



Effective Health Care

Models of Survivorship Care

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Models of survivorship care is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available at this time; however, it will be considered for a potential technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
 - To see a description of a technical brief, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-for-policymakers-researchers-and-others/>.
 - If this topic is developed into a technical brief, key questions will be drafted and posted on the AHRQ Web site. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Organization

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of survivorship care models and services for cancer patients.

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Population(s): Cancer patients completing primary treatment, including adults and children

Intervention(s): Models of survivorship care, including patient survival care plans; community-based, shared cared model; risk-based follow-up care; cancer-specific survivorship clinics; and institution-based survivorship programs

Comparator(s): See above models of care

Outcome(s): Benefits: earlier detection and treatment of recurrence or new primary cancers, with the potential for improved survival; improvement in quality of life and health due to treatment of late or continuous treatment side effects or psychosocial effects of having cancer; greater patient satisfaction.

Harms: Earlier initiation of treatment for cancer progression that does not increase survival (thereby shortening the asymptomatic period with no side effects of treatment); more frequent screening with the potential for false positive results and further downstream testing or treatment; negative psychological effects; inconvenience.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What is the comparative effectiveness of different models of survivorship care and sets of services on late and long-term net health outcomes (e.g., for breast cancer)?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- A cancer survivor refers to an individual who has been diagnosed with cancer from their diagnosis throughout their lifespan. Survivorship care includes coping, surveillance, long-term follow-up, management of late effects, rehabilitation, and health promotion. Uncertainty exists on how to best provide care to cancer survivors, and many models of survivorship care are in existence and under development.
- Given the lack of studies found on the topic, a full systematic review evaluating the comparative effectiveness and outcomes associated with survivorship care models is not feasible at this time. However, a technical brief could provide an overview of what models exist and how they are being implemented in order to inform a future research agenda in this area.