Swimming Upstream: “I Have a Patient I’d Like You to See...Today...in Clinic” (FR418)

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Objectives

- Identify one model you can employ at your organization for a new outpatient program.
- Describe one potential financial alignment for an outpatient palliative care model.
- Identify “next steps” for developing an outpatient program at your institution.

Palliative care services in outpatient clinics, at home, or by telemedicine are increasing to meet the needs of patients throughout their illness trajectory. Moving palliative care services upstream allows better continuity and consistent care for patients with serious illnesses before and after inpatient encounters. Outpatient palliative care is poised for growth in the changing landscape of healthcare delivery.

Palliative care programs, newly established or mature, are often hospital based with consult services directed at inpatients with serious illness. Palliative care programs will be rapidly asked to see patients outside the hospital walls. This poses real-world challenges with staffing, effort, opportunity costs, and meeting the needs of referring physicians and health systems.

This session will explore opportunities and pitfalls of starting a new outpatient program. The format will be a brief introduction of several established outpatient programs followed by a moderated panel discussion with ample opportunity to learn from established leaders and meet peers with similar challenges and concerns.