

## Authors:

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Category: Population Health and Health Services

## Background

The Family Practice Oncology Network (FPON) was established in 2002 as a means to enhance family physicians' abilities to provide cancer care, including the administration of systemic therapy and supportive care, in rural communities. FPON evolved to offer continuing medical education (CME) programming and cancer care practice tools to support family physicians in BC/Yukon:

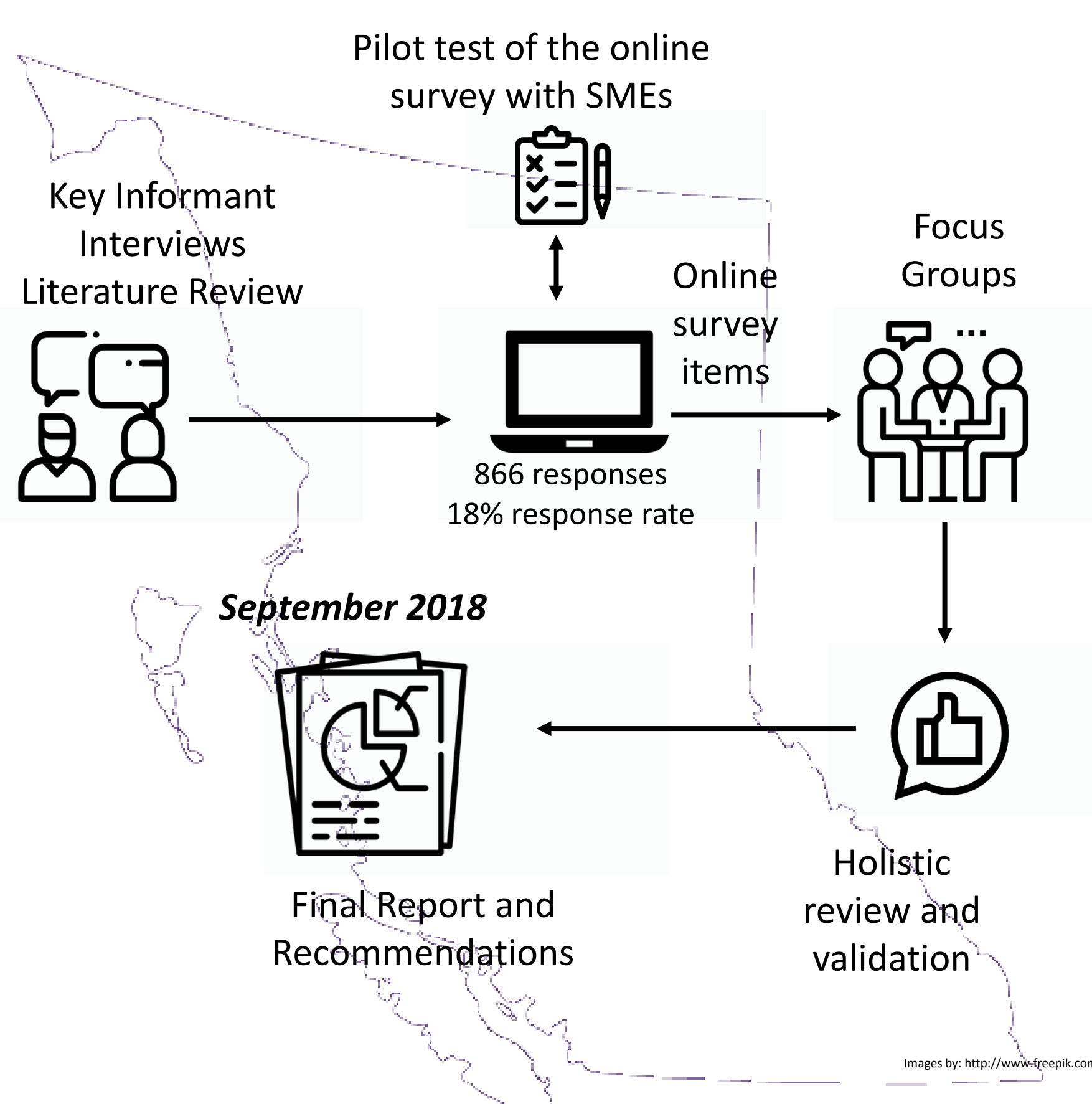
- ❖ GPO Education Program 2x yearly
- ❖ Monthly Oncology CME Webcasts
- ❖ Primary Care Cancer Guidelines
- ❖ Journal of Family Practice Oncology 2x yearly
- ❖ Family Practice Oncology CME Day
- ❖ GPO Case Study Day
- ❖ Community Cancer Care Workshops

