

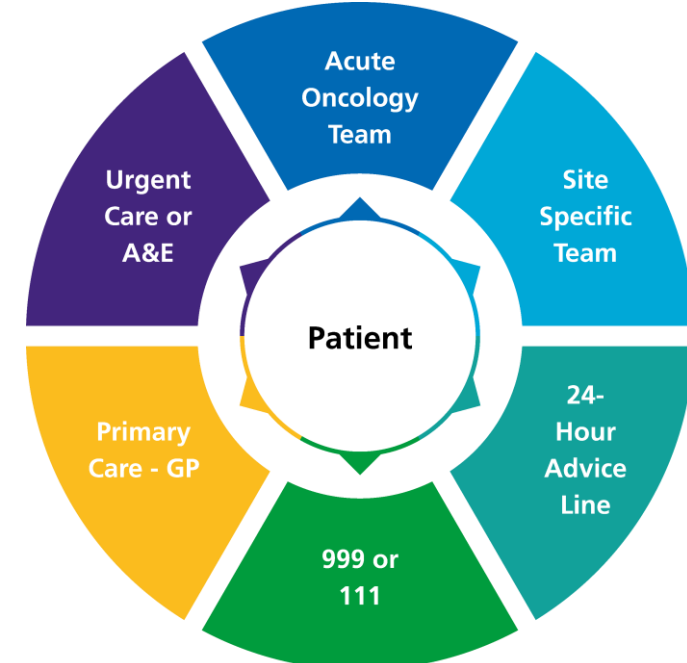
CASCADE: Co-design of Acute Oncology Standardised Competence Assessment Documents and their Evaluation

Gina Madera¹, Dr Verna Lavender²

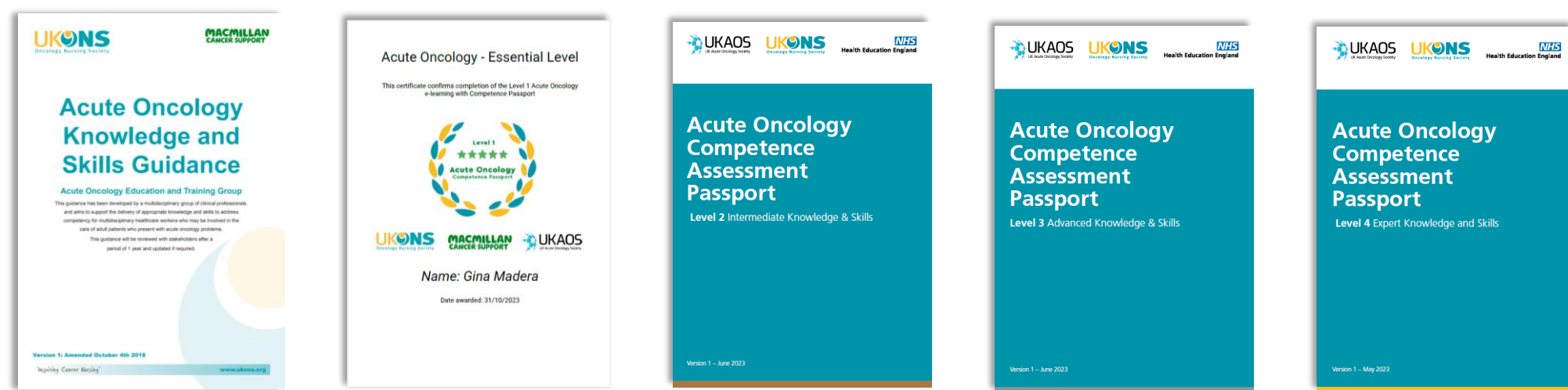
¹Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, ²Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Background

Patients with oncology emergencies can interact with different sectors of the workforce throughout their cancer journey, therefore it is important to raise awareness of oncological emergencies so healthcare staff in all settings can recognise, refer and manage acute oncology (AO) issues to promote patient safety.



Standardised AO competence assessment documents, the Passports, were co-designed with subject matter experts and key stakeholders. The Level 1 Passport was subsequently digitised in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support.

