







Purpose

This guide is intended to help organizations and communities gain a better understanding of how to evaluate survivorship programs designed to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors. This guide will:

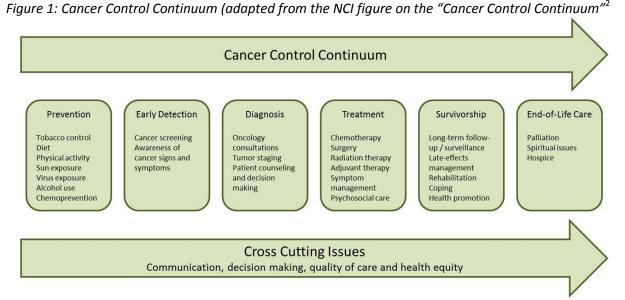
- 1. Identify the phases of cancer survivorship and provide a definition of a survivorship program
- 2. Establish the importance of program evaluation
- 3. Illustrate the quality of life domains and provide examples of program interventions, possible intended outcomes and suggestions for measurement.

What is Cancer Survivorship?

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) defines a **cancer survivor** as "one who remains alive and continues to function from the time of diagnosis until the end of life". The NCI also establishes **cancer survivorship** as covering "the physical, psychosocial and economic issues of cancer, from diagnosis until the end of life. It focuses on the health and life of a person with cancer beyond the diagnosis and treatment phases. Survivorship includes issues related to the ability to get health care and follow-up treatment, late effects of treatment, second cancers and quality of life. Family members, friends and caregivers are also part of the survivorship experience." The NCI's definition of cancer survivor and survivorship are commonly accepted by cancer-focused organizations, providers and cancer centers. In addition to the psychosocial issues recognized by NCI, spirituality is also an integral part of a survivor's life. Many survivorship programs often address one or more of these issues and encourage survivors to work with their health care providers to develop a survivor care plan that includes spiritual as well as physical, emotional and social needs.

For the purpose of this guide, the term survivor refers to anyone who has **completed** active treatment for cancer and survivorship refers to the **post-treatment** phase of the cancer continuum. Cancer survivors may experience a variety of physical, psychosocial and spiritual long-term or late effects as a result of the cancer type, stage of diagnosis and treatment regimen. Furthermore, these effects may vary by the time since treatment ended. Post-treatment survivorship has historically been a neglected phase in the cancer care trajectory, but more programs have been developed over the last decade to address post-treatment needs. However, there is limited published information available to guide the development of interventions aimed at addressing those specific needs identified by post-treatment survivors. To begin addressing this gap, it is important to build a foundation of evidence-based programs focused solely on the post-treatment period of survivorship.

To better understand cancer survivorship, one must first have a basic understanding of the cancer continuum. The cancer control continuum, shown in Figure 1, has been used since the mid-1970's to describe the basic phases of prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship and end-of-life. Advances in cancer biology, treatment, psychosocial and spiritual care have led to an increased understanding of the complexities and interdependencies of the basic categories of the cancer control continuum. Several issues, such as quality of care, health equity, provider communication and decision making are relevant across the continuum and ultimately impact the long-term health and psychosocial outcomes of cancer survivors.¹



For example, survivors just transitioning out of treatment may face issues returning to work or may feel anxious about returning to normal social activities. Survivors may experience distress that may extend along the continuum of care from common, normal feelings of vulnerability, sadness and fear, to problems that become disabling such as depression, anxiety, panic, social isolation and existential spiritual crises. Survivors that are two to five years post-treatment may begin to experience late-term effects due to treatment or have concerns over cancer recurrence. Survivors that are five to 10 years post-treatment may begin to experience additional health concerns, such as heart disease or diabetes, which can interfere with ongoing adjuvant therapies or impact one's ability to manage the follow-up care required for their specific cancer type. Ten years or more post-treatment, cancer survivors may experience a cancer recurrence or new primary cancers, as well as additional psychosocial and spiritual late-effects stemming from the original cancer diagnosis and treatment.¹

Survivors must be proactive in managing post-treatment issues. Adopting healthy behaviors, such as eating fruits and vegetables and cutting back on fatty and sugary foods, getting regular physical activity, avoiding tobacco products and maintaining a relationship with a primary health care provider can help survivors achieve optimal health and improve quality of life during the post-treatment phase. To better achieve positive health outcomes, survivorship programs should be developed and implemented to address the essential components of survivorship care and improve care coordination.