In 2017, with a 40% increase in cancer diagnoses projected by 2030, BC Cancer committed to provide significantly more support to family physicians through more effective integration of primary care into the continuum of cancer care and the work of BC Cancer. The Provincial Primary Care Program (evolution of FPON) was established, a Provincial Lead appointed, and efforts began to determine the focus and direction of this enhanced support network.

To inform the evolution of the Provincial Primary Care Program, a province-wide need assessment was conducted in partnership with the UBC Division of Continuing Professional Development. This needs assessment aimed to determine the current and ongoing unmet needs of family physicians (FPs) providing care for patient throughout the continuum of cancer care.

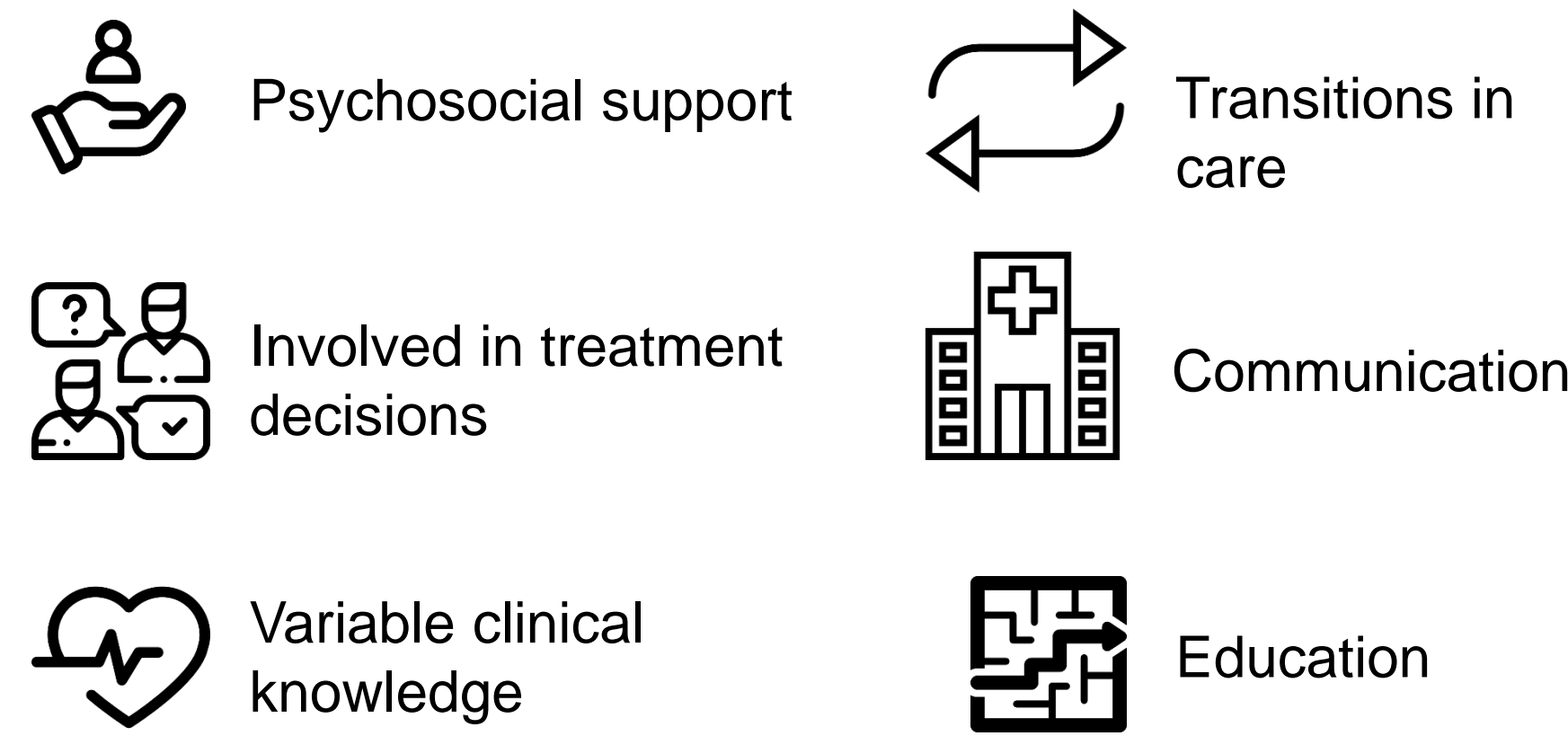
## Methods

The needs assessment was conducted in three phases, with results from each phase informing the next. The phases consisted of nine key informant interviews, followed by a comprehensive online survey, and five focus groups. Each phase of the needs assessment was designed to collect information pertaining to the core issues surrounding the current and future landscape of cancer care and the role that the FPs can play in supporting their patients living with cancer.



## Key Topic Areas

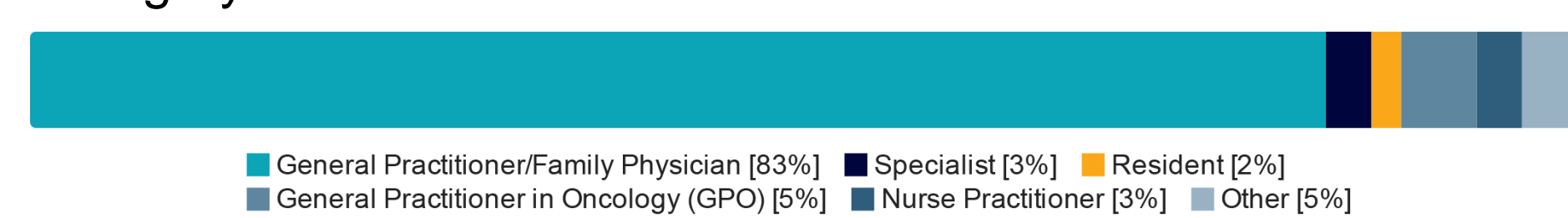
We asked questions within the following key topic areas:



