

CANCER OLDER PEOPLES SERVICE COPS CHRONICLE

AUGUST 2026 - ISSUE 28

WHAT'S NEW

Are you a **professional** in **Scotland**, interested / working in **PROMs** (including, but not exclusive to, **cancer**)? We are **evaluating the Scottish Cancer PROMs Toolkit** so that it can be improved.

What will I need to do?

If you choose to, you can:

- Complete an **online questionnaire**
- and/or take part in an **interview / focus group**
 - You can opt in to this at the end of the questionnaire, or by emailing the researchers below.

Do I have to take part?

- No. Taking part is your choice. You can say no or withdraw at any time.
- **Any** professional with **interested/working in cancer PROMs** can take part.
- You **do not need to have used the Toolkit** to take part.

What if I have questions?

- Amanda Vettini (the researcher) amanda.vettini@strath.ac.uk or
- Emma Dunlop (the study lead) emma.dunlop@strath.ac.uk



Falls Week – September 2026

Falls Week is coming up in September! COPS will be working alongside the Falls Team to host a number of activities with AHP colleagues and teams across the Beatson. We’re looking forward to a week of education, networking and shared learning around falls prevention and good practice.

COPS Manuscript – Publication in Progress

Our next chapter of the COPS OT project is underway! The team are currently preparing a manuscript for submission for publication, describing the implementation of the embedded OT model and the outcomes of the project. We’re excited to share the learning from the service more widely and will keep you updated on its progress.

Regional Services Staff Awards

We were delighted that COPS received nominations for both Innovation of the Year and Team of the Year, with the team going on to be named within the Top Three for Team of the Year. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported and worked alongside COPS, and congratulations to all of our Beatson and Oncology colleagues who were also recognised and nominated - a brilliant reflection of the work happening across our services.

Contact Us



4TH FLOOR ROOM 30
BEATSON WEST OF SCOTLAND
CANCER CENTRE GLASGOW G12 0YN
TEL: 0141 301 9926 / 7137
EMAIL: GGC.COPS@NHS.SCOT
Please note that all outpatient referrals to COPS have now returned to the original email referral system. Referrals should be sent directly to:
GGC.COPS@NHS.SCOT

GERIATRICIAN:
DR SEENAN

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST:
TRACY DOWNEY

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:
CARLY ROLSTON

TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

SCOTTISH CANCER PROMS TOOLKIT – HAVE YOUR SAY

This month, COPS is pleased to support colleagues at the *University of Strathclyde and Cancer Medicines Outcomes Programme–Public Health Scotland (CMOP-PHS)* who are currently evaluating the Scottish Cancer Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) Toolkit. They are looking for professionals across Scotland to contribute to the evaluation and help shape the future development of this resource. The Scottish Cancer PROMs Toolkit is aimed primarily at people who collect and use PROMs data, or are interested in doing so, with people living with cancer as part of routine healthcare in Scotland. Its main audience includes healthcare professionals, but also extends to digital companies and the pharmaceutical industry. Multiple stakeholder groups played an important role in developing the Toolkit and identifying what was important to include. The Toolkit was launched in October 2024 and, now that it has been available for over a year, the team would like to understand how it has been used, what has worked well and how it could be improved. Findings from the evaluation will inform a refresh and planned relaunch of the Toolkit in 2027.

Who can take part?

Any professional based in Scotland with an interest in cancer PROMs can participate. **Importantly:**

- You do not need to have previously collected or used PROMs data.
- You do not need to know anything about, or have previously used, the Scottish Cancer PROMs Toolkit.
- Participants may include healthcare professionals, Scottish Government colleagues, digital health professionals, third sector colleagues and other relevant professional groups.

How can I get involved?

Professionals are initially invited to complete an evaluation questionnaire. The first page contains the Participant Information Sheet, followed by the consent form and questionnaire.