What are the Essential Components of Survivorship Care?

According to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2006 report *From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition*¹, there are four essential components of survivorship care:

- 1. Prevention of recurrent and new cancers, and of other late effects;
- 2. Surveillance for cancer spread, recurrence, or second cancers; assessment of medical and psychosocial late effects;
- Intervention for consequences of cancer and its treatment, for example: medical problems such as lymphedema and sexual dysfunction; symptoms, including pain and fatigue; psychological distress experienced by cancer survivors and their caregivers; and concerns related to employment, insurance, and disability; and
- 4. Coordination between specialists and primary care providers to ensure that all of the survivor's health needs are met. (p. 3)

The IOM report also recommended that care delivery systems facilitate this care in a comprehensive and coordinated way. By better understanding the impact on the intended outcomes of survivorship programs, health care providers and survivors can work together to ensure that the multitude of needs faced during survivorship are adequately addressed.

What is a Survivorship Program?

For the purpose of this guide, a survivorship program is defined as having a goal to maximize the quality of life of survivors and their caregivers. The program should include a comprehensive set of services provided by multidisciplinary groups working together to assure effective medical care, education and emotional support. Communication between and among survivors, their caregivers and providers is essential for the seamless referral, navigation and coordination of these services. This consensus-based definition was developed by the National Cancer Survivorship Resource Center's Quality of Life: Programs and Navigation Workgroup (membership listed on page 10 of this guide).

Survivorship programs should be developed and implemented using evidence-based approaches that are tailored to meet the needs of specific populations. As you develop your program, conducting a needs assessment can help define program components that best meet the needs of the survivor population being served. A needs assessment includes questions such as:

- What are the issues faced by cancer survivors during the post-treatment phases?
- In what ways do cancer survivors want to receive information about long-term and late effects of treatment?
- What are the primary barriers cancer survivors face to receiving survivorship follow-up care?
- What are the gaps in existing programs and services offered to cancer survivors and how can these gaps be addressed?

As the number of clinical survivorship programs implemented since the IOM report has grown, it is increasingly important to evaluate the different programs and services to assess the impact on the physical, psychosocial and spiritual issues faced post-treatment. Better understanding the impact of a program can help develop a standard of care for survivorship programs to ensure that cancer survivors receive quality follow-up care that appropriately addresses the issues often faced during survivorship.

Why Should You Evaluate Your Survivorship Program?

Effectively addressing the post-treatment survivorship needs of the nearly 14 million cancer survivors in the United States is a priority issue for health promotion and cancer control programs across the nation. In order to assure the effective development and implementation of post-treatment survivorship programs, organizations and communities need to emphasize the value of program evaluation and ongoing program improvement.

Program evaluation is an essential component necessary to increase the availability of high-quality, effective programs to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors. Furthermore, evaluation demonstrates the program's ability to reach the intended audience and to achieve the intended outcomes. Program evaluation also helps to build practice-based evidence for interventions, which can (1) inform both public health practice and research agendas and (2) complement rigorously tested evidence-based practices.³

What is a Logic Model?

When you begin developing or implementing your survivorship program, you may find it helpful to create a logic model. A logic model details the types of programmatic activities necessary for program delivery and links these activities to necessary resources to ensure successful implementation. The logic model will map program to outputs, such as the number of participants and how long a participant may have stayed in the program. Outputs help provide initial measurement of program success. For longer term measures of program success, the logic model details the expected short-, intermediate and long-term outcomes of the program. Appendix A provides an example of a logic model for an online self-management workshop for post-treatment cancer survivors. The logic model can be used to guide the development of key questions to evaluate various aspects of the program.

