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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o Provide ongoing education, social/emotional support, and physical respite to caregivers.

• Work collectively to address the financial burden of care for patients and caregivers.
  o Review current workflows and processes against the ACCC Financial Advocacy Services Guidelines to identify opportunities to improve and address patient financial burden.
  o Identify solutions to offset financial burden and increase access to treatment for patients who do not have a caregiver.

In partnership with:

This program was made possible by support from:

© 2024. The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) provides education and advocacy for the cancer care community.
For more information about this ACCC education program “Tips for Early Patient Identification for CAR T-Cell Therapy and Care Continuity with Community Providers” visit accc-cancer.org/CAR-T-Care-Continuity.