Complete the evaluation questionnaire

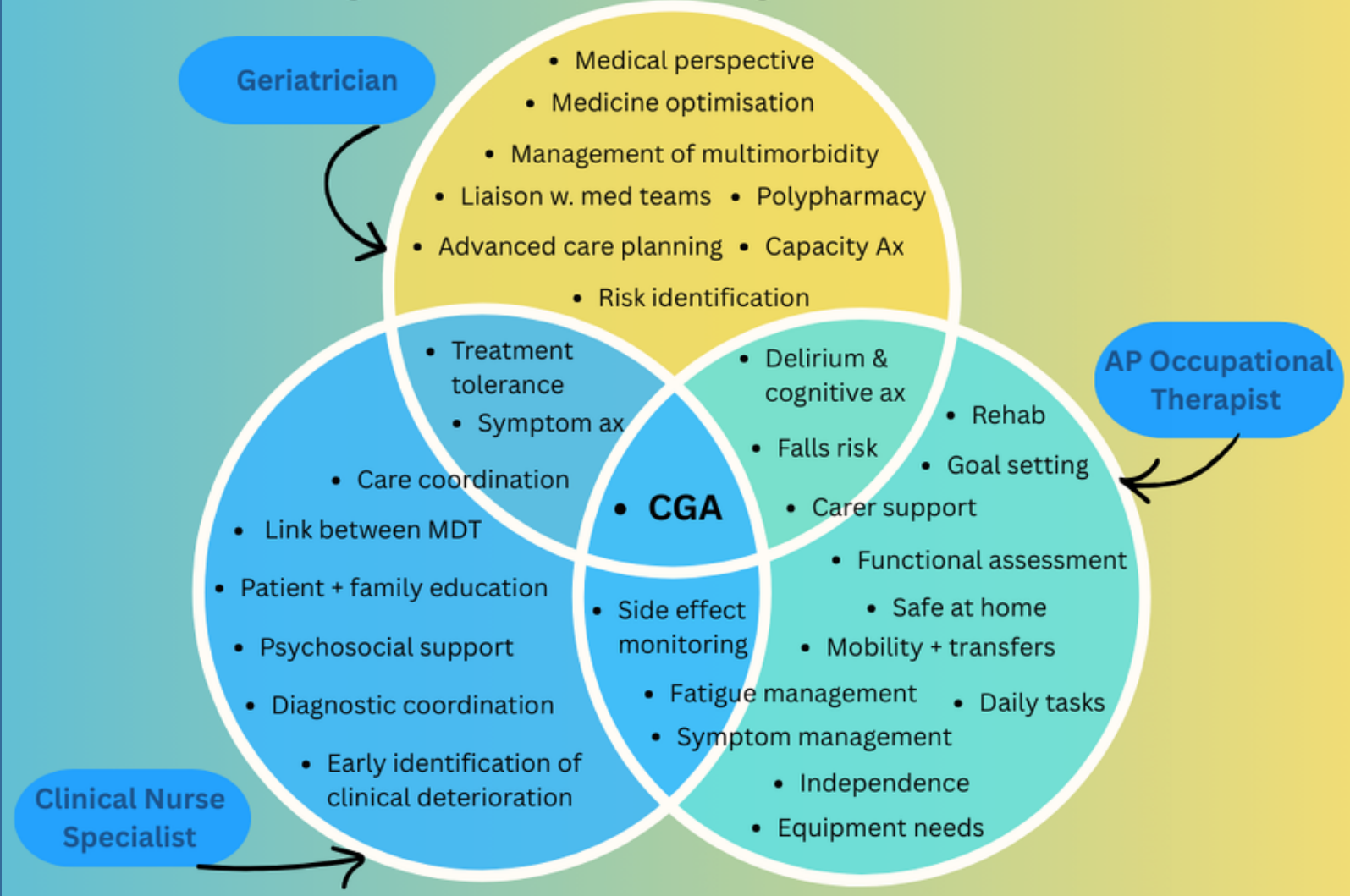
There are also opportunities to participate in an interview or focus group. You can opt into either of these at the end of the questionnaire, or contact researcher Amanda Vettini directly at amanda.vettini@strath.ac.uk. The lead researcher for the evaluation is Emma Dunlop, Scottish Cancer PROMs Advisory Group Co-Chair, who can also be contacted at emma.dunlop@strath.ac.uk.

Want to explore the Toolkit first? [View the Scottish Cancer PROMs Toolkit](#) The evaluation is open until 31 October 2026. Please feel free to share this opportunity with colleagues who may also be interested.

CANCER OLDER PEOPLES SERVICE

COPS CHRONICLE

Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment: Enhancing Cancer Care through MDT Collaboration



The G8 screening tool helps identify older people with cancer who may benefit from a CGA. At COPS, CGAs are holistic, considering frailty, function, mobility, cognition, mental health, medications, and social factors to develop a personalised care plan based on what matters most to the patient.

