INTEGRATING CANCER-RELATED EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS INTO PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE

In order to most effectively navigate their patients from diagnosis through cancer survivorship, psychosocial care providers must not only be armed with up-to-date knowledge about employment and health insurance options, but they must also be given concrete tools and strategies for conducting clinical assessments that address a wide spectrum of psychosocial needs.

ABOUT US:

cancerandcareers

Cancer and Careers is a national nonprofit organization that empowers and educates people with cancer to thrive in their work environment by providing expert advice, interactive tools and educational events.

NAVIGATING CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Navigating Cancer Survivorship is a national non-profit organization that provides education and resources on cancer survivorship issues through educational events, a speakers bureau, expert authors, and online information and resources.

ABOUT THE IN-SERVICE:

- When patients have a better understanding of how to obtain and keep health insurance coverage, take time off work if needed, access workplace protections and accommodations, and manage financial stressors associated with cancer care, they are more likely to have better health outcomes. Psychosocial oncology healthcare professionals are well-equipped to provide essential support as well as crucial information that patients need to make educated decisions about treatment options, working through treatment or taking time off, paying for their healthcare, and maintaining their financial stability.
- The In-Service training provides healthcare professionals with key information to help them guide their patients towards practical information and resources and better understand the circumstances of their patients and their caregivers.

EMPLOYMENT & HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES FACING CANCER SURVIVORS:

- In a 2010 survey by LIVESTRONG, 40% of cancer survivors who were asked about the practical concerns they faced specifically mentioned employment issues, and 23% of those individuals did not receive any assistance related to those issues.
- Patients who are not offered information on managing work issues associated with their cancer are four times more likely to report that their work life has suffered because of their cancer (CancerBACUP, 2005).
- 20% of cancer survivors still report work limitations affected by cancer-related problems 5 years after diagnosis (Work & Cancer Survivors).
- Nearly 50 million people in the United States lack health insurance coverage (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).
- 53% of American households cut back on healthcare in some way over the previous year because of cost concerns (Kaiser, 2009).

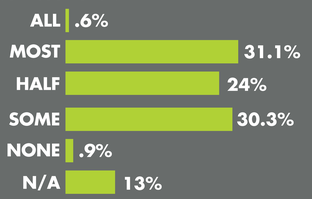
A POTENTIAL ROLE FOR ONCOLOGY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS:

- The Institute of Medicine called for healthcare teams to address the whole patient (2008), including psychological and social problems created or exacerbated by cancer. The IOM report warned that failing to address employment, health insurance, and financial concerns may threaten a patient's return to health.

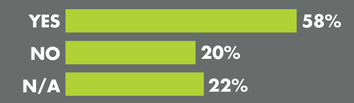
NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Survey responses from 2,350 registrants to Cancer and Careers' Educational Series for Healthcare Professionals:

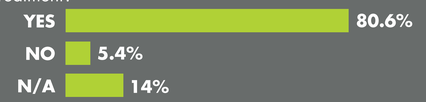
How many of your patients work through treatment or return to work soon after?



Do your patients ask you to help them determine if they are ready to return to work?

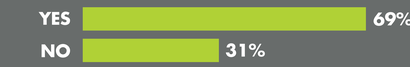


Do your patients with cancer ask for guidance on working through treatment?

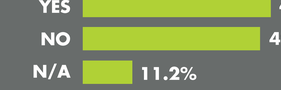


Are you familiar with the protections provided to cancer patients under the Americans with Disabilities Act?

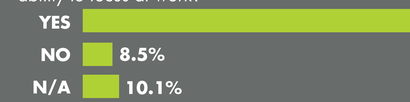
Are you familiar with the protections provided to cancer patients under the Family and Medical Leave Act?



Have you ever advised a patient to seek legal advice for a work-place related issue?



Do your patients complain of chemo brain and its impact on their ability to focus at work?



SPEAKERS

- *Joanna L. Fawzy Morales, Esq.*

–Joanna L. Morales, Esq. has served the cancer community as a cancer rights attorney, advocate, speaker, and author for more than 19 years. She is currently CEO of Navigating Cancer Survivorship, and was formerly an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School, teaching cancer rights law.

- *Rebecca V. Nellis, MPP*

–Rebecca V. Nellis is the Vice President of Programs & Strategy at Cancer and Careers, where she has launched numerous programs, oversees long-term strategy for growth and speaks regularly at national cancer conferences, community events and to press on the practical issues of balancing a diagnosis and employment.

AGENDA

- Overview (30 min.)
- Newly Diagnosed (75 min.)
- Working Through Treatment (60 min.)
- Taking Time off Work (75 min.)
- Returning to Work (90 min.)
- Health Insurance / Healthcare Reform (90 min.)

LOCATIONS TO-DATE

- December 12, 2012, Cancer*Care*, New York, NY
- January 25, 2013, Cancer Support Community—Benjamin Center, Los Angeles, CA

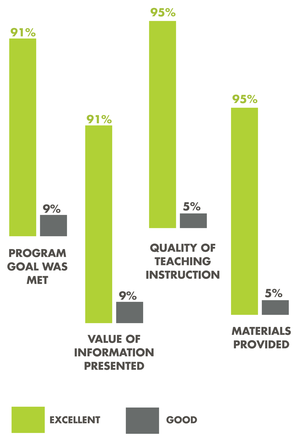
UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 10, 2013, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
- May 31, 2013, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION STAFF WHO HAVE ATTENDED

- Cancer Support Community (Westchester, NY and Redondo Beach, Pasadena, and West Los Angeles, CA)
- Cancer*Care*
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation
- St. Joseph Hospital
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of Southern California

IMPACT OF SERVICE



"I liked the interactive experiences – helped to integrate the materials a bit more. There is just so much wonderful info and you make it sound easy. But I realized I didn't have full understanding of some things when we had to discuss in smaller groups. I need to practice more or attend more trainings. THANKS!"

"I greatly enjoyed today! Both presenters were more than informed on all topics – WEALTH OF INFORMATION that I can bring back to job."

"Thoroughly enjoyed entire day, and you both shared so much info that can be very useful in every day practice."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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