

# Survivorship: The Standards of Care

**Rachael Schmidt, DNP, APRN, AOCNP**  
**Cancer Survivorship and Cancer Risk and Prevention**  
**Program Director**  
**Nebraska Medicine**



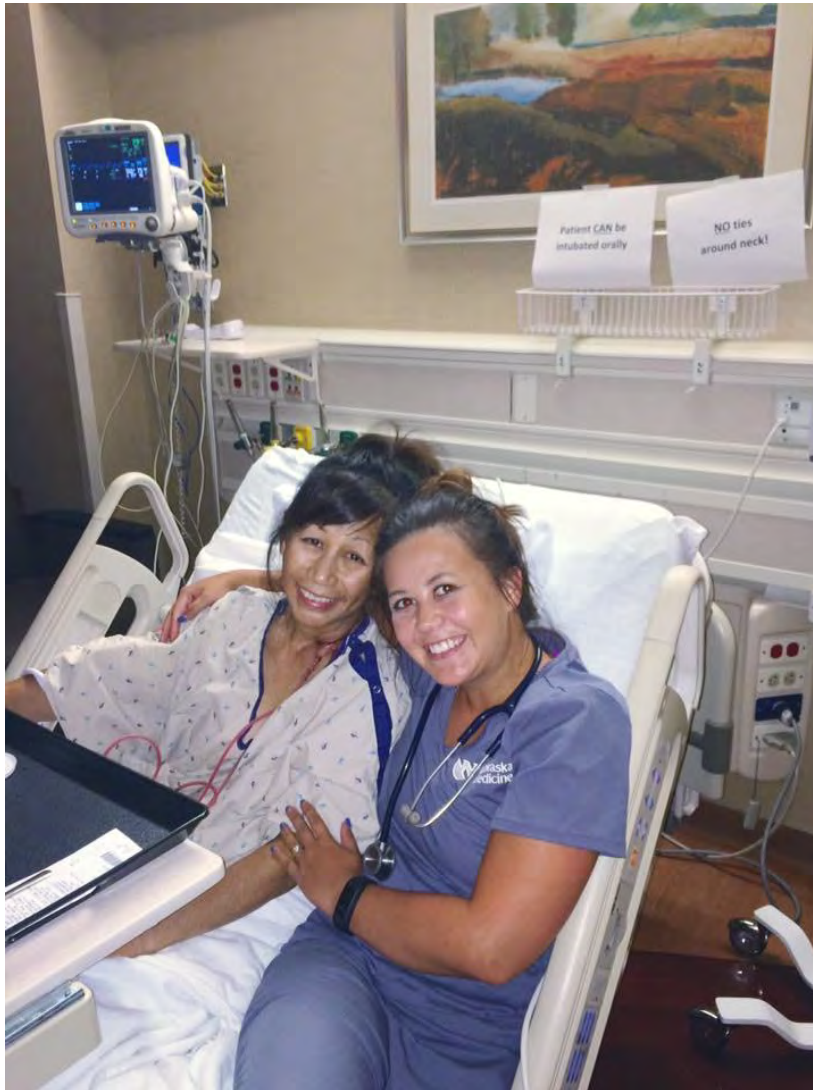
**SERIOUS MEDICINE. EXTRAORDINARY CARE.™**

# Objectives

- Discuss past, present, and future trends in cancer survivorship and the role of providers after initial cancer treatment.
- Identify the medical and psychosocial needs of diverse cancer survivors and develop strategies to address those needs.
- Review updated evidence and tools to enhance the delivery and coordination of care for cancer survivors.



