Policy Solutions to Address Disparities in Cancer Care

Alyssa Schatz, MSW
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Who We Are
An alliance of leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research, and education

Our Mission
To improve and facilitate quality, effective, equitable, and accessible cancer care so all patients can live better lives

Our Vision
To define and advance high-quality, high-value, patient-centered cancer care globally
NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

The NCCN Guidelines® are:

- **Comprehensive:** 85 NCCN Guidelines® apply to 97% of cancer cases in the US and cover the entire continuum of care

- **Continuously updated:** Updated at least annually and more as the evidence demands

- **Multi-disciplinary:** Multi-specialty representation including patient advocate expertise

- **Widely used:** 13.3 million downloads in 2022 and used for coverage by payers representing 85% of covered lives in the US
Impact of Inequity on Cancer Care
Inequities in Cancer Care Access and Outcomes

Disparities in cancer care access exist across race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, income, insurance status, geography, and more. Inequities are driven by a variety of historic and ongoing governmental, systemic, and interpersonal factors.

Black Americans have the highest cancer death rate and shortest survival of any racial/ethnic group in the US

Hispanic/Latine and Black Americans are less likely to receive needed pain treatment

Racial disparities cost hundreds of billions of dollars in the United States each year.

1. American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures for African Americans 2019-2021
3. United States National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities, 2023
The Role of Guidelines in Reducing Disparities

- Numerous studies have found racial disparities in cancer care access and outcomes.

- Guideline concordant care improves care outcomes and can reduce racial disparities in care outcomes.

- In addition to addressing SDOH, bias, and discrimination, Guideline adherence is an important tool to address inequities.

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The Evolving Policy Landscape Related to Equity in Cancer Care
Recent Policies Supporting Representative Clinical Trials

- CLINICAL TREATMENT Act: Enacted
- 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act: Enacted
- FDA Draft Guidance on Decentralized Trials: Pending
- DIVERSE Trials Act: Pending
Recent Policies Impacting Cancer Screening Access

- Introduced legislation related to inequities in screening access
- Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act (H.R. 4286)
- PSA Screening for HIM Act (H.R. 1826)
- SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2023 (H.R. 3916, S.1840)
Recent Policies Impacting Health Related Social Needs

• CMS, CMMI, Joint Commission, NCQA, and others are increasingly moving to require health systems to
  ➢ Collect better data and monitor for health inequities
  ➢ Report on inequities
  ➢ Address inequities

• CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule newly includes reimbursement for:
  ➢ Social Determinants of Health Risk Assessment
  ➢ Principal Illness Navigation
  ➢ Community Integration Services
NCCN Initiatives to Improve Equitable Care Delivery
Health Equity Report Card

Tool for providers, payers, and accreditation entities working to advance equitable practices in cancer care

- Includes *17 practices to advance equitable care delivery* divided into the following categories:
  - Community Engagement
  - Accessibility of Care and Social Determinants of Health
  - Addressing Bias in Care Delivery
  - Quality and Comprehensiveness of Care

- Piloting in community and academic oncology settings
Health Related Social Needs Working Group

NCCN convened a working group on Measuring and Addressing Health Related Social Needs in Cancer on April 13, 2023 at NCCN Headquarters in Plymouth Meeting, PA.

The Working Group consisted of 15 representatives from leaders and experts throughout various fields of oncology.

The group used a consensus driven process to identify high impact health-related social needs for measurement and intervention for cancer.
HRSN Working Group Measure Recommendations

Core Measures

- TRANSPORTATION ACCESS
- HOUSING SECURITY
- ACCESS TO FOOD
- FINANCIAL SECURITY

Additional Measures for Consideration

- Social support and caregiver support
- Utility assistance
- Work support, including employer accommodations and paid sick leave
- Neighborhood and community safety
- Health insurance needs
- Health literacy and health insurance literacy
- Digital connectivity
Recommendations

- Practice
- Policy
- Professional Society Guidelines

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Key Takeaways

• Inequities in cancer care access and outcomes are pervasive, but not inevitable.

• Many proposed and finalized policies can support systems transformation across clinical trials, early detection, and HRSNs.

• Policymakers, payers, accreditation entities increasingly expect healthcare professionals to track and address HRSNs.

• Stakeholders are also increasingly developing tools to support this systems transformation.
Thank You!