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PODCAST | Psychosocial Oncology Services
During COVID-19

Jeffrey Kendall, PsyD, LP, shares how patients with cancer are dealing with the “new normal,” and how oncology social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists are working to help them through this unprecedented time. Go to acc-cancer.org/COVID-19, then “Publications.”

COMMUNITY | Join the COVID-19 Discussion
Group

Participate in important peer-to-peer conversations on strategies to maintain safety, quality cancer care, and program operations during and after COVID-19. Share how your cancer program is staffing to meet flexing patient and operational needs; if your cancer program is seeing the expected increase in later-stage cancer patients; the long-term impact the pandemic has had on the financial performance of your practice, hospital, or health system; and much more. To access, go to acc-cancer.org/COVID-19 and then “Member Discussions.” Having trouble joining the group? Email llucas@acc-cancer.org.

RESOURCE | COVID-19 Financial Advocacy
Resources

Stay informed on rapidly changing updates to financial assistance programs and insurance coverage in response to the public health emergency. Information on manufacturer patient assistance programs, COVID-19 related funds and programs, patient resources, and more is updated weekly. acc-cancer.org/FAN-COVID19.

WEBCAST | Cancer Care in the COVID-19 Era

In a virtual session at the ACCC 47th Annual Meeting and Cancer Center Business Summit, a panel of healthcare professionals with diverse perspectives share real-world data and experiences about the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care delivery, from staffing for clinic vs. telehealth visits, ramping up outreach and screening efforts, strategies to protect and strengthen operational and financial performance, mentoring and support techniques to bolster an exhausted workforce, and more. acc-cancer.org/AMCCBS.

PODCAST | Supporting Caregivers During
COVID-19

Friends, family, and loved ones are essential to a patient’s support system, but COVID-19 has limited their access to the care process, appointment, and care providers. Lawrence D. Wagman, MD, discusses how the role of caregivers has changed during the pandemic and how the cancer care team can support these caregivers. Go to acc-cancer.org/COVID-19, then “Mini-Podcasts.”

fast facts



COVID-19 Impact on U.S. Cancer Programs

- Clinic and support staff were furloughed and/or laid-off; some were forced to take salary cuts.
- Whenever possible, staff members transitioned to remote work during the worst of the pandemic.
- Telehealth and virtual visits were implemented virtually overnight.
- Social distancing required immediate policies to establish safe occupancy levels, to space patient appointments, and to ensure physical distance of patients and staff.

Source: ACCC COVID-19 Webcast 10: Optimizing Staffing Strategies Amid COVID-19. courses.acc-cancer.org/products/optimizing-staffing-strategies-amid-covid-19.

Precipitous Drop in Cancer Patient Visits in March and April 2020; Full Impact Not Yet Known

A comparison of Week 4, 2020 data to Week 18, 2020 from select oncology practices revealed that:

- New patient clinic consults fell **66%** at community oncology practices and **38%** at academic- or hospital-based cancer programs.
- Established patient clinic consults fell **51%** and **14%** respectively.
- Inpatient hospital consults fell **92%** and **7%** respectively.
- Radiation therapy visits fell **94%** and **8%** respectively.

Source: ACCC COVID-19 Webcast 15: Risk Stratification for Cancer Patients During COVID-19. courses.acc-cancer.org/products/risk-stratification-for-cancer-patients-during-covid-19.

