

CANCER CARE PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS ACT (CCPCA)

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), a cancer survivor, and Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA) introduced H.R. 4414, the Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act, or CCPCA, bipartisan legislation to establish a Medicare service for cancer care planning.

Cancer care planning has been identified as an element of quality cancer care for all Americans. The National Academy of Medicine, medical professional societies, and cancer patients have embraced the idea that all patients should receive a treatment plan from the cancer care team.

- **Benefit to patients:** Provides information patients need to make treatment decisions, coordinates their care, and effectively transition from active treatment to survivorship.
- **Benefit to providers:** Helps ensure the patient is receiving the right care at the right time, care is coordinated, and resources are used effectively.
- **Benefit to the health care system:** Ensures appropriate and effective use of cancer care resources and encourages delivery of high-quality, coordinated care.

HOW WOULD THIS LEGISLATION ENCOURAGE CANCER CARE PLANNING?

The legislation would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning. A plan can be developed and shared with the Medicare beneficiary at several points in the cancer care continuum, including:

- At the time of diagnosis, for the purposes of planning initial active treatment;
- When there is any substantial change in the condition of the individual, recurrence of disease, changes in the individual's treatment preferences, or significant revision of the elements of curative care or symptom management for the individual; and
- At the completion of primary treatment for cancer - when the plan may serve as a follow-up survivorship care plan.

URGENT NEED FOR CANCER CARE PLANNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic resulted in significant early disruptions to cancer care. Treatment and surgeries were delayed, screening for cancer has been postponed dramatically, and vulnerable patients were initially urged to stay away from oncology clinics. Providers made important adjustments to their practices, to protect patients and themselves, and cancer care is resuming significantly.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) granted flexibility to providers for the use of telehealth services, and private payers have followed suit. Patients and providers are generally applauding the use of telehealth in cancer care, and experts believe that telehealth is an innovation that will last beyond the pandemic.

However, cancer patients need a treatment plan to protect against disruptions in care, duplication of care, and gaps in the coordination of care.

Cancer care planning, which was an important and needed reform before the COVID-19 pandemic, is now an urgent necessity.

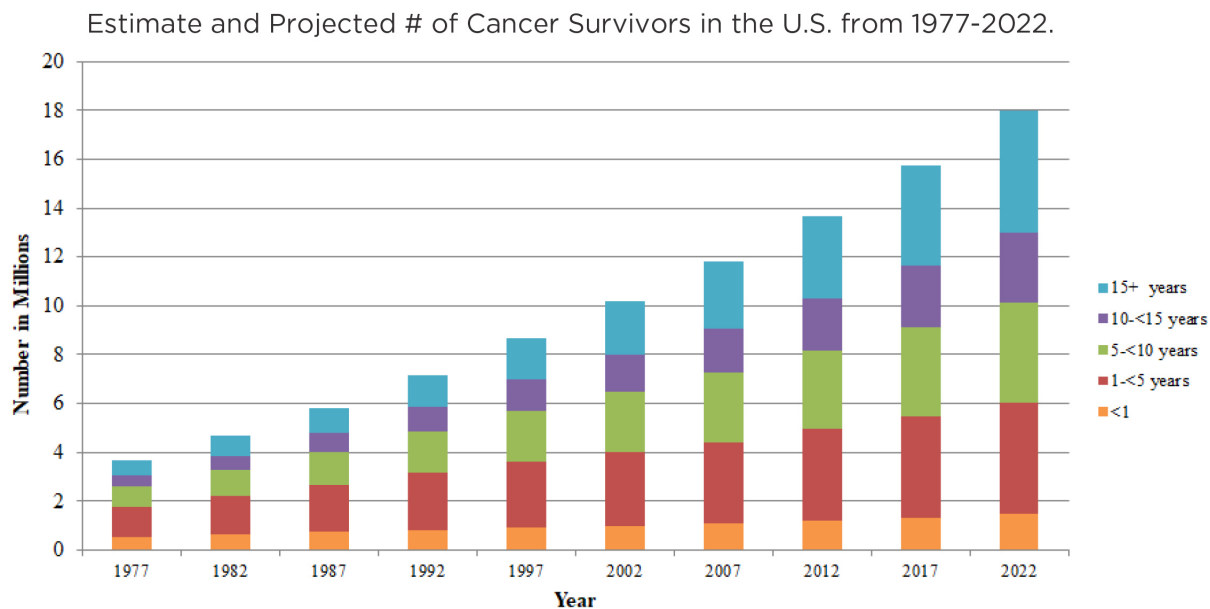
WHY IS A NEW MEDICARE SERVICE NECESSARY?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has placed a high value on care planning and coordination for all Medicare beneficiaries by establishing the transitional care management service and the complex chronic care management service. The Oncology Care Model (OCM) was launched by CMS in 2016 and is a step in the right direction for cancer care planning. Medicare beneficiaries treated in one of the 190 OCM practices have access to a treatment plan, but not necessarily a survivorship care plan. ALL Medicare beneficiaries should have access to this service, not just the ones who receive their care in OCM practices.

IMPORTANCE OF SURVIVORSHIP CARE

The Number and Age of Cancer Survivors is Increasing

- 2019: 16.9 million cancer survivors in the United States
- 2040: NCI estimates 26 million cancer survivors, with 73% age 65+, and only 8% under age 50.



NEED FOR SURVIVORSHIP CARE

More than 17 million cancer survivors in the U.S. live with long-term physical and emotional side effects from their cancer treatment.

- A key recommendation from the 2005 IOM report, “Lost in Translation,” was that cancer survivors should receive an individualized survivorship care plan (SCP) upon completion of treatment.
- Sixteen years later, SCP’s and comprehensive survivorship programs are still evolving.
- In the NCCS’ 2020 State of Cancer Survivorship Survey, only 17% of cancer survivors nationally reported receiving a SCP.

For more information or to support the cancer care planning legislation, please contact Shelley Fuld Nasso, NCCS CEO, at sfuldnasso@canceradvocacy.org or Carl Roberts (Carl.Roberts@mail.house.gov) in Congressman DeSaulnier’s office.

About NCCS

NCCS’ mission is to advocate for quality cancer care for all people touched by cancer. Founded by and for cancer survivors in 1986, NCCS created the widely accepted definition of survivorship and defines someone as a cancer survivor from the time of diagnosis and for the balance of life. NCCS represents the millions of Americans who share a common experience—the survivorship experience—living with, through and beyond a cancer diagnosis.