain this information. The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who will contact the patient.

\*\* Window for completion is + 4 weeks.

<sup>§</sup> To be completed after the study has been open at a site for at least 6 months. The form should be collected within a week of this time point, but there is no expiration on the timeframe for collecting these up through study closure.

<sup>‡</sup> The site CRA and UNC Coordinator will work it out between them who should be contacting their site’s participants who do not complete the *Weekly PRO Survey on time (within 24 hours)* for backup/reminder/questions. This information should be collected as soon as possible but can be collected up until the day before the next scheduled *Weekly PRO Survey*.

### 6.1. Linkages to National Databases for Outcomes Assessment

Additional information such as utilization of services or deaths may be collected from national databases to which participant records are linked. Information to link participants' records to these databases will be provided by sites or participants.

### 6.2. Debriefings with Participants or Caregivers

Participants or their designated caregivers may be contacted by the UNC study team to follow up on responses to outcomes questionnaires.

### 6.3. Monitoring Accrual and Retention of Participants

Accrual will be monitored by regular contacts between the UNC Coordinator and site CRAs. The UNC Coordinator and AFT staff will continuously be in contact with site CRAs to monitor for any concerns or difficulties.

### 6.4. Off-Study Timing and Procedure

Patient participants are asked to remain on the study completing questionnaires for 12 months (52 weeks), or until they go off-study prior to that time. Reasons for patients to go off-study include:

- Completion of 12 months (52 weeks) of participation
- Discontinuation of chemotherapy treatment (estimated to last greater than or equal to 3 Months)
- Initiation of hospice
- Death
- Moved to a different oncology practice for cancer care
- Voluntary disenrollment

When a patient completes their 12<sup>th</sup> month of participation or goes off-study prior to then, the "Off Study Chart Abstraction Form" (Form C12) must be completed. If the patient has died at that time, the "Date of Death Form" (Form C9) must be completed.

In addition, if a patient goes off study early for any reason other than death, they should complete the final Outcomes Questionnaires (including: "Patient Quality of Life Questionnaire" (Form P2), the "Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire" (Form P3), and *for intervention sites only* the "Patient PRO Feedback Questionnaire" (Form P4) as soon as possible.

### 6.5. Organizational Perspectives on Benefit-burden Tradeoffs

At the completion of the trial when preliminary results are available, semi-structured teleconferences will be held with representatives of national patient and professional organizations to elicit perspectives on whether the observed level of staff/patient effort and cost for PRO collection is 'worth it' for the observed benefits. No identifying information will be collected from the interviewees. These results will anchor the trial's results to organizational impressions of value towards dissemination and implementation.

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## 7. Statistical Considerations

### 7.1. Statistical Tests

The principal (primary) outcome is overall survival. Overall survival will be compared between arms using a stratified log-rank test (stratified by cancer type, with a sandwich estimator to account for site clustering). Each patient will be analyzed according to his/her site's randomized assignment (intent-to-treat approach). In keeping with evolving scholarly thinking, we will not consider any specific threshold of statistical significance in deeming the intervention in this trial a success, and instead the outcome of the study will be based on interpretation of all conducted analyses taking into account both statistical and clinical significance (Wasserstein RL, Schirm AL, Lazar NA. *The American Statistician*. 2019; 73[sup1]:1-19.). Due to the potential impact of COVID on the outcomes in this trial, and potential differential impact of COVID on clusters in the two randomization arms, adjustments in analyses may be made and a sensitivity analysis will be conducted in which overall survival data are censored at March 1, 2020.

