The Commission on Cancer Survivorship Care Plan Standard 3.3: Implementation Is Underway

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ABSTRACT

Background: The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) established a patient-centered standard requiring the delivery of a Survivorship Care Plan to cancer patients at the conclusion of their treatment. In 2009, CoC members began planning for a major shift in accreditation standards. New accreditation standards were released in 2012, and a Survivorship Care Plan standard was scheduled for phase-in beginning in 2015. Accredited programs are in full implementation mode, and verification surveys to monitor compliance with this standard began in 2016.


Results: The analysis shows trends in program implementation and details of standard compliance as reported by accredited programs.

Future directions: As programs develop processes for generating care plans for cancer patients completing treatment, further study is needed. Additional study of patient satisfaction, usage, value, and outcomes from oncology providers, primary care providers, and patients is needed. As best practices for process, contents, and efficiencies emerge it will be important for programs to share that information with the broader oncology community.

COMMISSION ON CANCER STANDARD 3.3

The commission committee develops and implements a process to disseminate a treatment summary and follow-up plan to patients who have completed cancer treatment. The process is monitored and evaluated annually by the cancer committee.

Cancer programs must develop and implement processes to monitor the formation and dissemination of a care plan for analytic cases with Stage I, II, or III cancers that are treated with curative intent for initial cancer occurrence and who have completed active therapy. The timing of delivery of the care plan is within one year of the diagnosis of cancer and no later than six months after completion of adjuvant therapy (other than long-term hormonal therapy). The ‘one-year from diagnosis’ requirement to have a plan delivered is extended to 18 months for patients receiving long-term hormonal therapy.

Patients excluded (ineligible) from the Standard 3.3 requirement include:

- Patients with Stage 0 or IV or metastatic disease
- Patients who are pathologically diagnosed but never treated or seen for follow-up by the accredited program

Using this compliance schedule, programs must implement processes to provide Survivorship Care Plans to at least this % of eligible patients completing treatment.

DATA SOURCE

Data are from all cancer programs surveyed by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer in 2016 and pulled from the 2016 Survey Application Record (SAR) completed by those programs and reviewed in aggregate. The data are 2015 compliance data for Standard 3.3: Survivorship Care Plans.

A total of 430 Commission on Cancer-accredited programs reported compliance data for Standard 3.3 in the 2016 Survey Application Record for activity in 2015. Data from 411 cancer programs were used for this analysis. Data from 15 programs were removed due to missing data, and data from four programs were removed because of inaccurate data reporting.

RESULTS

Patients eligible to receive a Survivorship Care Plan
Per Program Range: 2–9,916 patients eligible
Mean: 643 patients eligible
Median: 289
Interquartile Range: 485 (Q1=126, Q3=611)
Total: 399,859 patients eligible

Patients receiving a Survivorship Care Plan
Per Program Range: 0–7,572 patients received
Median: 50
Interquartile Range: 85 (Q1=24, Q3=109)
Total: 79,120 patients received

91,411 cancer programs reported that at least one patient did not show for the care plan review appointment* Per Program Range: 0–330 patients did not show
Mean: 3 patients did not show

72,411 cancer programs reported at least one patient refused the Survivorship Care Plan* Per Program Range: 0–275 patients refused
Mean: 4 patients refused

As reported and on average, 20% of eligible patients completing cancer treatment in 2015 in a Commission on Cancer-accredited program received a Survivorship Care Plan.

*The SAR field was included beginning with the 2016 SAR and may not have been tracked by programs in 2015.

Calculate the Compliance Percentage

Numerator = number of analytic cases with Stage I, II, or III cancers treated with curative intent for their initial cancer occurrence and who have completed active therapy and received a Survivorship Care Plan.

Denominator = the number of analytic cases who have completed active therapy minus the number of patients with Stage 0, IV, or metastatic disease; minus the number of patients who are pathologically diagnosed but never treated or seen for follow-up by the accredited program; minus the number of patients who refuse to receive a care plan; minus the number of patients who ‘no-show’ for their care plan appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Compliance Rate: All CoC accredited programs surveyed in 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>79,120 eligible patients receiving a SCP * 100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>399,859 eligible – 1,931 refused – 1,813 no shows = 20%</td>
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2015 Compliance Rate: 30%

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