



Newsletter

CANCER CONSULTANTS OF AMERICA

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CANCER AND UNDERSTANDING®

Cancer Answers The Cancer Care Team

The July Newsletter will focus on the caregiver of the cancer patient. This information will be shared in a two-part series. The first edition was released at the beginning of July and focused on the individual caregiver. The second edition features information focused on the practice of caregiving by a group of people.

Throughout the cancer journey the demands of care usually increase which can be overwhelming for one person to satisfy. When possible, it can be beneficial to develop a plan of care that involves multiple caregivers to provide for the cancer patient. The outreach for care can include members of the family, community, religious organizations, and medical associations. These individuals will bring their professional talents that can be leveraged while providing care for the cancer patient. Taken together, an assembled cancer care team unites a variety of strengths and skills focused on the cancer patient and family during a very stressful time in life.

At the outset of the formation of the care team, communication and transparency need to be emphasized. These two elements are crucial at the beginning of the cancer journey so the team members have a clear understanding for the level of commitment and involvement that are associated to their specific role of care. Following the formation of the care team a plan can be developed that designates specific duties to people allowing them to demonstrate their strengths to meet the anticipated needs during the cancer journey. For example, one caregiver can be assigned to attend all medical appointments, take notes, and report back to the family with updates. An ideal candidate for this position will be an administrative assistant who is accustomed to these important tasks. Another caregiver can serve as the at-home medical support for the cancer patient. This role can be assigned to an individual with a career in the medical setting. An often overlooked element to this team includes keeping current with the financial obligations of the cancer patient and their family. This can be a difficult position to assign due to the sensitive nature of finances. However, delegating these responsibilities to someone with a career in accounting or bookkeeping will be best suited to understand the delicate nature of this position and the need for privacy. An additional team member can perform the errands, grocery shopping, house cleaning, meal preparation, and other tasks in an effort to assist the spouse or partner of the cancer patient. By assembling a team to serve as caregivers for the cancer patient, the demands of one person are reduced and allows for members of the family, community, and organizations to be emotionally connected to the cancer patient as well as to each other.

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It is common practice for a loved one to assume all the caregiving roles that are needed to provide quality care for the cancer patient. While the caregiver's heart is in the right place, at some point in time the level of care and maintaining quality of life during the cancer journey will reach a critical level. Organizing a cancer care team with assigned roles that utilizes individual strengths can alleviate the burden that is often experienced by single care provider.

The cancer journey is typically a once-in-a-lifetime experience that few people are prepared to embark. Below is a list of helpful resources designed to assist cancer care providers. For additional resources, please contact Cancer Consultants Of America.

- **Care Team Formation Resources provided by CaringBridge:**
caringbridge.org
- **Caregiver provided by the Florida Cancer Connect:**
flcancerconnect.com/caregiver
- **Caregivers Support provided by the Cancer Support Community:**
cancersupportcommunity.org/caregivers
- **Support Groups for Cancer Caregivers provided by Cancer Care:**
cancercare.org/support_groups

Submit your **Cancer Answers** topics to info@CancerConsultantsOfAmerica.com

We Are Available to You


Please contact us today if you would like more information about how our services can benefit you and your family.


Services:


- Individual and Family Cancer Education
- Medical Appointment Liaison Services
- Information Seminars and Public Speaking Events


Fun Facts – July

Cancer Awareness Month:

- Sarcoma and Bone Cancer (Yellow) 

July 2 – World UFO Day 

July 7 – World Chocolate Day 

July 17 – World Emoji Day 

July 21 – National Ice Cream Day (USA) 


July 26 – Aunt and Uncle Day 


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