




 Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Ghent University
end-of-life care research group

  Vrije
Universiteit
Brussel

**Discussing incurability and palliative care
with advanced cancer patients:
development and evaluation of a
communication intervention for Belgian
oncologists**


Melissa Horlait, MSc

Friday, January 16, 2015 EAPC pre-congress seminar 2014, Lleida, Spain



Aims

- Facilitating an open and honest discussion with advanced cancer patients and their family members/relatives.
- Communication guidance tool
- Training Course: communication + coordination of care
- Intervention trial to evaluate the effects on perceived quality of care (process) and quality of life (outcome)

 Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Ghent University
end-of-life care research group

2 Friday, January 16, 2015

MRC Framework

- Medical Research Council (UK) framework for complex interventions.
- Phase 0 to phase 3
- Planning: February 2013 - August 2018

Phase 0 & phase 1

- Phase 0 (preclinical phase): interview study with oncologists, advanced cancer patients and caregivers/family members to identify barriers and facilitators to good communication and discussion of incurability and palliative care
- Phase 1 (modelling phase): the first draft of the intervention will be presented to (inter)national experts and oncologists to adapt it to their needs and perspectives

Phase 2 & phase 3

- Phase 2 (exploratory trial): a small-scale pilot study will be set up to test and evaluate the feasibility and value of the intervention.
- Phase 3 (definitive trial): is the main intervention trial with a pre-post design.

Your input...

- How to develop a communication guidance tool from the data collected in phase 0?
 - content?
 - method?
- Thank you!