What are Some Evaluation Questions to Measure Program Implementation?

Evaluation questions will be developed to examine program delivery. Evaluating program delivery will help to identify areas of success and potential opportunities for improvement. Here are a few questions you could ask to better understand success of program delivery:

- Which program activities were effective in reaching the intended audience?
- Which elements of program promotion were most successful and why?
- Which program materials and activities were most effective at reaching the program participants?
- What, if any, were the barriers to participants remaining in the program for the full duration?
- What suggestions do participants have for improving the program?
- Would participants recommend the program to others?

What are Some Evaluation Questions to Measure Program Impact?

To ensure a comprehensive evaluation of program impact, one should ask questions that explore the expected short-, intermediate and long-term outcomes. To explore the impact of short-term outcomes, the evaluation should pose questions to determine participant satisfaction and knowledge improvement specific to program objectives. Intermediate outcome evaluation will explore behavior changes related to program intent and may include questions related to functional status, adherence to clinical recommendations or coping and self-management skills. Evaluation of long-term outcomes often includes assessment of morbidity and mortality.

Improving quality of life for cancer survivors is often a key goal of survivorship programs. It is important that program evaluations use reliable and valid tools to measure outcomes; doing so will enable researchers and program directors to develop program standards that leverage successful elements from existing programs and ensure that survivors' needs are being met. The examples in Table 1 illustrate the basic quality of life domains, potential intervention types and suggested outcome measurement tools for non-navigator programs. These examples are not meant to be a comprehensive list of all potential measures and intervention types, but rather are provided to help guide programs to move beyond simply measuring participate satisfaction and begin to evaluate program impact on quality of life and other aspects of survivorship.

Table 1: <u>Examples</u> of Survivorship Program/Intervention Types and Outcome Measurement Tools

Domain Physical	Program/Intervention Type	Indicator	Measurement Tool (Acronyms defined in next section) BFI ⁴ ; EORTC-QOL-30 Fatigue Module ⁵ ; FACIT-Fatigue ^{6,7} ; FSI ⁸ ; POMS-SF Fatigue subscale ⁹		
Fatigue	Physical Activity	Decreased fatigue; improved sleep; increased number of survivors using fatigue self- management strategies; increased education on preventive behaviors and ways to optimize health			
Pain	Relaxation Training (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy)	Decreased pain; better pain management; increased mobility; decreased psychological distress; increased productivity	BPI ¹⁰ ; McGill Pain Questionnaire ¹¹		
Sexual Functioning	Sex Therapy and/or Pharmacologic	Increased physiological arousal; increased interest in sex; increased sexual attractiveness for self and partner; increased ability to achieve orgasm	MOS SPSI ¹² ; CARES-SF Sexual subscale ¹³ ; FSFI ¹⁴		
Psychological					
Fear of Recurrence	Mindfulness (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy)	Less frequent intrusive thoughts of cancer returning, perceived control over the future; decreased cancer-related psychological distress	CARS ¹⁵ ; FCRI ¹⁶ ; IES-R ¹⁷		
Anxiety	Stress Management (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy)	Decreased sense of general worry or fear; decreased isolation; improved coping skills	HADS ¹⁸ ; POMS-SF Anxiety subscale ⁹ ; STAI ¹⁹		
Depression	Coping Skills Training (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy) + Psychoeducation	Increased interest in activities; increased feelings of worthiness; decreased feelings of guilt; increased level of energy; improved level of concentration; decreased sadness	BDI ²⁰ ; CES-D ²¹ ; HADS ¹⁸ ; PHQ-9 ²² ; POMS-SF Depression subscale ⁹		
Social					
Family Distress	Family Therapy	Increased communication; increased family cohesion; improved relationship quality; improved decision making	CCAT-PF ²³ ; FACES-II ²⁴ ; F-COPES ²⁵ ; FES ²⁶ ; FRI ²⁷ ; FSS ²⁸ ; MSPSS ²⁹ ; MOS SSS ³⁰		
Marital Distress	Couples Therapy	Increased relationship satisfaction; increased intimacy; improved sexual function and satisfaction; increased partner appreciation	DAS ³¹ ; DCl ³² ; ENRICH ³³ ; PRCl ³⁴		
Appearance/Body Image	Support Group	Increased self-confidence; decreased isolation	BIAQ ³⁵ ; BIQ ³⁶ ; BIS ³⁷		