For the trial's secondary analyses, emergency room/hospital utilization and duration of cancer treatment will be compared between arms using stratified Fine-Gray competing risk regression with death as a competing event (stratified by cancer type, with robust sandwich covariance matrix estimates to account for site clustering). Physical function/health-related quality of life/symptom burden/financial burden as measured by the QLQ-C30 at 3 months and patient satisfaction/communication as measured by CAHPS items will each be compared between arms using a general linear mixed model approach including a fixed effect for cancer type, a random effect for site, and a continuous covariate for the corresponding baseline score. All other quantitative outcomes will be tabulated within arms descriptively (see below for separate description of qualitative analyses). While a focus of the non-survival assessments is the 3-month time point, analyses will include each post-baseline assessment time point (1, 6, 9, and 12 months) as well as longitudinal analyses incorporating all post-baseline PRO data. Supplemental analysis will also include multivariable analysis of each primary outcome including the following covariates: age (<60 versus ≥60), gender (female versus male), race/ethnicity (white non-Hispanic versus other), education status (high school graduate/GED or less versus some college or more), disease type (e.g., gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, breast, lung/head and neck, melanoma, versus other), prior computer/email/internet use (rarely or less versus sometimes or more), and oncology practice site location (predominantly urban/suburban vs rural). Subgroup analyses may also be conducted for each of these covariates. For patients who die, have missing data, or go off study before the time point of analysis, prior or off study data (whichever is later) may be carried forward. Similar to above, sensitivity analyses may be carried out with truncation of data at March 1, 2020, to assess for impact of COVID.

### 7.2. Sample Size/Power

For overall survival with a total of 1,200 patients at 52 sites nationally, there will be at least 90% power for a hazard ratio of 0.76 (based on the prior single-center RCT) which is considered clinically meaningful<sup>28,29</sup> using a two-sided  $\alpha=0.05$  log-rank test with 576 observed events, computed using the formula by Xie and Waksman<sup>30</sup> with an intracluster correlation coefficient of 0.001 (estimated from the 10 largest legacy ALLIANCE trials involving 12,717 total patients). This power calculation further assumes drop-out of 150 patients in the first 2.5 years. Overall survival analysis will be undertaken when the number of events has been observed and data collection for secondary outcomes is sufficient. Statistical analysis will use all deaths recorded in the database at time of analysis including deaths in excess of the number needed to trigger the planned analysis.

### 7.3. Missing Data/Sensitivity Analyses

Missing data will be minimized through site training, human backup calls to patients for missed assessments, and automatic and human real-time central monitoring of data compliance. The impact of missing data will be investigated using sensitivity analyses.

### 7.4. Qualitative Data Collection and Analyses

UNC personnel will conduct interviews with intervention sites during site visits and over the phone with personnel and patients, supported by the UNC CHAI-Core. Patient interviews will be exclusively completed over the phone. Standardized interview guides will provide interviewers with a detailed script to follow, and open-ended probes will allow stakeholders the opportunity to answer questions in their own way.<sup>31,32,33</sup> Potential follow-up probes to clarify answers from stakeholders will also be included. Interview scripts will be tailored based on the type of stakeholder (e.g., administrative staff, clinician, or patient). Interviews should last between 45 and 60 minutes and will be audio recorded. Interviewers will populate standardized summary sheets during the interviews. Transcripts will be produced by a professional transcription service and will be coded for analysis themes using standard qualitative software.

### 7.5. Randomization

Sites will be randomly assigned to each arm in a 1:1 ratio by the AFT Statistical Center based at the Mayo Clinic, using permuted block randomization with random block size of 2 or 4 stratified by rural vs. urban location. The randomization sequences (one for each stratum) will remain concealed and arm assignments will only be revealed one at a time as sites are registered by the UNC Coordinator.

## 8. Protection of Human Subjects

Potential risks for participants include inconvenience (clinic or home schedule interrupted), questionnaire burden (being asked to respond to a series of questions), disinterest (not finding the study involvement to be meaningful), loss of anonymity (being seen by others on the clinical team when the study team approaches to inform them of the study), or loss of confidentiality (if a study team member shared information given by the participant to others not involved in the study). Research team members at all sites will be instructed to keep all patient participation and data confidential. We do not anticipate physical, financial, or legal risks to participation. Registrations of human subjects on AFT studies require that institutions obtain informed consent prior to registration and the start of study interventions.

### 8.1. AFT Policies and Protections

AFT has in place policies and procedures to ensure the protection of human subjects and to safeguard the rights and welfare of human subjects. AFT requires that institutions participating in AFT research studies hold a Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). The AFT also ensures that IRBs are registered, and that site IRBs provide a level of IRB review that is appropriate to the type of research being conducted. The AFT staff works closely with site personnel to assist them with their questions and any corrective actions necessary to ensure the protection of human subjects. To protect against potential risks across all sites, study team members will be instructed not to disclose participation or content of participation to anyone outside of the study team.