## Results

### Demographic Information

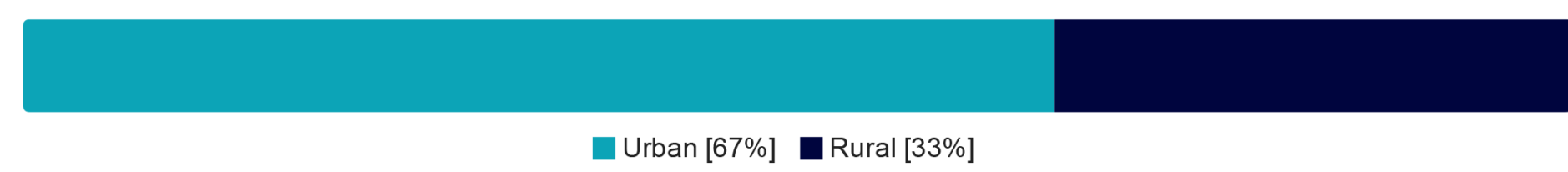
Category of Practice



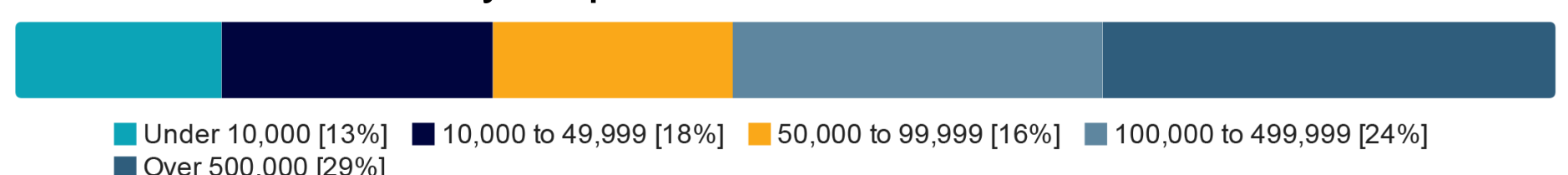
Time in Practice



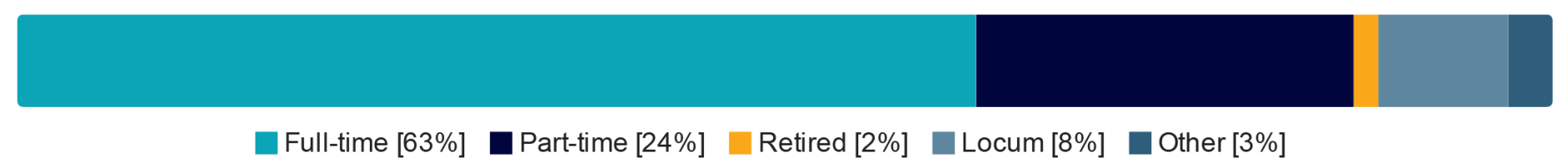
Practice Community Type



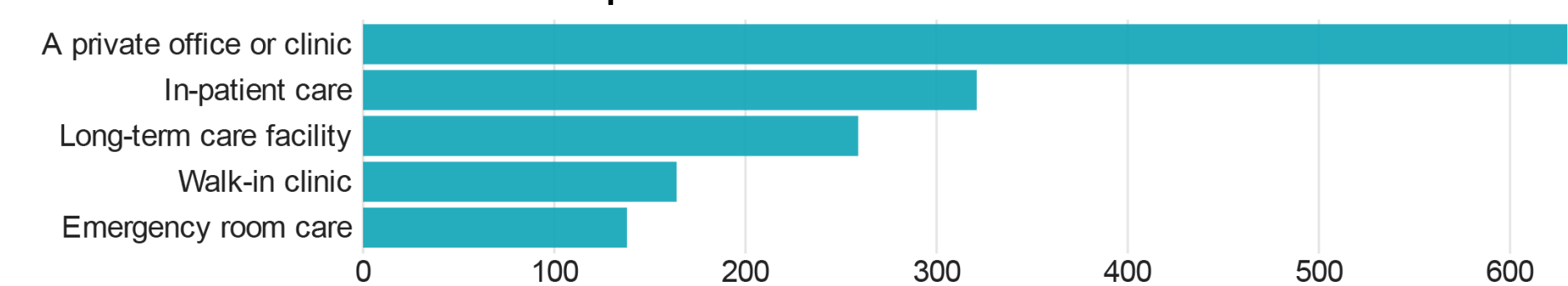
Practice Community Population



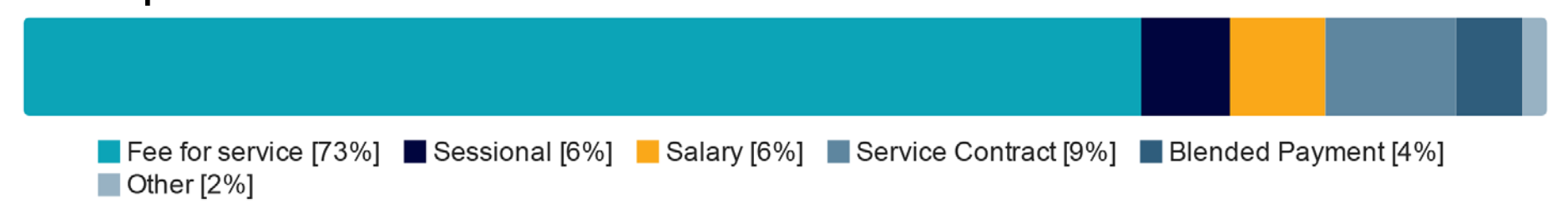
Type of Practice



Practice Location/Description



Compensation Model



## Major Themes and Insights

- Roles and care delivery
- Clinical knowledge
- Communication
- Education barriers
- The role of BC Cancer

"We view ourselves as kind of the grand organizers and guides as the patient goes through the process."

"I have trouble sometimes because I don't have all the information on what treatments were being discussed and so that's a time when it would be really helpful to have that consult letter sent to me quickly."