Domain	Program/Intervention Type	Indicator	Measurement Tool (Acronyms defined in next section)			
Medical						
Continuity of Care	Survivorship Care Plan	Utilization of a Survivorship Care Plan; improved	Receipt of a Survivorship Care Plan;			
		tracking of service referrals; survivor's	PCDSCS ³⁸ ; PHCS ³⁹ ; SCE ⁴⁰ ; SEMCDS ⁴¹			
		identification of a medical home; improved				
		tracking of referrals to other HCPs/programs;				
		compliance with follow-up recommendations;				
		increased self-efficacy				
Patient-Physician	Communication Skills Training	Initiates discussions with HCP regarding long-term	CASE-C ⁴² ; PSCC ⁴³			
Communication		and late effects; increased discussion with HCP regarding spirituality; increased survivor spiritual				
		well-being; increased survivor satisfaction with				
		care; increased number of conversations about				
		self-managed care strategies				
Spiritual		sen managea care strategies				
Existential Concerns	Training clinicians on appropriate physician-	Increased discussion between patient and	FACIT-SP ⁴⁴ ; SBI-15R ⁴⁵ ; QOL-CS (Spiritual			
Abandonment	patient communication	physician regarding spirituality	Well-being subscale) ⁴⁶ ; DUREL ⁴⁷ ; PTGI ⁴⁸			
Anger						
Concerns about	Mindfulness training	Increased survivor satisfaction				
relationship with deity						
Conflicted or challenged	Spiritual Counseling	Increased survivor spiritual well-being and QOL				
belief systems						
Despair/Hopelessness	Referral to board certified or board eligible	Increased Meaning/Purpose				
Grief/Loss	chaplains	Sense of Hope				
Guilt/Shame	Meaning-centered therapy	Sense of hope				
Reconciliation		Ability to forgive				
Isolation	Dignity Therapy					
Religious-specific		Decreased guilt/shame				
Religious/spiritual	Art Therapy					
struggle		Improved connection with higher power/god,				
Personal Growth	Spiritual Support Groups	nature, the significant or sacred				

Table 1 con't: <u>Examples</u> of Survivorship Program/Intervention Types and Outcome Measurement Tools

Scale Abbreviations

BDI – Beck Depression Inventory

BIAQ – Body Image Avoidant Questionnaire

BIQ – Body Image Questionnaire

BIS – Body Image Scale

BFI – Brief Fatigue Inventory

BPI – Brief Pain Inventory

CCAT-PF – Cancer Communication Assessment Tool for Patients and Families

CARES-SF Sexual subscale – Cancer Rehabilitation Evaluation System-Short Form

CES-D – Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression 10

CASE-C – Communication and Attitudinal Self-Efficacy Scale-Cancer

CARS – Concerns About Recurrence Scale

DAS – Dyadic Adjustment Scale

DCI – Dyadic Coping Inventory

DUREL – Duke University Religion Index

ENRICH – Enriching & Nurturing Relationship Issues, Communication and Happiness

EORTC-QOL-30 Fatigue Module – European Organization for the Research and Treatment of Cancer, Quality of Life

