

Consider Cancer Patient Navigation in your community

In a hospital. In a clinic. This toolkit provides an overview of what Cancer Patient Navigation is and why it is important. Through this information, you will understand more about Cancer Patient Navigation and resources for information on starting patient navigation in your setting.

Learn more about this important C-Change initiative

The mission of C-Change, an innovator in the advancement of cancer issues, is to leverage the combined expertise and resources of its members to eliminate cancer as a public health problem at the earliest possible time. This comprehensive toolkit, including a DVD and Web site, highlights the important aspects of Cancer Patient Navigation and helps you visualize a program in your organization.

Cancer Patient Navigation

- Can help save lives
- Can help to overcome barriers to quality care
- Can be tailored to meet the needs of the community and the institution.

Cancer Patient Navigation is your answer to "How do I serve my cancer patients better?"

Mission of C-Change

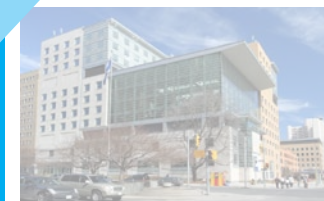
C-Change is comprised of the nation's key cancer leaders from government, business, and nonprofit sectors. These cancer leaders share the vision of a future where cancer is prevented, detected early, and cured or is managed successfully as a chronic illness.

The underlying principles of C-Change is to leverage the leadership and expertise of all sectors of society to eliminate cancer as a major public health problem at the earliest possible time. C-Change is both a forum and a catalyst for identifying issues and major challenges facing the cancer community and for initiating collaborative actions to complement the efforts of individual C-Change Members.

Cancer Patient Navigation:

Care for your Community

A GUIDE TO
COMMUNITY
NAVIGATION



Collaborating to Conquer Cancer

1776 Eye Street, NW
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
www.c-changetogether.org



Collaborating to Conquer Cancer

Patient Benefits

- Improved access to cancer screening and diagnostics
- Improved access to timely medical treatment
- Improved prognosis with early identification and treatment of cancer
- Improved coordination of care
- Improved comfort level with health care providers and the health care system
- Improved access to financial resources
- Improved access to support resources

Organizational Benefits

- Earlier identification of patients with cancer, and better prognosis
- Improved coordination of care with cancer providers in the health care system and in the community
- Identification and removal of systemic barriers in access to care
- Improved efficiency in use of resources
- Improved patient satisfaction with cancer treatment experience
- Improved integration of the community's cancer support resources
- Enhanced connection to the cultural and geographic community

Organizational Considerations

- Community Needs Assessment
- Community Engagement
- Integration into Health Care and Community Systems
- Funding and Sustainability
- Training and Supervision
- Cultural and Community Competence
- Evaluation

Patient navigation in cancer care refers to individualized assistance offered to patients, families, and caregivers to help overcome health care system barriers and facilitate timely access to quality medical and psychosocial care from pre-diagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience.

Cancer Patient Navigators guide a patient through the physical, emotional and financial challenges that come with a cancer diagnosis.

Improve Patient Care



Cancer Patient Navigation Programs are designed to help patients receive the best care possible. And they help the team that serves patients provide better care. Cancer Patient Navigation is not the cure for the disease, but it can be the lifesaver for the patient.

C-Change Cancer Patient Navigation Program/Services Essential Components

Quality patient navigation programs and services in cancer care should be:

- Individualized and patient driven (offered, not imposed)
- Culturally sensitive (acceptable to patients and families)
- Affordable and widely available
- Tailored to specific settings, i.e., screening sites, outpatient clinics, hospitals, etc. (some patient navigators may have limited roles)
- Staffed by trained professionals or nonprofessionals (patient navigator skills matched to tasks)
- Based on psychosocial assessment (and/or use of screening/assessment tools) appropriate to assistance sought or problems identified
- Capable of addressing a wide range of patient/family needs and issues (information and/or education about specific diseases and/or the cancer care system, facilitating access to screening/diagnostic tests/ treatment, help with communication/decision making, linking to financial, legal, educational resources, client advocacy to overcome any barriers encountered) *
- Problem and solution focused
- Capable of accessing current cancer information and resource databases *
- Accountable (record keeping, statistical reporting, oversight, evaluation)

*Smaller, community based programs may be valuable and meet a very specific need to facilitate access to care, but because of funding and/or staffing issues, may not be capable of having particular components in place.

Developed by C-Change Access Team 5/04