

Tips for Early Patient Identification and Care Continuity for CAR T-Cell Therapy

Focus Group Highlights

WHO PARTICIPATED?

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) conducted 4 virtual focus groups and 1 interview between September and November 2023.



Multidisciplinary Cancer Care Team Members: 23 multidisciplinary cancer care team members, including 20 from programs that offer CAR T-cell therapy



Patients and Caregivers: 5 patients who had received CAR T-cell therapy and 2 caregivers

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WERE IDENTIFIED?

Continue to build capacity and infrastructure to support early patient identification & optimize continuity of care across sites. CAR T-cell therapy centers and referring programs can:



- **Formalize organizational relationships** to ensure continuity of care when individual providers depart a program.
- **Standardize bi-directional communication/education processes and operations.**
 - ACCC and its partners can help referring programs and CAR T-cell therapy centers better leverage technology to support “high touch” interactions by sharing helpful electronic health records (EHR) builds/examples.
 - CAR T-cell therapy centers can include referring practices in their tumor board(s).
- **Leverage existing stem cell transplant program infrastructure** (relationships, referral patterns and processes), when available.
- **Educate other clinicians** (eg, hospitalists, ER providers, primary care) either locally or nationally about early identification/when to refer, what CAR T-cell therapy treatment is and the short-term, long-term, and late effects of treatment.



Address patient and caregiver needs by facilitating clear, multidirectional communication between patients, caregivers, providers, and patient advocacy groups to improve health outcomes. CAR T-cell therapy centers, referring programs, and patient advocacy groups can:

- **Work collaboratively to develop and deliver patient and caregiver educational resources** that are easy to read, understand, and act on, are culturally tailored, and available in other languages.
 - Review and refine processes, materials, and/or tools specifically related to CAR T-cell therapy side effects to ensure patients and caregivers understand and are prepared for treatment.
- **Develop partnerships with trusted patient organizations** to facilitate peer-to-peer connections for patients and caregivers as well as access to other resources and support prior to, during, and after treatment.
 - Provide ongoing education, social/emotional support, and physical respite to caregivers.
- **Work collectively to address the financial burden of care for patients and caregivers.**
 - Review current workflows and processes against the **ACCC Financial Advocacy Services Guidelines** to identify opportunities to improve and address patient financial burden.
 - Identify solutions to offset financial burden and increase access to treatment for patients who do not have a caregiver.

In partnership with:



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