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.

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.

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 and are more likely to report that their work life has suffered because of their cancer (CancerAUCP, 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).

SURVEY RESULTS:

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

- Are you familiar with the protections provided to cancer patients under the Americans with Disabilities Act?
  - Yes: 43%
  - No: 57%
- Are you familiar with the protections provided to cancer patients under the Family and Medical Leave Act?
  - Yes: 31%
  - No: 69%
- Have you ever advised a patient to seek legal advice for a workplace place-related issue?
  - Yes: 48.8%
  - No: 51.2%

A POTENTIAL ROLE FOR ONCOLOGY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS:

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.

NaviGating Cancer Survivorship

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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.

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