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## 8.2. Computer and Electronic Protection

Data collection across sites will be through the University of North Carolina (UNC) PRO-Core web-based platform for secure questionnaire administration. Data are stored in a secure enterprise-level Oracle database managed by the ITS Research Computing group at UNC, and web servers are hosted by the UNC Center for Bioinformatics. Data transmitted between the server and end-users are encrypted using SSL, and all databases are encrypted. The PRO-Core also has additional protections when multiple sites are involved. For instance, recruitment sites will only be able to see their own patients' information.

## 8.3. Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality will be maintained. Hard-copy research data will be minimal and stored in locked filing cabinets in locked offices at the enrolling site. Research data will be maintained in separate charts, identified by ID number only, and secured in locked files. A master list connecting names and ID numbers will be kept in a separate, secure location. Only authorized members of the investigative group will have access to secured files, and will be educated regarding the protection of patients' rights to confidentiality. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

## 8.4. Protection Against Risks from Interviews

Telephone debriefings and site visits will be conducted to understand site workflows and uptake of PROs. UNC study team members will be trained in interviewing procedures in order to conduct these debriefings. The team has conducted multiple studies with in-depth interviews. Interviewers will be reminded to conduct interviews in a private office. Audio recordings of interviews will be stored as electronic files on password-protected computers. The recordings will not be labeled with personal identifiers. The information linking study ID numbers/initials with the participant's identity will be kept in a separate, secure location. Interviews will be supported by the UNC CHAI Core.

Transcription will be conducted by Landmark Associates, Inc. ("Landmark"). All Landmark employees have completed CITI training and NIH's Protecting Human Research Participants training. All of Landmark's employees, contractors, and executive staff are also under non-disclosure agreements. For maximum security, Landmark transfers data from its customers and its offsite servers via SSL encrypted endpoints. All files are uploaded and downloaded through Salesforce.com's Customer Portal. The servers that store all of Landmark's client data are managed by Amazon Web Services, a division of Amazon.com LLC. Specifically, the files are located on their Simple Storage Service (S3). The files are protected behind pre-signed URL's that are generated for each file that is uploaded to the server. The generated links are set to expire in 60 seconds. Access to the Amazon Web Services dashboard requires the admin user to have possession of a Hardware Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Device. A link to the AWS White Paper on Security is here: [http://media.amazonwebservices.com/pdf/AWS\\_Security\\_Whitepaper.pdf](http://media.amazonwebservices.com/pdf/AWS_Security_Whitepaper.pdf) Upon receiving a password-protected login, only authorized project personnel will be able to upload files to Landmark's website through the Customer Portal.

## 8.5. Potential Benefits and Importance of Knowledge to Be Gained

Patient-reporting of symptoms and physical function may improve quality of care by identifying symptoms before they lead to adverse outcomes such as functional impairment, hospitalization, or chemotherapy dose reduction. No harms of patient PRO reporting have been identified in prior research. Therefore, participants in these studies may benefit by burdensome symptoms being identified earlier and communicated to clinicians. Moreover,

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completing symptom questionnaires may assist patients to become more aware of their symptoms, and move towards better communication and self- efficacy (as suggested in prior work).

The knowledge sought in the proposed research can have direct clinical benefits for patients with cancer enrolled in future clinical trials and/or routine cancer treatment. These gains include more accurate monitoring of symptoms and toxicities that can prompt clinician intervention. This will allow for broad collection of patients' symptoms in clinical research and practice, potentially benefitting many patients whose symptoms might otherwise go undetected. Although the risks in the proposed research are not non-existent, the current and future benefits of improved quality of care and symptom monitoring balance the risks of inconvenience, questionnaire burden, loss of anonymity, disinterest, and/or loss of confidentiality.

## **9. Ethical Considerations and Administrative Procedures**

### **9.1. Regulatory and Ethical Compliance**

The Investigator agrees to treat all of the information that is provided with the strictest confidentiality and to require the same of his or her personnel and local IRB. Study documents will be stored in an appropriate manner in order to ensure confidentiality. The information provided to the investigator by AFT must not be made available to other parties without a direct written authorization by the aforesaid parties, with the exception of the extent to which disclosure is necessary in order to obtain informed consent from the patients who wish to participate in the study. This study will be conducted in compliance with the study protocol, subsequent amendment(s) and with the study-specific manuals/guidelines. The investigator agrees to comply with the instructions and procedures described therein and thus to adhere to the principles of good clinical practice, which these instructions and procedures reflect.

