



HPM Students Collaborate with CancerCare

In 2007, students in the Department of Health Policy and Management conducted a study in collaboration with CancerCare, a national nonprofit organization that provides free, professional support services for anyone affected by cancer, to study the issues and barriers to adherence to oral breast cancer therapy. The six tutorial students served as a consulting team to recommend methods that CancerCare can use to enhance their services to meet the needs of women faced with a long-term drug regimen.

Through qualitative interviews, the team discovered recurrent themes to the how patients adhere to their medications, including locus of control, effective communication strategies, and the use of routines to remember to take their medication.

The study was recently selected for presentation at the upcoming Research Meeting of Academy Health in Washington, DC, June 8-11, 2008. The six students who conducted the project were Kelvin Chan, Jorge Luna , Kathryn Richter, Lucy Kong , John Wedeles, and Jennifer Hajj.