

# Patient Navigators Focus on Cancer Survivorship

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# **Bridging the Gap Across the Care Continuum**

- Survivorship
  - One in ten individuals has someone in his or her family dealing with cancer<sup>1</sup> and it is projected that 40 percent of the US population will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime<sup>2</sup>
  - Significant barriers exist for both the survivor and the caregiver from the time of diagnosis through the remainder of their life
- Building Bridges - Patient Navigators
  - Patients and Caregivers
    - Navigators are responsible for guiding survivors and caregivers throughout the cancer journey
  - Clinical Team
    - Navigators provide care coordination throughout the silos of oncology and give patients a voice so that their goals and needs are at the forefront and are addressed throughout the care continuum.

# Patient Empowerment and Provider Engagement

- Patient Empowerment
  - Access to care
  - Shared knowledge
  - Respect for preferences
  - Ongoing communication
- Provider Engagement
  - Coordination and Collaboration
  - Accessibility of information

## Understanding Unmet Needs

- Psychosocial/Distress
- Financial Challenges
- Treatment and System Complexity
- Caregiver Support

## Case Study: Psychosocial

44 year old male with nasopharyngeal carcinoma

## Case Study: Financial Toxicity

55 year old man with locally advanced multifocal neglected skin malignancies

## Case Study: Treatment Complexity & Caregiver Support

68 year old female with lung adenocarcinoma

## References

1. Institute of Medicine. *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*. Washington, DC: National Academics Press; 2008.
2. Meijer A, et al. Depression screening and patient outcomes in cancer: a systematic review. *PLoS One*. 2001;6(11): e27181. Available online at [plosone.org/article/infor%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0027181](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0027181).