**CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION THERAPY**

**METRIC**
Use of chemotherapy or radiation therapy in the last 30 days of life

**UTILIZATION: 26%**

**RESULTS**

CHEMOTHERAPY OR RADIATION THERAPY USE BY CLINIC
Clinic variation in use of treatment at end of life ranges from no use at all to use in 67% of patients.

**BACKGROUND**
For patients with advanced cancers who fail to respond to several recommended treatments, preserving quality of life is an important consideration. Studies have shown that in these situations, additional treatments are not likely to be effective, and expose patients to side effects that negatively impact quality of life.

The 2012 ABIM/ASCO Choosing Wisely\(^1\) Recommendation \#1 identifies the reduction of ineffective cancer treatments, such as additional chemotherapy regimens and some radiation therapy at the end of life, as an opportunity to improve care. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy have side effects, and for those with terminal or advanced cancer, where continuing treatment is not likely to slow the cancer growth or provide medical benefit, the treatments may actually add to patient symptoms and decrease the length or quality of life. In these situations, patients should have access to appropriate palliative and supportive care.


**POPULATION**
N = 4517

Inclusion criteria:
- Solid tumor diagnosis
- Diagnosis January 1, 2007 to May 31, 2014
- Enrolled with at least one claim in the 3 months prior to death
- Patient died

Exclusion criteria:
- Stage in situ

**DEFINITIONS**
- Treatment: Chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- Time period: Last 30 days of life
- Cause of Death: All

**UTILIZATION OF CHEMOTHERAPY**
15% of all solid tumor patients are receiving chemotherapy in the last 30 days of life.

**UTILIZATION OF RADIATION THERAPY**
10% of all solid tumor patients are receiving radiation therapy in the last 30 days of life.