### **9.2. Informed Consent**

It is the responsibility of the Investigator, or a person designated by the Investigator including the CRA (if acceptable by local guidelines), to obtain written informed consent from each patient participating in this study, after adequate explanation of the aims, methods, anticipated benefits, and potential hazards of the study. This information must be provided to the patient prior to undertaking any trial-related procedure which is not part of the routine clinical management of the patient (i.e. would not be indicated outside the study). Consent forms will be available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. It is the investigator's (or designee's) responsibility to obtain the signed Informed Consent Form, and a signature from the person conducting the informed consent discussion, prior to undertaking any trial- related procedure.

### **9.3. Responsibilities of the Investigator/IRB/IEC/REB**

The Investigator is responsible for ensuring that their study team maintains and retains all study related documentation, including but not limited to: signed Informed Consent Forms, medical records that are applicable for this study and source documents, the study protocol, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, relevant IRB and Sponsor correspondence, and assorted regulatory documents. The Investigator is responsible for retaining and keeping safe all patient related documentation. In order to do this, the site staff will complete electronic forms in the PRO-Core software system in a timely manner.

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#### **9.4. Protocol Deviations**

The Investigator is responsible to document and explain any deviations from the approved protocol. The Investigator should promptly report any deviations that might impact patient safety and data integrity to the respective IRB in accordance with local IRB policies and procedures.

#### **9.5. Protocol Amendments**

Any modifications to the protocol or the Informed Consent Form which may impact on the conduct of the study, potential benefit of the study, or may affect patient safety, including substantial changes of study objectives, study design, patient population, sample sizes, study procedures, or significant administrative aspects will require a formal amendment to the protocol. Such amendment will be released by AFT, agreed by the Investigator(s) and approved by relevant IRBs prior to implementation. Administrative changes of the protocol or small changes to study forms or questionnaires are considered minor corrections and/or clarifications that have no effect on the way the study is to be conducted. These changes will be released by the AFT, agreed by the investigator(s), and notified to the IRB.

#### **9.6. Retention of Records**

Any records and documents relating to the conduct of this study must be retained by the Investigator until notification by UNC/AFT, or for the length of time required by relevant national or local health authorities, whichever is longer. After that period of time, the documents may be destroyed, subject to local regulations. Written notification should be provided to AFT prior to transferring any records to another party or moving them to another location.

#### **9.7. Data Confidentiality**

Patient medical information is confidential and may only be disclosed to third parties as permitted by the Informed Consent Form (or separate authorization for use and disclosure of personal health information) which has been signed by the patient, unless permitted or required by law. The overall results of any research study will be available in accordance with the effective AFT policy on study data publication. Patient information may be used to link to national databases to retrieve outcomes assessment information, which will be stored in de-identified databases.

#### **9.8. Database Management and Quality Control**

The Site Principal Investigator and/or his/her designee will provide accurate participant data into study forms with observations pertinent to the study.

The Clinical Research Associate (CRA) or designated study site personnel will complete the Forms in a timely manner. Subjects will not be identified by name in the study database or on any study documents to be collected by the AFT (or designee), but will be identified by a site number, subject number. At study completion, when the database has been declared to be complete and accurate, the database will be locked.

UNC and/or AFT study personnel will review forms for completeness and accuracy; any discrepancies will be resolved with the site CRAS, investigator or designee, as appropriate. All changes to the study database will be documented.

If an Investigator becomes unable for any reason to continue to retain study records for the required period (e.g., retirement, relocation), AFT should be prospectively notified. The study records must be transferred to a designee acceptable to AFT, such as another investigator, another institution, or to AFT itself. The Investigator must obtain AFT's written permission before disposing of any records, even if



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retention requirements have been met.

### 9.9. Site Audits

The UNC study team may request clarifications or substantiation of outcomes data from sites, and may elect to audit sites for verification of data. Site audits may also be conducted by representatives of AFT according to AFT policies and procedures.

### 9.10. Publication of Study Protocol and Results

Alliance Foundation Trials, LLC prioritizes the timely presentation and publication of study results. Publications and any kind of presentations of results from the study shall be in accordance with accepted scientific practice, academic standards and customs. No investigator may present or publish any portion of this trial without written approval from UNC and AFT.

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