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Special Report 20-1 REQUIRES UPDATING

Establishing Comprehensive Cancer Patient Education Services A Framework to Guide Ontario Cancer Education Services

A Special Report of Cancer Care Ontario's Patient Education Program Committee
and the Program in Evidence-Based Care (PEBC)

Report Date: August 3, 2006

An assessment conducted in February 2024 ARCHIVED 20-1 Establishing Comprehensive Cancer Patient Education Services. This means that the document will no longer be maintained but may still be useful for academic or other information purposes. The PEBC has a formal and standardized process to ensure the currency of each document (PEBC Assessment & Review Protocol).

The report consists of 2 sections. You can access the full report here:
<https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/guidelines-advice/types-of-cancer/301>

1. Evidence Summary
2. Evidence Review

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For information about the PEBC and the most current version of all reports, please visit the CCO website at <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/> or contact the PEBC office at:
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Special Report 20-1: Executive Summary

Establishing Comprehensive Cancer Patient Education Services A Framework to Guide Ontario Cancer Education Services

A Special Report of Cancer Care Ontario's Patient Education Program Committee
and the Program in Evidence-Based Care

Report Date: August 3, 2006

The Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee in collaboration with the Program in Evidence-Based Care (PEBC) has reviewed the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) guidelines, *Guidelines on Establishing Comprehensive Cancer Patient Education Services*, from the Cancer Patient Education Network (CPEN) and endorses the adoption of the Guidelines, with some revision, for use in Ontario. The resulting report is intended for use by administrators of Regional Cancer Programs, Regional Vice Presidents, and patient education experts to facilitate the rollout of a provincial work plan for patient education services.

The statements below reflect the integration of the NCI CPEN Guidelines with the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee's perspective.

FRAMEWORK COMPONENTS

The Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee recommends that a Patient Education Program (PEP) within a Regional Cancer Program include the following components:

- **Organization and Structure**
 - There is an identifiable PEP positioned within the structure of the cancer program. The leadership of the PEP is empowered to and accountable for providing access to high-quality patient education programs and activities.
 - There is a written description of the organization and structure of the PEP, the roles and functions of those leading the PEP, and the collaborative relationships between the PEP and the various interdisciplinary components of the cancer program.
 - The leadership of the PEP has access to expert staff that is available to implement education programs, services, and activities.
 - There is an explicit link among the PEP of the cancer program, the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee, and CPEN Canada.
- **Philosophy and Mission**
 - The PEP develops a statement of mission and a statement of philosophy that concisely identifies the purpose and reflects the value of the PEP. These statements should align with the mission, vision and values of the cancer program, the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee, and the Ontario Cancer Plan.

- The cancer program has a long-range plan that defines the goals and strategies of the PEP.
- **Functions**
 - The PEP staff provides leadership by supporting, facilitating, and promoting patient education competencies in a variety of settings and approaches, for a variety of audiences, in collaboration with clinical staff across the cancer program.
- **Facilities and Equipment**
 - Facilities, equipment, and resources are provided to achieve the PEP's mission and to enhance the learning experience.
- **Finances**
 - Cancer Care Ontario and the cancer program allocate adequate financial resources for patient and family education.
- **Process**
 - The provision of patient education services is guided by written policies and procedures.
- **Leadership for Quality and Performance Improvement**
 - The PEP staff participates in a process within the cancer program and at the regional and provincial level to ensure continuous improvement of patient education services.
- **Evaluation and Research**
 - Program evaluation is an integral, ongoing, and systematic process of the PEP.
 - The PEP keeps current on cancer patient education research and/or conducts research and uses the results of research activities to improve the current level of practice.
- **Human Resources**
 - The PEP staff possesses appropriate expertise and competencies through academic background, occupational experience, and continuing education.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL REPORT

The Ontario framework for comprehensive cancer patient education services was developed by the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee and the PEBC through a comprehensive review and modification of existing guidelines established by NCI CPEN. CPEN is a partnership between NCI in the United States and CPEN Canada and is recognized as a leader in the delivery of cancer patient education. NCI CPEN has developed a set of guidelines, *Guidelines on Establishing Comprehensive Cancer Patient Education Services*, which serve as a model to promote excellence in patient and family education. To avoid duplication and to capitalize on the high-quality existing work, the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee decided to use the NCI CPEN guidelines as the basis for establishing a comprehensive patient education framework for Ontario. The guidelines identify nine key elements that are necessary in establishing comprehensive cancer patient education services. The Cancer Care Ontario Patient Education Program Committee, which is comprised of fourteen patient education experts from ten regions across Ontario, developed the framework by reviewing each of the nine key elements for potential adoption in Ontario and modifying their interpretation, based on the Ontario context, experience, and consensus.

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PEBC Contact Information

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