FACES II – Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scales

F-COPES – Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales

FES – Family Environment Scale

FSS – Family Satisfaction Scale

FRI – Family Relationship Index

FSI – Fatigue Symptom Inventory

FCRI – Fear of Cancer Recurrence Inventory

FSFI – Female Sexual Function Index

FACIT-Fatigue – Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue

FACIT-Sp – Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Spirituality

HADS – Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale

IES-R – Impact of Events Scale - Revised

MPQ – McGill Pain Questionnaire

MOS SPSI – Medical Outcomes Study Sexual Problems Survey Instrument

MOS SSS – Medical Outcomes Study Social Support Survey

MSPSS – Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support

PRCI – Partner Response to Cancer Inventory

PHQ-9 – Patient Health Questionnaire

PSCC – Patient Satisfaction with Cancer-Related Care

PHCS – Perceived Health Competence Scale

PTGI – Post-traumatic Growth Inventory

PCDSCS – Primary Care Delivery of Survivorship Care Scale

POMS-SF Anxiety, Depression and Fatigue subscales – Profile of Mood State-Short Form

QOL-CS (Spiritual Well-being subscale) – Quality of Life-Cancer Survivors

SEMCDS – Self-Efficacy for Managing Chronic Disease Scale

STAI – State-Trait Anxiety Inventory

SCE – Survivorship Care Expectations

SBI-15R – Systems of Belief Inventory

What are Some Ways to Measure the Cost-Benefit of a Program?

In addition to conducting process and outcomes evaluations, programs may also want to measure the cost-benefit of the program. Cost-benefit may be difficult to calculate and will depend on the needs of different stakeholders, but will provide invaluable information to ensure adequate resources necessary to sustain the program. The following are examples of questions that may be useful for various stakeholders:

- How much does this program cost the patient and what are the benefits they receive from participating?
- Are the resources allocated appropriate for implementing the program activities? Did the cost of the program exceed the estimated budget?
- How much does the program cost to run compared with how much revenue the program generates? What indirect revenue can you attribute to your program (e.g. referrals to specialists within your institution)? You may need to work with your billing department to estimate program revenue.
- How did the program impact healthcare utilization rates?

What are Additional Resources to Help Develop a Program Evaluation?

There are many evaluation books and resources available to help develop program evaluations. It is important to develop an evaluation plan as the program is developed. The following list of resources is not a comprehensive list, but should provide some basic tools and tips to build and conduct a high quality program evaluation.

- The George Washington Cancer Institute's Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy offers training opportunities and resources to assist health care professionals with implementing and evaluating patient navigation and survivorship programs. A comprehensive guidebook for implementing programs is available at no cost at <u>http://gwcancerinstitute.org</u>.
- Additional social and behavioral science measures and examples of quality of life measures can be found at the National Cancer Institute's Grid Enabled Measures Database website in the Care Planning Initiative workspace; https://www.gem-beta.org
- Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch Program Evaluation Toolkit, CDC DCPC, June 2010; <u>http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/pdf/CCC_Program_Evaluation_Toolkit.pdf</u>
- The Community Toolbox, University of Kansas; <u>http://ctb.ku.edu/en/default.aspx</u>
- Western Michigan University The Evaluation Center; <u>http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/home/</u>
- American Evaluation Association provides educational resources and conference opportunities and links to identify evaluation consultants; <u>http://www.eval.org/</u>
- Improving Care at the End of Life: How Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Its Grantees Built the Field; http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=71944

In addition to measuring programs aimed at improving the quality of life of cancer survivors, many cancer centers offer patient navigation programs to facilitate high quality cancer diagnosis, treatment and survivorship services. For specific guidance on evaluating the impact of patient navigation programs on quality of life, please refer to *Cancer* (2011) Supplement: National Patient Navigation Leadership Summit (NPNLS): Measuring the Impact and Potential of Patient Navigation (Volume 117, Issue S15, page i-ii, 3535-3623).

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Appendix A. Logic Model for Online Self-Management Workshop for Post-treatment Cancer Survivors

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES	INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
Trainers Facilitators Participants Recruitment materials Referral sources	Recruit facilitators Train facilitators Recruit participants	Number of facilitators recruitedNumber of facilitators trainedNumber of referral sources		OUTCOMES Reduced symptom burden More appropriate health care utilization Improved health status Improved	
Workshop Funding Technical assistance	Educate referral sources Market the program Deliver the workshop	Number of participants enrolled Number of workshops delivered	manage	behaviors	