Care Coordination for Cancer Survivors

An individual is considered a cancer survivor from the time of diagnosis until the end of their life. Of the more than 1 million adult cancer survivors in New York State (NYS), many have complex physical and psychosocial health care needs that may require multiple providers and treatments in varied care settings. This can make post-cancer treatment care fragmented, resulting in unmet needs and poor health outcomes.²

In NYS, compared to adults without a cancer diagnosis, adult cancer survivors are significantly more likely to report having a personal doctor (Figure 1). Adult cancer survivors are also significantly more likely to receive a routine check-up within the past year (than adults without a cancer diagnosis) (Figure 2).

Because of survivors’ higher likelihood of engagement with primary care, there are opportunities for more organized, coordinated, and systematic care. Effective communication between oncology and primary care teams throughout the cancer continuum could ensure well-coordinated, evidence-based care for survivors. The use of survivorship care plans and adherence to survivorship care guidelines can facilitate a collaborative and standardized approach to quality cancer care.³

**Public Health Opportunity**

A coordinated approach, including strategies outlined in the NYS Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, includes:

- Use of standardized survivorship care plans among oncology and primary care providers.
- Increased awareness among oncology and primary care and use of existing cancer survivorship care guidelines such as those published by the American Cancer Society and American Society of Clinical Oncology.
- Share best practices related to the benefits of survivorship coordinators and navigators located in pediatric and adult oncology centers.
- Complete the GW Cancer Center’s Cancer Survivorship E-Learning Series for Primary Care Providers.

For more information, please send an e-mail to BCDER@health.ny.gov with IFA #2021-08 in the subject line. To access other Information for Action reports, visit the NYSDOH public website: [http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm)

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