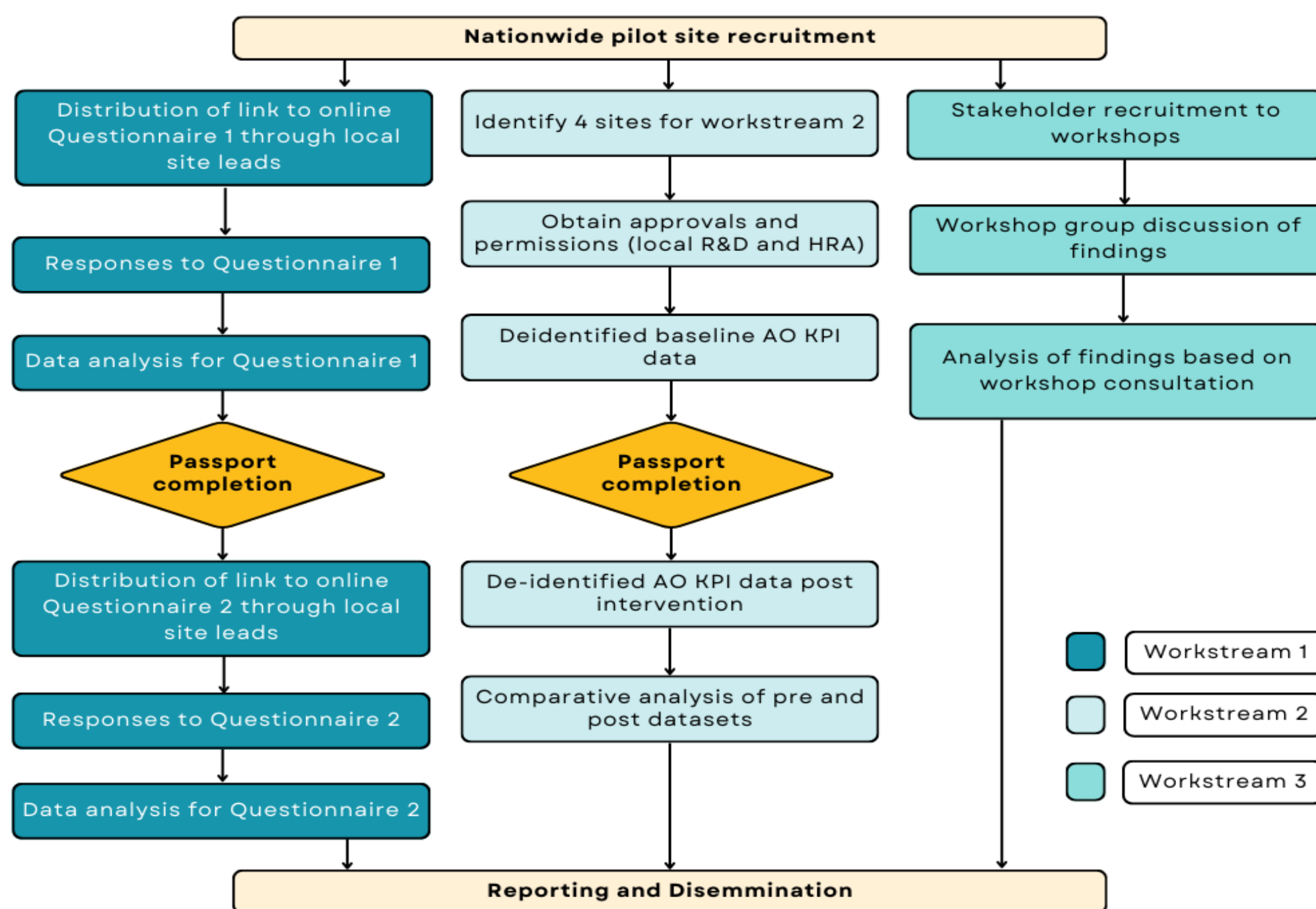


Aim

To develop a knowledgeable and skilled UK workforce for all health professionals that treat and care for patients with an acute oncology indication to ensure that cancer services are fit for purpose and optimise safe outcomes for patients with cancer.

Methods

To evaluate the educational quality, acceptability and accessibility of the Passports and identify perceived staff confidence of acute oncology knowledge and skills, three workstreams were planned as part of a robust evaluation plan. This poster will report Workstream 1 results.



Results

Data was collected from learners and assessors in 26 NHS trusts, 3 universities and primary care using online questionnaires. Patient key performance indicator data was also collected (IRAS-326060) and reported elsewhere.

There was >99.5% data completeness in learner data from 718 pre-pilot and 306 post-pilot respondents. Data analysis using descriptive and inferential statistics and content analysis demonstrated the following key findings:



- Time to complete and the period of time learners completed the Passports over varied dependent on level of practice from 3 to 20 hours and 2 days to 3 months respectively
- Time taken to assess ranged from 3 hours to 1 week
- A significant increase in learner confidence in their AO knowledge and skill was seen for learners at practice Level 1 and 2 ($p < 0.001$).
- Staff at Levels 3 and 4 are senior staff within AO teams, so a difference in level of confidence in K&S was not expected to be seen between pre and post surveys, however a significant increase in level of knowledge in understanding current policy guidelines was seen at Level 3, reflecting Passport content
- Content analysis of free text responses identified that the most common response was that the Passports were informative, relevant and pitched at the right level of practice.
- The most common challenge identified by both learners and assessors was lack of study time followed by requirement for additional local support.

Discussion

The acute oncology competence assessment Passports have been successfully piloted across the UK and are well evaluated by learners.

There was a high level of stakeholder engagement across the UK, but the limited timeframe of the pilot presented challenges for learners completing Passports. However, they have been shown to be an appropriate measure for assessing AO knowledge and skills competencies.

Conclusion

The Acute Oncology Competence Assessment Passports are fit for purpose, acceptable and high-quality assessment documents. Revised versions will be launched and published June 2024. Online assessor training is in development and the Passports have been fully mapped to the ACCEND framework capabilities.

References

NHS England Workforce Training and Education (2023) *Career Pathway, Core Cancer Capabilities in Practice (CiP) and Education Framework for the Nursing and Allied Health Professions Workforce*. Available Online: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/cancer-diagnostics/aspirant-cancer-career-education-development-programme/accend-framework>

UK Oncology Nursing Society and Macmillan Cancer Support (2018) *Acute Oncology Knowledge and Skills Guidance*. Version 1. Available Online: [ukon1905_skills_framework_-_updated_changes_18_07_19.pdf](https://www.ukons.org/ukons1905_skills_framework_-_updated_changes_18_07_19.pdf) (ukons.org) [Accessed on: 21st July 2022].

