

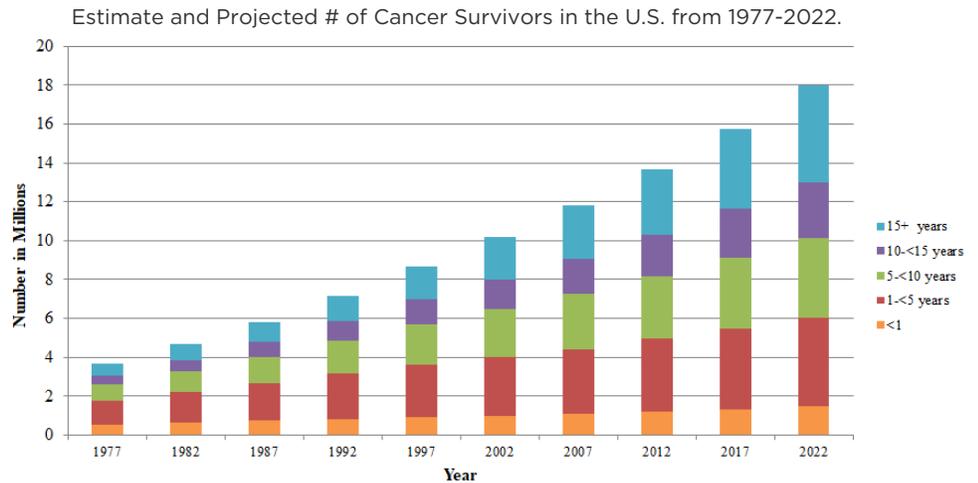
# IMPORTANCE of SURVIVORSHIP CARE

## The Number and Age of Cancer Survivors is Increasing

- 2019: 16.9 million cancer survivors in the United States
- 2040: NCI estimates 26 million cancer survivors, with 73% age 65+, and only 8% under age 50.

## Need for Survivorship Care:

- Many of the nearly 17 million cancer survivors in the US live with long-term physical and emotional side effects from their cancer treatment.
- A key recommendation from the 2005 IOM report, "Lost in Transition," was that cancer survivors should receive an individualized survivorship care plan (SCP) upon completion of treatment.
- Fourteen years later, SCPs and comprehensive survivorship programs are still evolving.



# CANCER CARE PLANNING LEGISLATION

Encouraging the development of a personalized cancer care plan for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Cancer Care Planning and Communication Act (CCPCA), H.R. 3835, was re-introduced in the House of Representatives by the Cancer Survivors Caucus co-chairs, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA).

## The legislation would:

- Help cancer patients through the difficult process of cancer diagnosis, treatment choices, treatment management, and survivorship care by supplying them a written plan or roadmap.
- Promote shared decision-making between patients and their cancer care teams and support informed decisions, as treatment choices are becoming increasingly complex.
- Empower patients with information necessary to help manage and coordinate their care through diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

## How would this legislation encourage cancer care planning?

The legislation would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning. A plan can be developed and shared with the Medicare beneficiary at several points in the cancer care continuum, including:

- At the time of diagnosis, for the purposes of planning initial active treatment;
- When there is any substantial change in the condition of the individual, recurrence of disease, changes in the individual's treatment preferences, or significant revision of the elements of curative care or symptom management for the individual; and
- At the completion of primary treatment for cancer, when the plan may serve as a follow-up survivorship care plan.

## Why is a cancer plan necessary for each patient?

In several evaluations of the cancer care system, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Cancer Policy Forum has found that cancer patients rarely receive a plan of care. The IOM has said that patients should receive a cancer care plan because the planning process triggers a solid treatment decision-making process and facilitates the coordination of treatment and supportive care, including management of nausea and vomiting, fatigue, anxiety, and depression. After patients finish active treatment, they may transition into a different system for survivorship care. These patients require monitoring of the effects of their cancer treatment and for cancer recurrence, as well as follow-up care provided according to recommended schedules. A written plan facilitates the transition to survivorship and the ongoing follow-up that is required.

## Why is a new Medicare service necessary?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has placed a high value on care planning and coordination for all Medicare beneficiaries by establishing the transitional care management service and the complex chronic care management service. The Oncology Care Model (OCM) was launched by CMS in 2016 and is a step in the right direction for cancer care planning. Medicare beneficiaries treated in one of the 190 OCM practices have access to a treatment plan, but not necessarily a survivorship care plan. ALL Medicare beneficiaries should have access to this service, not just the ones who receive their care in OCM practices.

## Organizations Supporting the CCPCA:

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)  
CancerCare  
Cancer Legal Resource Center  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy (CCCA)  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Lacuna Loft  
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS)  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Susan G. Komen  
Triage Cancer  
University of Virginia Cancer Center  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

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## About NCCS

Founded by and for cancer survivors in 1986, the **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship** is a public policy nonprofit advocating that the individual needs of patients must be front and center in the delivery of cancer care. NCCS champions policies to improve every phase of cancer care to promote a system that is survivor-focused, evidence-based, quality-driven, affordable and accessible. Combined with efforts to empower and inform patients, such a system will ensure that cancer care is the best possible for survivors, from the time of their diagnosis onward, and for their loved ones.

For more information or to support the cancer care planning legislation, please contact Dan Weber, NCCS Communications Director, at [dweber@canceradvocacy.org](mailto:dweber@canceradvocacy.org), or Shelley Fuld Nasso, NCCS CEO, at [sfuldnasso@canceradvocacy.org](mailto:sfuldnasso@canceradvocacy.org).