

# Project Ideas from the May 2023 Collaborative Cancer Health Economics Research Conference

# Standardization of health economic data collection

- Includes productivity/workplace measures, other patient costs, SDoH, provider- and facility-level information
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Identify information/data elements needing standardization and current data collection specifications
  - Outreach to potential collaborators, including employer groups and health IT/EMR/EHR companies

# Understand the whole cost for patients during treatment

- Assessment of out-of-pocket costs, travel, time off from work, childcare, and other patient costs
- Includes costs for side effects/complications
- Includes impact of health insurance plan benefit design on costs
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Identify data sources with patient cost information (including HDRP data clearinghouse) and gaps in available data sources

# Develop patient-focused tool to compare costs and benefits of treatment regimens

- Include patient out-of-pocket costs and time burden
- Include outcomes valued by patients (e.g., survival, toxicity, quality of life)
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Identify and review existing patient cost tools (e.g., from OCM / EOM)
  - Perform needs assessment to understand where these tools have insufficiencies

# Determine financial burden to patients participating in clinical trials

- Includes out-of-pocket expenses, travel costs, time off from work, childcare, medical expenses not covered by trials
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Contact cooperative groups (such as the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), SWOG, and Cancer Research Network) and payers to explore relevant information on costs, outcomes, quality, and clinical trial incentives
  - Review available literature to identifying core metrics/measures and relevant financial data collection tools
  - Explore embedding cost measures into clinical trials, addressing concerns about providing patient support, and identifying sources of trial-based financial support data

# Role of patient navigation/navigators in costs and outcomes

- Understand the care coordination process involving patient navigators
- Explore training for navigators, including training regarding financial issues
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Refer to and follow-up on NCI's P30 Conference "Addressing Financial Hardship as Part of Cancer Care Delivery"
  - Perform landscape analysis
  - Collaborate with organizations involved in patient navigation including the ACS Cancer Action Network
  - Develop return-on-investment cost models

# Interventions to address access to care

- Focus on SDoH
- May focus on populations more likely to experience barriers in access to care such as uninsured individuals and/or individuals receiving care from IHS or FQHCs
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Determine the types of important data elements/outcomes important for an intervention
  - Engage community partners
  - Develop demonstration projects, particularly projects that can address SDoH (e.g., food insecurity) among individuals diagnosed with cancer

# Enhance dissemination and implementation of cancer health economics research

- Goal: clear and accessible communication with non-research audiences.
- NEXT STEPS:
  - Develop and enact strategies to involve key stakeholders and patient advocates to disseminate information
  - Study practices/activities in different settings with similar patient populations, including other developed countries with lower cancer treatment costs
  - Review strategies to increase the implementation of high-value care and “de-implementation” of low value care





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