**Title:** Acceptability, Facilitators, and Barriers to Implementing a Short Brief Intervention for Alcohol Counseling in the Oncology Setting

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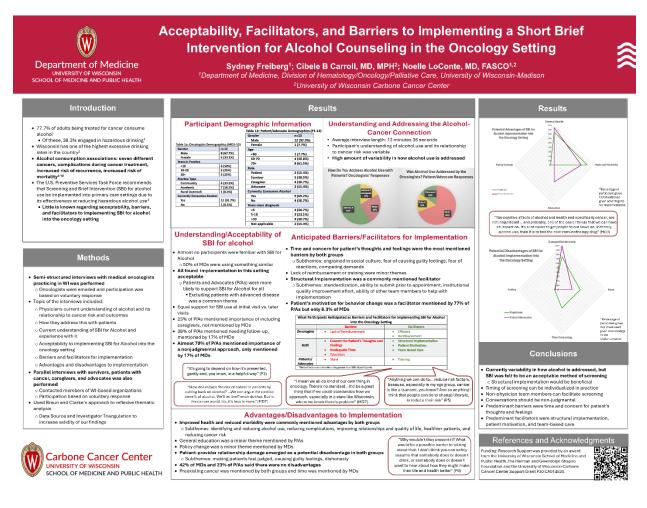
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#### **Scientific Poster:**



#### **Written Lay Abstract:**

Drinking alcohol can increase the chance of getting cancer, cause complications during cancer treatment, increase the chance of recurrence (getting cancer again), and increase the chance of dying from cancer. Having more than 14 drinks in a week is called excessive or hazardous drinking because it is linked to worse cancer and health outcomes.

2 out of 3 adults being treated for cancer continue to drink alcohol, and 1 in 3 of these adults do hazardous drinking. Wisconsin has one of the highest hazardous drinking rates in the US.

The US Preventive Services Task Force recommends that healthcare workers screen adults using Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for alcohol drinking. This SBI is very good at lowering hazardous drinking, but we do not know how best to start using it in cancer clinics.

To see how the SBI for alcohol drinking could be used in cancer clinics, the researchers interviewed 12 oncologists (cancer doctors), and 13 people who were cancer survivors, cancer patients, caregivers of cancer patients, or cancer patient advocates.

Researchers asked what they knew about alcohol and cancer, how oncologists talk to their patients about alcohol, what they knew about the SBI for alcohol, and their thoughts on starting to use the SBI.

Researchers found that none of the people interviewed knew about the SBI for alcohol. Only half of the oncologists talked to patients about alcohol as a risk factor for cancer. Everyone thought that the SBI was a good idea to use in cancer clinics, though. Patients and advocates shared that it is important to talk about alcohol use in a non-judgmental way, but oncologists usually did not mention this.

# How to talk about alcohol and cancer risk

# What's the problem?





2 in 3 adults with cancer drink alcohol, but often do not know this can cause worse health outcomes



## What did we study?

We asked 12 cancer doctors and 13 people with cancer experiences about how to discuss alcohol drinking and cancer risk.

## What did we find?

Cancer doctors do not regularly talk with patients about alcohol and cancer risk. Patients want doctors to talk with them about alcohol in a non-judgmental way.

## What's next?

In cancer settings, doctors can use a tool called Screening and Brief Intervention for alcohol drinking and non-judgmental terms to talk about alcohol and cancer risk.



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