# Who is a Cancer Survivor?



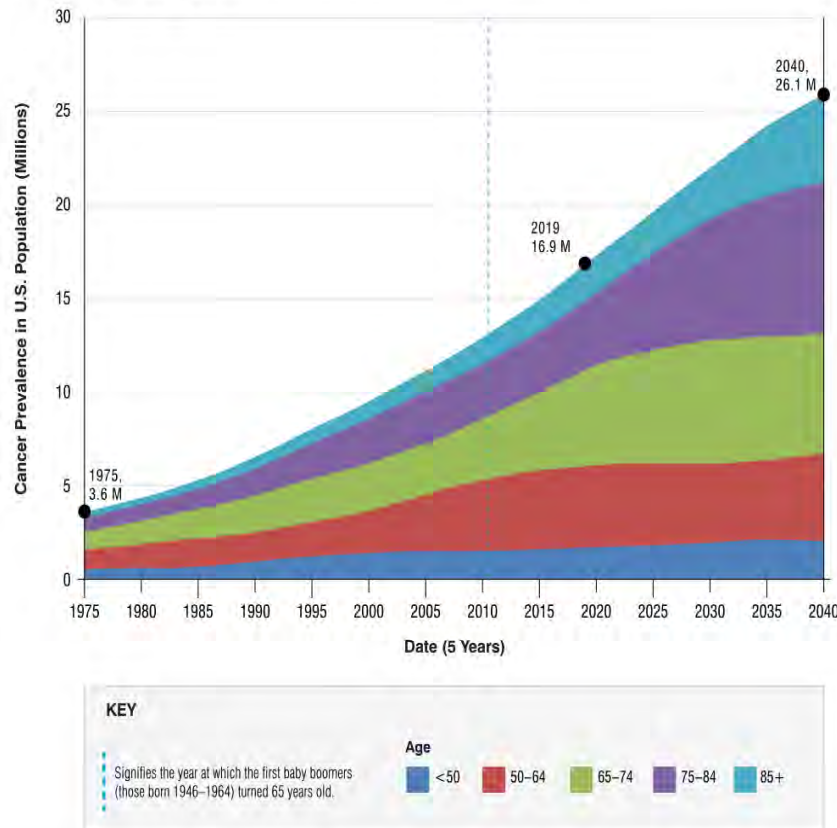
A *survivor* is anyone living with a history of cancer – from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life.

- Living with cancer
- Living through cancer
- Living beyond cancer

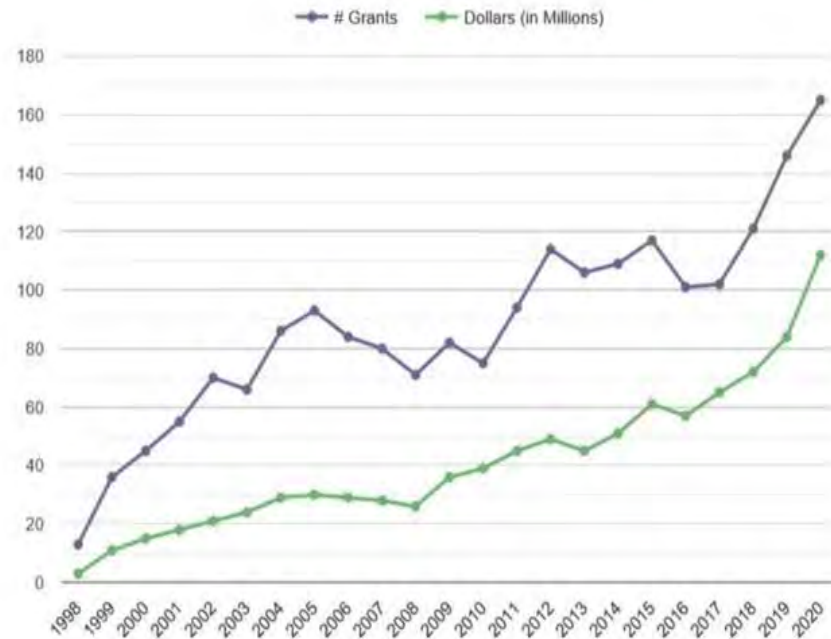


# Survivorship over the years

**Cancer Prevalence and Projections in U.S. Population from 1975–2040**



**Survivorship Grants and Funding**



REFERENCE: Bluethmann SM, Mariotto AB, Rowland, JH. Anticipating the “Silver Tsunami”: Prevalence Trajectories and Comorbidity Burden among Older Cancer Survivors in the United States. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2016;25:1029-1036.

# What we know about cancer survivors...

It is estimated that there will be 22 million cancer survivors by 2030

Approximately 1 in 4 cancer survivors report a decreased quality of life due to physical problems and 1 in 10 due to emotional problems.

Survivors diagnosed at a younger age tend to have poorer emotional functioning

Survivors diagnosed at an older age tend to have poorer physical functioning

# Survivorship Challenges: IOM Report

- Felt lost in the transition
- Lack of communication between oncologist and patient
- Lack of communication between oncologist and primary care
- Health risks after treatment were not explained
- Difficulty in restarting work or school



# What are the components of cancer survivorship?



# 2015 Commission on Cancer (CoC) Survivorship Standard 3.3

The Accreditation Committee made the following changes to the established time frame and scope of implementation for Standard 3.3.

