

# ACCC's Cancer Program Guidelines 2008

## Survivorship Services: Chapter 4, Section 16

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) Board of Trustees recently approved ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines 2008*, which features a new Survivorship Services section. The revised guidelines state that "an optimal comprehensive cancer program should make available information and programs specific to survivorship issues to cancer patients and their families."

Cancer survivorship—a key component of comprehensive care—has been a key ACCC focus issue in 2007-2008. Survivorship has figured prominently in ACCC's two annual national meetings. This special supplement, "Comprehensive Survivorship Services: A Practical Guide for Community Cancer Centers," in *Oncology Issues* as well as publication and distribution of ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines 2008* are part of the 2007-2008 Presidential Grant, sponsored by AstraZeneca, LP, and Abraxis Oncology.

We hope you'll share ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines 2008*, and particularly its Survivorship Services section, with your cancer care team. The entire document is available online at ACCC's website: [www.accc-cancer.org](http://www.accc-cancer.org).

ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines 2008* have been established to assist cancer programs that

want to develop and/or maintain a comprehensive interdisciplinary program that meets the needs of cancer patients and their families. These guidelines were developed to reflect the optimal components for a cancer program. ACCC's guidelines are not intended to act as an accrediting or credentialing mechanism and are not a list of standards, such as those published by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. Guidelines should not be a surrogate for independent medical judgment; they serve only as the term implies: as guidelines to help programs meet the optimal attributes.

Suggestions and comments for future additions to ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines 2008* are welcome. You can email us at [info@acc-cancer.org](mailto:info@acc-cancer.org).

Sincerely,

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### Survivorship Services

Guideline 1: Information and programs specific to survivorship issues are available to cancer patients and their families.

#### Rationale

Survivorship is defined as the experience of living with, through, and beyond cancer for both patients and the people in their lives who are impacted by the diagnosis. It comprises the physical, psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, and economic aspects of life that may be influenced by cancer at any time from diagnosis through treatment and all remaining years of life.

#### Characteristics

A. Programs and educational resources for survivors and their families should include but are not limited to the following:

1. A written cancer treatment summary and follow-up care plan that would include a summary of the cancer treatment, recommended follow-up for cancer surveillance, late and long-term effects of their disease and its treatment(s), symptom management, as well as psychosocial, spiritual, and financial concerns. Access to information about cancer prevention, early detection, genetics, disease treatment, symptom management and psychosocial, spiritual, financial concerns through written materials and/or referrals via the Internet, other

- experts, or support organizations
2. Information about local, regional, and national resources on survivorship and survivorship research via written materials and/or referrals through the Internet, other experts, or support organizations for any aspect of their cancer, cancer care, research, advocacy, and survivorship
3. Access to support groups either on-site or by referrals to local or web-based support groups and other support mechanisms, such as telephone connection programs linking survivors together
4. Information about specific survivorship issues, such as employment rights, insurance coverage, late and long-term effects of disease and treatment, advance directives, living will and durable power of attorney, estate planning, options for recurrent disease management, and end-of-life care planning
5. Programmatic opportunities to participate with the care team to develop community outreach education and support programs for quality cancer care in the community and to educate professional staff about the cancer experience.

B. Resources are allocated to provide a robust survivorship program.

C. National standards for survivorship will be incorporated into program planning, implementation, and evaluation.