Role of Patient Navigation and A Team Approach to Coordinated Care

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CRC as a worldwide health problem

- **CRC Global Statistics:**
  - 3rd highest incidence rate (~1,200,000/yr)
  - 4th highest mortality rate (~608,000/yr)
Epidemiology and Natural History

- 141,210 patients will be diagnosed and 49,700 will die from the disease (2015 estimates)
- The second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States (men and women combined)
- 5-year survival is less than 12%

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<th>Deaths per year</th>
<th>Deaths per month</th>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>49,700</td>
<td>4,141</td>
<td>136</td>
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Breast Cancer Nation
You have CANCER!!

Fear!!!!
What do patients really want?
The Conspiracy To End Cancer
It is a team sport …..
Continuum of Care

**Oncology care team:** Medical Oncologists, Surgical oncologists, Radiation oncologists, Interventional radiologists, Clinical nurse coordinator, Research team, Chemotherapy nurse, and Oncology nurses.
Colon cancer is not one disease

- Exploit differences to personalize treatment
Stage II colon cancer is not one disease

- Exploit differences to personalize treatment
Stage II colon cancer is not one disease

- Exploit differences to personalize treatment

- Chemotherapy
- Pain control
- Social support
Stage II colon cancer is not one disease

- Exploit differences to personalize treatment

Chemotherapy
Pain control
Social support
Financial support
What Is Patient Navigation?
The original concept of patient navigation was pioneered in 1990 by Dr. Harold P. Freeman, a surgical oncologist at Harlem Hospital, for the purpose of eliminating barriers to timely cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and supportive care.
What Is Patient Navigation?

- Patient navigation is a process by which an individual—a patient navigator—guides patients with a suspicious finding (e.g., test shows they may have cancer) through and around barriers in the complex cancer care system to help ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.¹ Barriers to quality care fall into a number of categories:²
  - Financial and economic
  - Language and cultural
  - Communication
  - Health care system
  - Transportation
  - Fear

²Freeman HP. Voices of a Broken System: Real People, Real Problems. President's Cancer Panel: Report of the Chairman 2000-
Patient navigator roles & responsibilities
What is a Patient Navigator?

- **Patient Navigators** are healthcare extenders that guide patients through and around barriers in the complex healthcare system. These health professionals guide patients through the healthcare system, helping them overcome obstacles faced in accessing or receiving treatment.

- **Nurse Navigators** should not be doing what laypeople can do, such as financial and logistical care, so that they can focus, rather, on the medical treatment of the individual.
What responsibilities does a Patient Navigator have?

- Ensuring that their patients feel comfortable and guided in an efficient way is a top priority for navigators. Leading the concept of patient-centered care, these professionals aim to make their treatments and patient journeys as simple as possible.

- According to The National Cancer Institute, some responsibilities include:
  - Coordinating appointments with providers to ensure timely delivery of diagnostic and treatment services.
  - Maintaining communication with patients, survivors, families, and the health care providers to monitor patient satisfaction with the cancer care experience.
What responsibilities does a Patient Navigator have?

- Ensuring that appropriate medical records are available at scheduled appointments.
- Arranging language translation or interpretation services.
- Facilitating financial support and helping with paperwork.
- Arranging transportation and/or child/elder care.
- Facilitating linkages to follow-up services.
Patient Navigators Compared with Other Support Workers

- Proactive: Deliver specific services
- Address individual patients only

Social Workers and Case Managers
- Proactive: Deliver specific services
- Address individual patients and healthcare systems

Navigators
- Reactive: Seek solutions to a variety of problems
- Address individual patients only

Community Outreach Workers
- Reactive: Seek solutions to a variety of problems
- Address individual patients and healthcare systems

Advocates

Source: Dohan and Schrag, Using Navigators to Improve Care of Underserved Patients, Cancer 104, no. 4 (2005): 8484-855.
Role of the Nurse Navigator

- Initial contact
- Gather basic history, diagnosis, and treatment information
- Direct to appropriate physician or outside source
- Retrieve records from all sources
- Schedule patient for initial consultation
Challenges

- Large work volume
- Medical records departments are overloaded with requests
- Unable to accommodate all patients
- Difficult patients/family members
An RN? Really?

- Expertise, experience, medical knowledge, passion
- Nursing is more than laying hands on a patient
- Satisfaction from knowing you were there for someone at their darkest hour and offered hope
- Evenings, holidays, weekends at home
It is a team sport .....
“Together we shall defeat cancer, together we shall win, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight for the cure; we shall never surrender”

All of us together
THANK YOU

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