Development and Utilization of an Acuity Scale for Oncology Patient Navigation

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Background and Purpose:
The oncology navigation team at LVHN developed a Needs Assessment and Acuity Scale to help in assessing newly referred patients. The tools are used to determine which components of care can be addressed by other internal cancer support resources, which patients are appropriate for navigation, and the level of navigation needed.

During the quarter from March 1, 2014-May 31, 2014, 4% of patients had an acuity score of 0, 21% had an acuity score of 1, 24% had an acuity score of 2, 27% had an acuity score of 3, and 23% of patient had an acuity score of 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acuity Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not appropriate for navigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stable navigation needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low acuity for navigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Moderate acuity for navigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>High acuity for navigation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion:
By utilizing the needs assessment and acuity scale, the navigators are able to determine if patients are appropriate for navigation, have stable needs, or require active navigation. The intensity of navigation is also indicated. In the future, we hope to include the acuity measurements to help determine workload.