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ACCC Research Review

E-NEWS | The September 2020 issue of the ACCC Research Review provides support, perspectives, and resources to make clinical trials more inclusive, diverse, accessible, and representative of patient populations. Topics include the importance of collaboration between community programs and academic institutions; highlights from an AACR panel on Racism and Racial Inequalities in Cancer Research; and more. acc-cancer.org/september-research-review.



Closing the Gender Gap in Oncology

PODCAST | CANCER BUZZ shares how Livestrong Cancer Institutes and Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin are reaching out to young high-school women to generate interest in oncology. Through leadership training, meetings with program leaders, and a week-long research project, the Summer Healthcare Experience (SHE) lays the groundwork for female mentorship and support at an early age. acc-cancer.org/podcast-episode-20.



COVID-19 Discussion Group

NETWORK | Part of the ACCCeXchange online community, this discussion group facilitates conversations, helps you engage with peers, and shares effective practices related to pandemic recovery efforts. Login with the email address and password you use to access ACCCeXchange and the ACCC eLearning portal. Or go to acc.force.com/login, click “Reset Password,” and use your work email address to create an account. From the “My Profile” page, view and update your contact information. Click on “Groups” at the top of the screen to get to the ACCCeXchange home page. Then click on the “COVID-19 Discussion” link. Email membership@acc-cancer.org for questions or help.



Reframing Financial Navigation During COVID-19

“Our team is talking to patients about cost estimates and out-of-pocket responsibilities for their treatment. Should we give patients any paperwork during these conversations?” “Is there a good benchmark ratio for the number of physicians to the number of financial navigators?” “How do you track copay reimbursement?” Experienced financial navigators answer these questions and more. acc-cancer.org/financial-navigation-during-covid19.



Approaches to Shared Decision-Making

WEBINAR | This six-part webinar series shares practical tips and guidance on topics such as Building a Culture of Patient Engagement; Treatment Goal-Setting with Patients with Metastatic Cancer; and Increasing Health Literacy to Improve Decision-Making. acc-cancer.org/SDM-Webinars.

Patients are gradually returning to hospitals and doctor’s offices.

According to the Commonwealth Fund, visits to physicians’ offices, which declined **60%** from mid-March to mid-April, were about **20%** to **30%** below pre-pandemic levels by July.



Source: McGinley L. Patients are still delaying essential care out of fear of coronavirus. *Washington Post*. Available online at [washingtonpost.com/health/woing-patients-back-is-tricky-business-as-coronavirus-spikes-in-many-states/2020/07/13/b86d676e-bbb1-11ea-8cf5-9c1b8d7f84c6_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/woing-patients-back-is-tricky-business-as-coronavirus-spikes-in-many-states/2020/07/13/b86d676e-bbb1-11ea-8cf5-9c1b8d7f84c6_story.html).



Only 31% of hospitals and health systems are using capabilities within their EHR systems to conduct telehealth visits.

Source: Dress J. Less than one-third of hospitals are using EHR-embedded telehealth tools. *Becker's Hosp Rev*. Available online at [beckershospitalreview.com/telehealth/less-than-one-third-of-hospitals-are-using-ehr-embedded-telehealth-tools.html](https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/telehealth/less-than-one-third-of-hospitals-are-using-ehr-embedded-telehealth-tools.html).

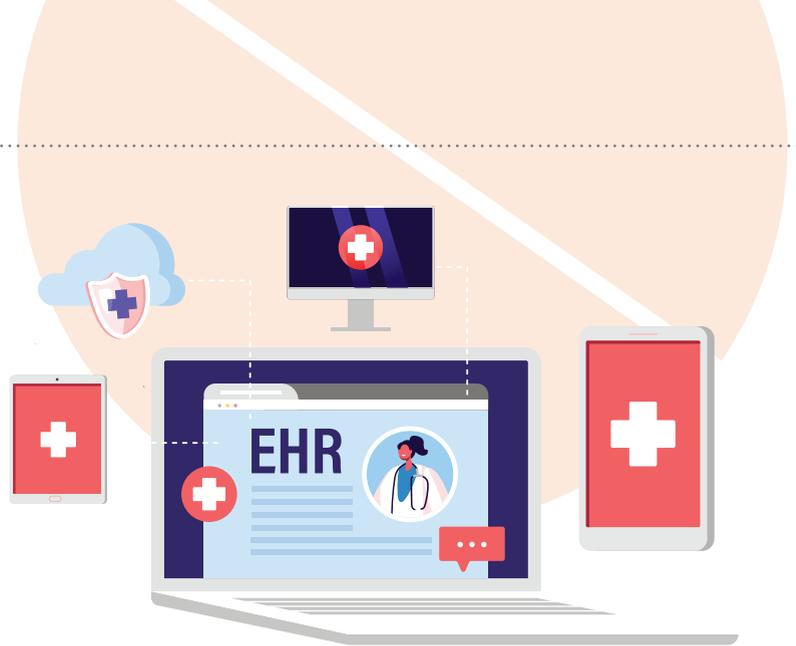
facts

Advanced Breast Cancer Patients in the U.S. Cite Co-Payments as Main Financial Burden



- **87%** of respondents reported financial difficulties during their cancer treatment. Of that cohort, **57%** blamed their medical co-payments.
- High drug costs (**38%**) and added living and transportation costs (**13%**) were also cited.
- **25%** of surveyed patients delayed treatments or used less expensive or alternate medications due to high copayments.

Source. Belong.Life. From a study of 189 Belong.Life users. Research presented at the 5th ESO-ESMO International Consensus Conference on Advanced Breast Cancer in Lisbon.



Do Your Patients Have Easy Access to Their EHRs?

Despite healthcare providers' widespread adoption of web-based patient portals, about **1/3** of consumers report they have never used one to view their medical records, one survey found. Also, **41%** say they did not receive all the records they requested from their healthcare provider.

Source. A survey conducted by DrFirst. drfirst.com.



Steep Decline in Telehealth Visits

While telemedicine use largely remains well above pre-pandemic levels—and many still say telemedicine's popularity is here to stay—telemedicine visits accounted for just **21%** of total encounters by the middle of July, down from **69%** at the early peak of the public health crisis in April.

Source. Ross C. Telehealth grew wildly popular amid Covid-19. Now visits are plunging, forcing providers to recalibrate. *STAT*. [statnews.com/2020/09/01/telehealth-visits-decline-covid19-hospitals](https://www.statnews.com/2020/09/01/telehealth-visits-decline-covid19-hospitals).

5.4 million workers estimated to have lost their health insurance due to the coronavirus-driven recession.

Source. Stolberg SG. 5.4 million Americans have lost health insurance in coronavirus-driven recession, analysis finds. *Baltimore Sun*. Available online at [baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/ct-nw-nyt-covid-health-insurance-20200714-ekkf5g5mdnftzcdq7fbhpd225y-story.html](https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/ct-nw-nyt-covid-health-insurance-20200714-ekkf5g5mdnftzcdq7fbhpd225y-story.html).

