Patient Portals for Individuals with a Cancer Diagnosis: A Scoping Review Co-Led by a Patient Partner

Digital patient portals provide individuals with secure online access to their health information and clinical data, enabling better management of care and more effective communication with healthcare providers. These platforms can streamline administrative tasks such as appointment scheduling and test result retrieval, reducing barriers to timely care. For patients managing complex conditions, digital tools have the potential to enhance healthcare efficiency, alleviate administrative burdens, and improve overall health outcomes. As healthcare systems continue to integrate digital solutions, understanding their impact on patient experience and access to care remains essential.

The objective of this scoping review is to examine the characteristics of cancer patient portals and their effects on health outcomes. Research findings will be shared with researchers (e.g. manuscript published in a scientific journal), decision makers (e.g. KT tools such as highlights, charts, graphics) and patient partners and advocacy groups (e.g. KT tools shared through VITAM Research Center and social media). The team will also convene in a full-day event in Québec where they will present the research findings, host a panel and small group discussions about the research implications and next steps, and facilitate a workshop demonstrating the use of digital patient portals.

Steven Ouellet, PhD
Patient and Public Partner, SPOR Evidence Alliance

After completing two bachelor's degrees (in philosophy and industrial relations), Steven pursued graduate studies at Université Laval and completed a PhD in 2016. As part of his thesis, which was based on a longitudinal study, he studied the evolution of nurses' working and employment conditions (their well-being at work) in critical care units. Having been diagnosed with cancer in 2019, he experiences the burden of dealing with many appointments and administrative tasks. Interested in the impact of digital technologies, he is wondering if the use of digital portals could potentially enhance the cancer patients' quality of life and health outcomes.

Maxime Sasseville, PhD
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Nursing, Université Laval

Maxime Sasseville is an adjunct professor in nursing sciences at Université Laval and researcher at the VITAM research centre in Québec, Canada. He has a PhD in health sciences research from Université de Sherbrooke and a postdoc from Université Laval in digital measurement and interventions. He has obtained multiple prizes and recognition for the quality of his knowledge translation products and implications. He is part of multiple research teams and endeavors for his skills and expertise in clinical measurement and evaluation, digital health interventions and applied AI to health interventions. He is a TUTOR-PHC alumni from 2015-2016. His research interest focus on patient-reported outcomes, digital implementation of outcome measures, psychometrics and multimorbidity.

Simon Décary, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation, Université de Sherbrooke

Simon Décary is an Assistant Professor at the University of Sherbrooke's School of Rehabilitation since 2021. He is a physiotherapist and has a PhD in rehabilitation science from the University of Montreal. His doctoral studies consisted of developing a tool to help in the diagnosis of knee pathologies based on musculoskeletal assessment. He worked as a physiotherapist in family medicine, which allowed him to observe several problems related to the management of musculoskeletal pain on the front line. He is currently developing a shared decision intervention to promote high value options and reduce overuse of imaging tests and opioids. He studies the sources of decision-making conflicts that patients with musculoskeletal pain may experience on the front line. He hopes to be able to offer patients efficient care trajectories that meet their values and preferences.

Annie LeBlanc, PhD
Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval

Annie LeBlanc, Ph.D., is a full professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Université Laval and a researcher at VITAM Sustainable Health Research Center. She is the Scientific Director of PASSERELLE, the national training entity of the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) dedicated to inclusively and collectively developing, supporting, and maintaining scientific and practical capacities in patient-oriented research in Canada. She also holds a Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Mobilization and Integration in Practice. Her expertise focuses on mobilizing evidence within the healthcare system, advancing research methods and practices in real-world care contexts, and capacity building to optimize healthcare delivery while providing rapid and significant benefits for patients.