

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Hails Findings of IOM Report on Cancer Care September 10, 2013

Today, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released its report, "[Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis](#)." According to the IOM, the American cancer care system is at a crucial point due to three failings: it is often not patient-centered, does not provide well-coordinated care, and does not always encourage evidence-based treatment decisions.

The report was sponsored in part by the [National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship \(NCCS\)](#), and proposes a framework for quality cancer care that centers on engaged patients and emphasizes informed decision-making and deliberate planning for this difficult and often-confusing journey:

The cancer care team should collaborate with their patients to develop a care plan that reflects their patients' needs, values, and preferences, and considers palliative care needs and psychosocial support across the cancer care continuum. Institute of Medicine. (2013). *Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

NCCS' priority federal legislation seeks to make these types of changes to the health care system a reality for Medicare patients diagnosed with cancer. H.R. 2477, the Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act, introduced by Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D. (R-LA), would ensure that all cancer patients enrolled in Medicare have access to a written care plan. It also encourages better coordination among providers to improve patient health and reduce inefficiencies in an overburdened system.

"The PACT Act and this groundbreaking IOM report have sent clear signals that change in the cancer care system is necessary, and we now have consensus on where to start," said Shelley Fuld Nasso, Senior Director of Policy. "We have an opportunity to make cancer patients, and the system that cares for them, better. NCCS pledges to do our part to implement the IOM's recommendations."

About the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship: The National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) advocates for quality cancer care for all people touched by cancer. More than 25 years ago, NCCS embarked on a mission to replace "cancer victim" with "cancer survivor," a change in terminology that helped bring about a dramatically different notion of the cancer experience. NCCS has built upon this history and is now working to ensure that improving the quality of cancer care, from the moment of diagnosis through the course of treatment and after, is a national policy priority. Learn more about NCCS and its advocacy work at www.canceradvocacy.org.