

Survivorship initiative aims to improve the cancer journey

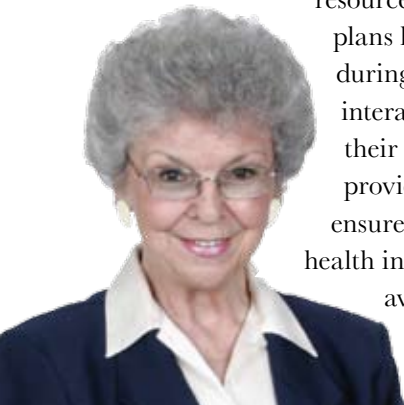
Four demonstration projects underway to learn more about implementing care plans

For many cancer patients, reaching their last treatment is a milestone in their journey – but it is not the end of their cancer experience.

Transitioning out of the cancer care system and losing regular contact with the care teams who provided treatment can result in feelings of isolation or fear.

Care plans make this transition easier. Written in simple, patient-friendly language, they are intended for both patients and health-care providers. A care plan includes a patient's treatment history as well as recommendations for screening, tips on healthy living, coping strategies, and information and support

resources. Care plans help people during ongoing interactions with their health-care providers and ensure that their health information is available in one place.



“Survivorship care plans empower people to actively participate in their care over the longer term and make the best-informed decisions after cancer treatment.”

– **Barbara Cameron**, member, National Survivorship Working Group, Cancer Journey Action Group

Care plans are currently in various stages of development in different regions across Canada. To learn about barriers to implementing care plans, the Partnership has funded four demonstration projects. These projects will help identify strategies that could make care plans more broadly available.

The care plan demonstration projects were identified through a competitive bidding process led by the National Survivorship Working Group of the Partnership's Cancer Journey Action Group. The projects are as follows:

- **Young Adult Cancer Canada** is implementing web-based care plans for people aged 15 to 39. This initiative connects young adult cancer survivors to an online community and assists in developing care plans that relate specifically to this age group.
- **Wellspring** is focusing on cancer patients who are within six months of completing treatment. The development of comprehensive self-managed plans will help to improve



Care plans help people interact with health-care providers after cancer treatment ends

the process of transitioning from institutional to community care.

- **CancerCare Manitoba** is developing plans for people who have experienced rectal cancer. This initiative will develop and test tools, processes and electronic health record capability, with the goal of ensuring easy adaptation for, and adoption in, other cancer care settings. The project will also help to bring survivorship care planning

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Visit

www.cancerview.ca

One-stop online resource provides cancer community with the best-available cancer knowledge nationwide. See **page 4** for information.

cancer view canada
Linking Canadians to cancer services, information & resources

The Partnership a highlight at international congress

Contributing to global collaboration for effective cancer control

An international movement to control the burden of cancer is gaining momentum, and Canada's cancer control community is making important contributions.

In November 2009, representatives of more than 80 countries came together at the third International Cancer Control Congress (ICCC) in Italy. The ICCC focuses on international collaboration to achieve population-based cancer control.

"A national cancer program can only be effective in lowering cancer incidence and improving the lives of cancer patients if it takes into account a country's unique context and resources. At the same time, there is much we can learn from each other's experiences," says Dr. Simon Sutcliffe. Dr. Sutcliffe is Chair of both the Congress's International Steering and Scientific Committees, as well as Chair of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's Board of Directors.

"By sharing what is working well – and not so well – and by collaborating across borders, we can further cancer control at home, as well as internationally."

Representatives from the Partnership played key roles at the meeting. Joining Dr. Sutcliffe on the Congress's Steering and Scientific Committees

was Dr. Jon Kerner, Chair of the Partnership's Primary Prevention Action Group.

Dr. Kerner helped facilitate a number of key plenary discussions. He shared his insight into the role of research in guiding effective prevention strategies, as well as his thoughts on how discoveries are moved into policy and practice.

Dr. Heather Bryant, the Partnership's Vice-President of Cancer Control, presented a number of abstracts.

One of her presentations focused on ensuring that cancer control planning is grounded in both scientific evidence and best-available knowledge so that progress can be measured.

Other Partnership representatives also attended, presenting abstracts and participating in workshops.

"The Congress equips leaders from around the world to champion cancer control within their own communities," says Dr. Sutcliffe. "Importantly, we were inspired toward a shared vision for cancer control – one that calls for a sustained commitment over the long term. Canada's cancer control strategy ensures that we are on the right path toward reducing the burden of cancer."

The next ICCC is scheduled for 2011. ■



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Chair, International Steering and Scientific Committees, International Cancer Control Congress; Chair, Board of Directors, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

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into primary care clinics across the province.

- **Alberta Health Services** and numerous partners across the province are developing care plans for survivors of breast or head and neck cancer.

This initiative will build plans for survivorship into care delivered through cancer centres, clinics and community programs.