- January 1, 2015** – Implement a pilot survivorship care plan process involving 10% of eligible patients.
- January 1, 2016** – Provide survivorship care plans to 25% of eligible patients.
- January 1, 2017** – Provide survivorship care plans to 50% of eligible patients.
- January 1, 2018** – Provide survivorship care plans to 75% of eligible patients.
- January 1, 2019** – Provide survivorship care plans to all eligible patients.





# 2020 CoC Survivorship Standard 4.8

|  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Development and implementation of a survivorship program | Establish a Survivorship Program Team | Determines a list of services and programs that address the needs of cancer survivors |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|

**Documents a minimum of three services offered each year. Services may be continued year to year**

- An estimate of the number of cancer patients who participated Identification of the resources needed to improve the services if barriers were encountered

## **Survivorship Program Services:**

- Treatment summaries/SCPs
- Screening programs for cancer recurrence
- Screening for new cancers
- Seminars for survivors
- Formalized referrals to experts
- Physical activity programs, etc

# Survivorship Through the Cancer Continuum



## Diagnosis (Living With Cancer)

Oncofertility / Fertility Preservation  
Contraception Counseling  
Prehabilitation  
Support Services Referrals  
(psychology, nutrition, etc)



## After Treatment (Living Beyond Cancer)

Screening and Management of Late/Long Term  
Effects  
Health Promotion  
Cancer Screenings