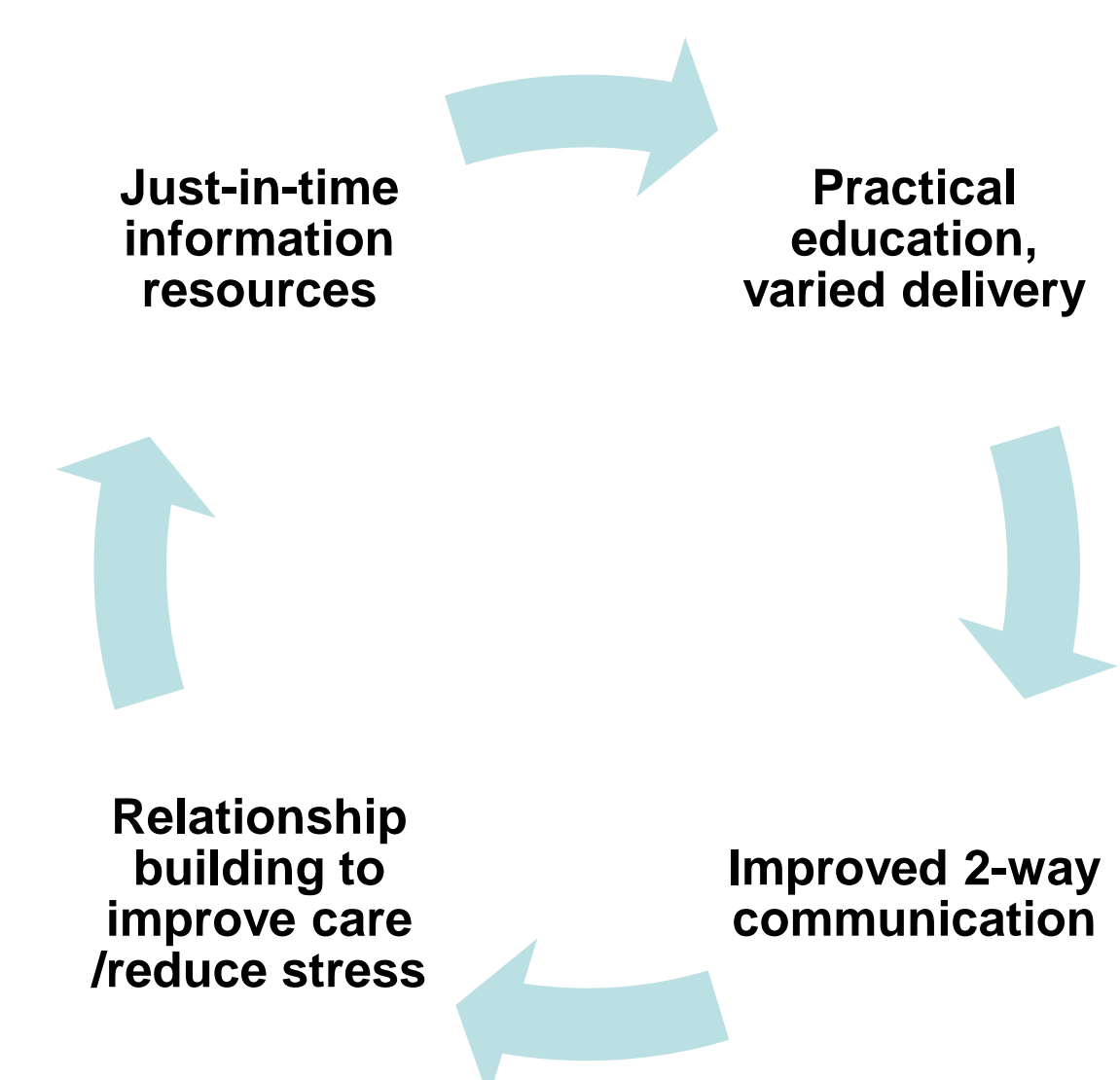
"Referring to BC Cancer is a complex process, hard to get the patient to the right area, or make any choice in who they see, hard to find contact numbers for specialists once they are there."

## Recommendations

### Top Priorities

- ❖ Advocate for improved access to appropriate clinical resources/services for patients (e.g. shorter wait times);
- ❖ Develop practice tools for supporting care for patients with cancer (e.g. treatment algorithms/pathways); and
- ❖ Provide education and training for physicians.

