Cancer Quality Alliance Proceedings

Introduction

The Cancer Quality Alliance (CQA) fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders to improve cancer care quality. Members of the Alliance include cancer care providers, patient advocacy groups, certifying and accrediting organizations, public and private payers, federal agencies, foundations, and other national organizations involved in improving the quality of cancer care. The Alliance is cochaired by Patricia Ganz, MD (representing ASCO), and Ellen Stovall (representing the National Coalition of Cancer Survivorship).

At the September 2008 meeting of the CQA, more than 45 people convened to participate in an agenda focused on communication and coordination of care, especially related to cancer survivorship. The presentations revealed varied perspectives, but common goals. The following is a series of articles written by CQA presenters to summarize the main points of their presentations. Patricia Ganz opens with a broad overview of the issues relevant to the care of cancer survivors. Terry Mulvey and James Hayman discuss the experiences of medical and radiation oncologists in development of treatment summaries and other documentation for survivorship planning. Marc Horowitz shares progress in the field of pediatric oncology. Michael Feuerstein presents the perspective of the patient transitioning to cancer survivor, with special health and supportive care needs. Finally, Len Lichtenfeld provides a summary of the promises and ongoing challenges the oncology community faces in implementing high-quality cancer survivorship planning and care.

The CQA will continue to focus on this issue, as well as other issues of importance to the cancer community. For more information, go to www.cancerqualityalliance.org.

The Blueprint

Many initiatives are under way that together promise to incrementally improve systems of care; however, until recently, a clear picture of what high-quality cancer care would look like has been missing. During the past year, a major focus of the CQA has been the *Blueprint for Quality Cancer Care*, a set of five cancer care case studies that present examples of systems failures that occur in real life, interventions to overcome these failures, and action steps to be taken to achieve best case care. Together, the scenarios represent a blueprint for action. The *Blueprint* case studies convey a vision of the best cancer care imaginable and, at the same time, achievable.

The *Blueprint* was published in the September/October issue of *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* and is freely available on the *CA* Web site.

ASCO Lung Cancer Treatment Plan and Summary Templates

These forms include a plan component, to be completed prior to chemotherapy treatment, and a summary to be completed following chemotherapy (Data Supplements, online only). To find out more about the plan and templates, visit <http://jop.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/full/5/3/100/DC1>.

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