"Survivorship care plans empower people to actively participate in their care over the longer term and make the

best-informed decisions after cancer treatment," says Barbara Cameron, a cancer survivor and member of the National Survivorship Working Group.

The projects started in October 2009 and results will be available by March 2011. ■

Cancer control course gets high marks from participants

Online course used in over 200 First Nations communities and organizations

The @YourSide Colleague® cancer course has shown in just a few months that it is meeting a need among health-care providers working in rural and remote First Nations communities.

In early evaluations of the course – a Partnership collaboration with Saint Elizabeth Health Care – participants said the course has had a positive impact on their work, helps them better assess and care for patients and strengthens their cancer control knowledge.

“I learned a lot about the importance of screening and early detection. I shared this information with my community, and as a result, several people were tested and had their cancer detected early and are going through treatments and are doing well,” says Patty Wilson, Community Health Representative. “The course material on the importance of screening may well have saved many lives.”

More than 200 First Nations communities and organizations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia are using the cancer control course. Delivered virtually, it supports communities facing barriers to training such as distance, severe weather and staff shortages.



More than 200 First Nations communities and organizations are using the @YourSide Colleague cancer course

The course touches on more than treatment; it includes information on prevention, detection and diagnosis, psychological impacts, hope, grief and bereavement. Offering an array of on-line resources, the course also connects providers with each other and with clinical specialists in oncology and palliative care.

Before the program launched, a survey of @YourSide Colleague participants found that 85 per cent had no prior training in cancer prevention, education or care.

“It was evident that there were limited professional development

opportunities in cancer control,” says Tracy Scott, Knowledge Liaison, Saint Elizabeth Health Care. “The need for this program is clear.”

The Partnership funded and supported development and implementation of the @YourSide Colleague cancer course.

“This course builds on an already-successful program. Our collaboration with Saint Elizabeth Health Care has allowed the program to expand to include cancer and we are exploring options to expand the reach nationally,” says the Partnership’s Director of Strategy, Leslie Greenberg. ■



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– **Patty Wilson**, Community Health Representative, Kwakiutl District Council Health Services

Welcome to cancerview.ca

Online access to cancer information from across the country

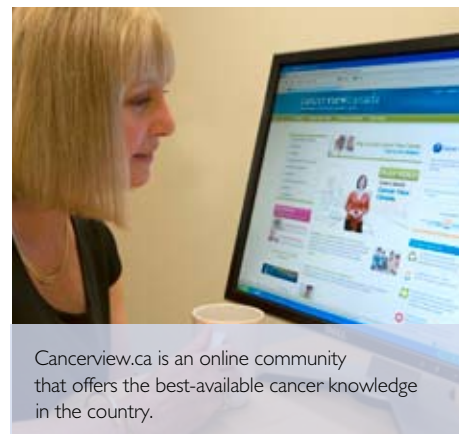
People affected by cancer and those who work to control the disease now have a single place to access Canada's leading cancer resources and services and to connect with each other.

Launched in the summer of 2009, cancerview.ca is an online community that offers the best-available cancer knowledge in the country. It is an initiative of the Partnership in collaboration with a growing network of regional and national partners, including the Canadian Cancer Society.

By showcasing high-quality cancer information, and by simplifying the process of accessing and sharing that information, cancerview.ca

supports helpful linkages among people personally affected by cancer. The service also provides a virtual workspace for collaboration among professionals working in cancer control. "One in two Canadians will search the web looking for information on cancer and will generate millions of pieces of information – some not useful, some frightening, some not factual," says Dr. Marla Shapiro, a family physician, breast cancer survivor and member of the Partnership's Board of Directors. "Here is a site that will vet the information so you know it is pointed, useful and accurate."

With the ongoing addition of partners and the introduction of new



Cancerview.ca is an online community that offers the best-available cancer knowledge in the country.

resources, cancerview.ca will continue to evolve, enabling easy access to current and credible information that will help to improve outcomes for Canadians affected by cancer. ■



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— Dr. Marla Shapiro,
family physician and breast cancer survivor

Resources housed on cancerview.ca include the following:

- **Canadian Cancer Trials** is a one-stop source for referring physicians, patients and family members to learn about cancer trials that are recruiting patients.
- **The Online and Telephone Supports Directory** helps patients and their families locate online support services, such as discussion boards and blogs, specific to their needs.
- **Cancer View Finder** is a search tool that returns results from Canada's leading cancer information sources.
- **The Prevention Policies Directory** is a searchable inventory of Canadian policies and legislation concerning key modifiable risk factors for cancer and related chronic diseases.
- **Collaborative Communities** provide a secure, password-protected environment where groups can share ideas, collaborate on projects and build communities using tools such as discussion forums, document sharing, blogs and calendars.

Visit www.cancerview.ca

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www.partnershipagainstcancer.ca

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