### Areas of Focus

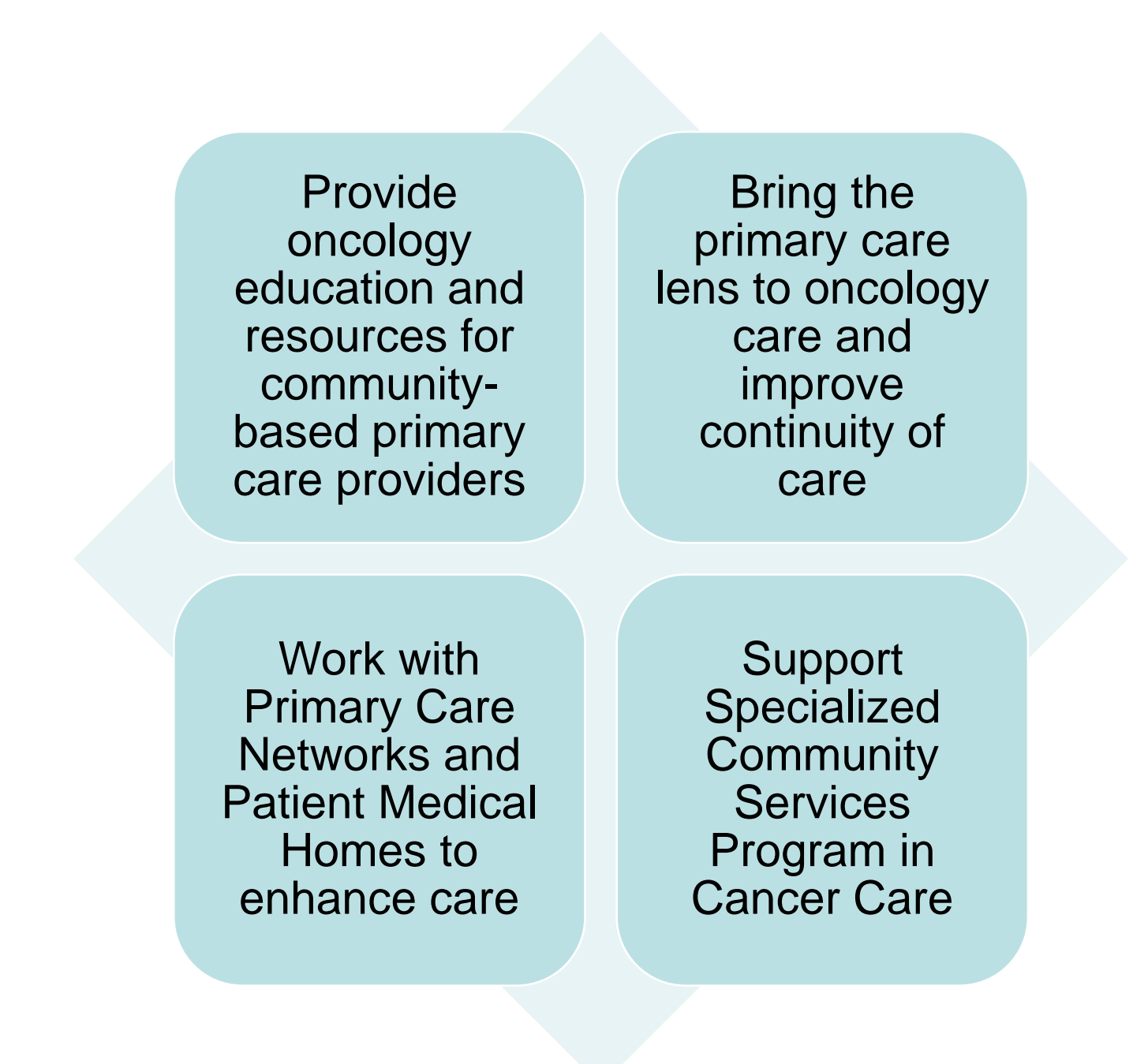


## Building Bridges, Strengthening Care

The results of this province-wide needs assessment will guide the development of BC Cancer's Provincial Primary Care Program and inform BC Cancer's current and future interactions with the primary care system.

All initiatives will align with the forthcoming Ministry of Health/BC Cancer Strategy for Cancer Care including the transformation of family physician practices and health authority primary care clinics into team-based Patient Medical Homes, linked together in team-based Primary Care Networks, and supported by the Specialized Community Services Program now in development.

## Primary Care Program Purpose



## For More Information

The Executive Summary of the Family Practice Oncology Network Primary Care Needs Assessment September 2018 is available at [www.fpon.ca](http://www.fpon.ca) along with full details on all our programs and initiatives.

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