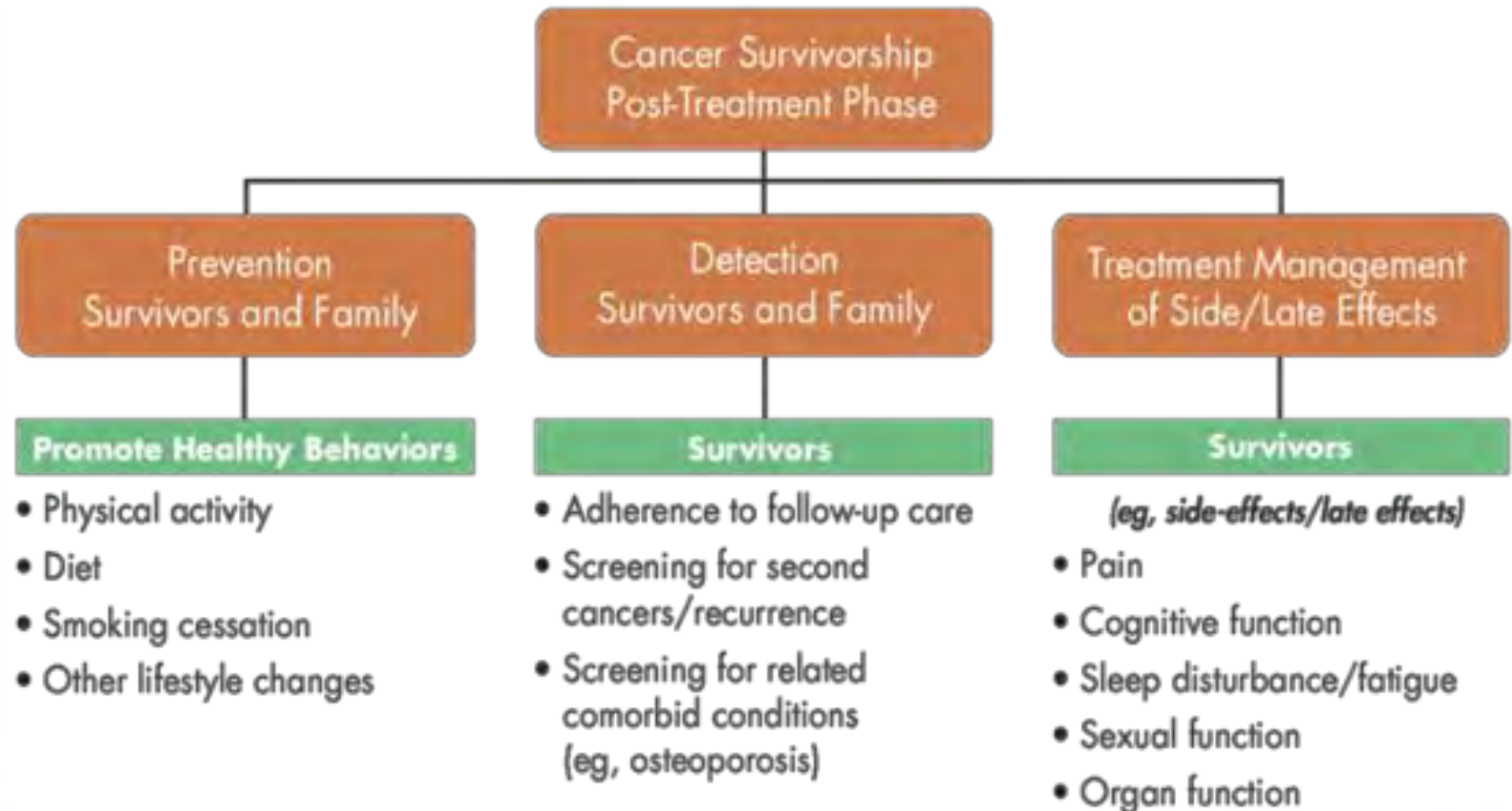


## During Treatment (Living Through Cancer)

Screening for Side Effects / Symptom Management  
Treatment Summary / Survivorship Care Plan  
Support Services Referrals  
(psychology, nutrition, etc)



# Survivorship Visit Components





National Comprehensive  
Cancer Network®

**NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)**

# **Survivorship**

Version 1.2022 — March 30, 2022

**NCCN.org**

**NCCN Guidelines for Patients® available at [www.nccn.org/patients](http://www.nccn.org/patients)**





[NCCN Survivorship Panel Members](#)

[NCCN Survivorship Sub-Committee Members](#)

[Summary of the Guidelines Updates](#)

## General Survivorship Principles

- [Definition of Survivorship & Standards for Survivorship Care \(SURV-1\)](#)
- [General Principles of the Survivorship Guidelines \(SURV-2\)](#)
- [Screening for Subsequent New Primary Cancers \(SURV-3\)](#)
- [Principles Of Cancer Risk Assessment and Counseling \(SURV-4\)](#)
- [Assessment By Health Care Provider at Regular Intervals \(SURV-5\)](#)
- [Survivorship Assessment \(SURV-A\)](#)
- [Survivorship Resources For Health Care Professionals And Survivors \(SURV-B\)](#)
- [Principles of Screening for Treatment-Related Subsequent Primary Cancers \(See SURV-C\)](#)

## Preventive Health

- [Healthy Lifestyles \(HL-1\)](#)
  - ▶ [Physical Activity \(SPA-1\)](#)
  - ▶ [Nutrition and Weight Management \(SNWM-1\)](#)
  - ▶ [Supplement Use \(SSUP-1\)](#)
- [Immunizations and Infections \(SIMIN-1\)](#)

## Late Effects/Long-Term Psychosocial and Physical Problems

- [Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment \(SCVD-1\)](#)
- [Anthracycline-Induced Cardiac Toxicity \(SCARDIO-1\)](#)
- [Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, and Distress \(SANXDE-1\)](#)
- [Cognitive Function \(SCF-1\)](#)
- [Fatigue \(SEAT-1\)](#)
- [Lymphedema \(SLYMPH-1\)](#)
- [Pain \(SPAIN-1\)](#)
- [Hormone-Related Symptoms \(SMP-1\)](#)
- [Sexual Function \(SSF-1\)](#)
- [Sleep Disorders \(SSD-1\)](#)
- [Employment and Return to Work \(SWORK-1\)](#)

**Nearly 300 pages**



# Screening Questions

## All Survivors:

### **NCCN Survivorship Assessment**

- Cardiotoxicity
- Anxiety/Depression
- Cognitive Dysfunction
- Fatigue
- Lymphedema
- Pain
- Hormone Related Symptoms
- Sexual Function
- Sleep
- Immunizations
- Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors

Exercise

Diet

Weight

Supplements

## Special Groups:

### **Short Physical Performance Battery**

### **Blessed Test**

### **Brief Sexual Symptom/Sexual Health Inventory**

### **STOP Bang – OSA screening**



# Nebraska Medicine Survivorship Program

General  
Survivorship  
Clinic

Disease  
Based  
(Thyroid and  
Gyn Onc)

Allogenic  
PSCT Long  
Term Follow  
Up Clinic

Adult  
Survivors of  
Childhood  
Cancer  
Clinic



# Survivorship = Supportive Care Services

Nutrition

Psychiatry / Psychology

Physical / Occupational Therapy

Support Groups

Social Work

Smoking Cessation

Genetic Testing

Oncofertility

Cardio-Oncology

Financial Services

Massage

Acupuncture

Mindfulness

Yoga





# Leveraging Survivorship Programs

## Pending Crisis:

- Growing survivorship population
- Clinician shortages
- Clinician knowledge gaps
- Cost of care
- Lack of time