CGA AND ONCOLOGY - DOES IT HELP?

Evidence suggests that following a **CGA**:

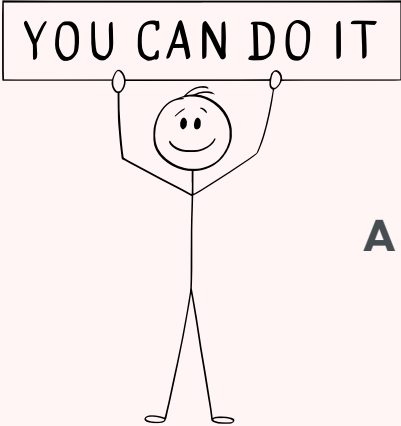
- 1. Patient Outcomes are **improved**.
- 2. Patients are more likely to **complete treatment and experience less severe toxicities**.
- 3. The patient and team **produce problem lists** and **develop goal-driven interventions** to tackle these.
- 4. Hospital re-admissions are **reduced**.

THE G8 GERIATRIC SCREENING TOOL

The total **G-8 score** lies between **0 and 17**.

A **higher** score indicates a **better** health status.

Not sure if your patient would benefit from CGA? A G8 frailty screen is a great starting point. COPS is happy to support, if you need.



G8 questionnaire	
Items	Possible answers (score)
Has food intake declined over the past 3 months due to loss of appetite, digestive problems, chewing or swallowing difficulties?	0 : severe decrease in food intake 1 : moderate decrease in food intake 2 : no decrease in food intake
Weight loss during the last 3 months:	0 : weight loss > 3 kg 1 : does not know 2 : weight loss between 1 and 3 kgs 3 : no weight loss
Mobility	0 : bed or chair bound 1 : able to get out of bed/chair but does not go out 2 : goes out
Neuropsychological problems:	0 : severe dementia or depression 1 : mild dementia or depression 2 : no psychological problems
Body Mass Index (BMI (weight in kg) / (height in m ²))	0 : BMI < 19 1 : BMI = 19 to BMI < 21 2 : BMI = 21 to BMI < 23 3 : BMI = 23 and > 23
Takes more than 3 medications per day	0 : yes 1 : no
In comparison with other people of the same age, how does the patient consider his/her health status?	0 : not as good 0.5 : does not know 1 : as good 2 : better
Age	0 : >85 1 : 80-85 2 : <80
TOTAL SCORE	0 - 17

A **threshold** is suggested at **14 points**, meaning that a patient with a **score of 14 or lower** should undergo **full geri-evaluation**.

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HOW TO REFER TO THE COPS TEAM:

INPATIENTS: All referrals to be done on Trakcare.

**Beatson WOS Cancer Centre Patients Only*

ITEM LOCATION: CANCER OLDER PEOPLES SERVICE

*THERE ARE POSTERS TO ASSIST WITH THIS IN EACH DOCTOR'S ROOM



Please use the G8 screening tool (found in the **medical admission notes**) for every patient aged 65 years and older. A score of 14 or below indicates the need for further assessment. Please refer to the COPS team as soon as possible.

OUTPATIENTS:

For all outpatient referrals - please email GGC.COPS@nhs.scot with patient information, concerns, referral needs and cancer diagnosis.



PATIENT CRITERIA & WHAT WE DO

Referral Criteria

1. Aged **65 and over**

2. Attending the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre (BWoSCC), **including umbrella clinics**, with a confirmed cancer diagnosis,

3. Patients presenting with **one or more frailty characteristics or complex comorbidities**, including:

- Challenges with **activities of daily living** (ADLs)
- **Falls** or high falls risk
- Reduced or declining **mobility**
- **Delirium**, cognitive change, or memory concerns
- **Continence** issues
- Treatment-related **side effects** impacting function
- **Anxiety** or psychological distress affecting engagement or care
- Palliative or supportive **care needs**
- **Equipment** or environmental adaptation needs

A 'one-stop shop' supportive oncology and haematology service for older people with cancer and frailty. Our multidisciplinary onco-geriatric team provides holistic assessment and support, including medical review, symptom management, polypharmacy review, social support, equipment provision, and onward referral to hospital- and community-based services. We can see patients at any point in their cancer journey, including before, during, or after treatment, to support function, safety, and quality of life.