## Stratified Care (one size does not fit all):

- Low Risk – self management with transition back to PCP
- Moderate Risk - a shared care model to briefly manage survivorship needs with PCP
- High Risk - complex case management where patients are followed by a multi-disciplinary team long term (oncologist, survivorship, and PCP)



# Information Needs of Colorectal Patients

## Well informed about:

- Treatment 86%
- Disease 84%
- Follow up program 80%

## Less informed about:

- Future expectations 49%
- Nutrition 43%
- Physical activity 42%
- Hereditary cancer 40%



# Trends to Improve Survivorship Care



SERIOUS MEDICINE. EXTRAORDINARY CARE.™

# Utilize Survivorship to Improve Access

Alternate visits with survivorship to address quality of life issues

Fatigue

Nutrition

Exercise

Fear of  
recurrence



Allows oncologist to see more new patients and patients on treatment



# Utilize Survivorship to Improve Adherence

Receipt of colonoscopy among CRC survivors is suboptimal 38-48% at first year

Factors related to noncompliance:

- Patients may believe that they have been treated for CRC and that further colonoscopy is not required
- Lack of pcp understanding for need of colonoscopy following resection
- Patients do not have adequate follow up

Survivorship Care Plans outline their colonoscopy schedule and surveillance recommendations

Previous studies have reported an increase in adherence to surveillance in many types of cancer when survivorship care plans are administered

## **PATHOLOGIC STAGE**

## **SURVEILLANCE<sup>b</sup>**

**Stage I**



**Colonoscopy<sup>a</sup> at 1 y after surgery**

- **If advanced adenoma, repeat in 1 y**
- **If no advanced adenoma,<sup>hh</sup> repeat in 3 y, then every 5 y<sup>ii</sup>**

**Stage II, III**



• **History and physical examination every 3–6 mo for 2 y, then every 6 mo for a total of 5 y**

• **CEA<sup>ii</sup> every 3–6 mo for 2 y, then every 6 mo for a total of 5 y**

• **Chest/abdominal/pelvic CT every 6–12 mo (category 2B for frequency <12 mo) from date of surgery for a total of 5 y**

• **Colonoscopy<sup>a</sup> in 1 y after surgery except if no preoperative colonoscopy due to obstructing lesion, colonoscopy in 3–6 mo**

‣ **If advanced adenoma, repeat in 1 y**

‣ **If no advanced adenoma,<sup>hh</sup> repeat in 3 y, then every 5 y<sup>ii</sup>**

• **PET/CT scan is not indicated**

• **Principles of Survivorship (COL-H)**



# PCPs in Nebraska

34% of PCPs reported not having receiving any training regarding late and long-term effects

Only 13% of PCPs report feeling very confident in their knowledge of late and long-term effects

## Post Care Treatment

**60%** Oncologist

**23%** Primary care provider



# Utilize Survivorship for Coordination of Care



A pillar of survivorship care focuses on clean communication between oncology and primary care providers



Current guidelines are often vague and lack specificity as to what tests are needed and are inconsistent across professional societies



Vague recommendations lead to overuse and underuse of resources and can negatively impact the cost and quality of survivorship care



When survivorship care plans are given to PCPs and patients it can decrease ambiguity and increase adherence





# Utilize Survivorship for Health Promotion

Hypertension, heart attack and stroke  
(twofold increase in comparison to general population)

- Increased risk for cardiovascular disease due to shared lifestyle risk factors
  - >65 years old
  - At least 1 comorbidity
  - Obesity

Survivors with one or more comorbidity at baseline had double the risk of cardiovascular disease at 10 years after diagnosis compared to patients with no comorbidities



# Examples of different survivorship clinics:

---

Alternate appointments between oncologist (with scans) and survivorship APP

---

Low risk patients transition to survivorship after 2 years post diagnosis

---

Yearly visits in tandem with Oncologist

---

Survivorship consult at end of treatment and at discharge back to PCP (5 years post diagnosis)



**Create a model that  
works for you and  
your patients**



**SERIOUS MEDICINE. EXTRAORDINARY CARE.™**

Rachael Schmidt, APRN  
Program Director



Laura Tenner, MD  
Medical Director  
Solid Tumors



Vijaya Bhatt, MD  
Medical Director  
Transplant



Molly Thomas, APRN



Amanda Bond, PA



# Questions?



Rachael Schmidt, DNP, APRN, AOCNP  
Survivorship & Cancer Risk/Prevention  
Program Director  
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center  
Nebraska Medicine  
[raschmidt@nebraskamed.com](mailto:raschmidt@nebraskamed.com)



