

CANCER SUPPORT SOURCESM

A PROGRAM *of the* CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY 

CancerSupportSourceSM (CSS) is the first validated distress screening program developed for community-based hospitals, physician practices and advocacy organizations that fully integrates screening, referral and follow up care, all through a single, streamlined, web-based program.

Screening for distress is a key component of the 2007 Institute of Medicine Report, *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient, Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*. New patient-centered standards from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, effective 2015, require all cancer patients be screened for distress.

CSS helps cancer centers meet critical new standards easily and effectively. CSS is more than a screening tool – it enables providers to create a vital program linking patient-reported needs with in-house and community support services.

Who should use it?

CancerSupportSource is designed specifically for a community practice setting, where 85% of cancer patients are treated. CSS allows health care teams to thoroughly assess and address needs of patients identified with distress. CSS integrates institutional and community programs to provide the necessary psychosocial resources improving overall quality of care, patient satisfaction and institutional efficiency.

How does it work?

In less than 10 minutes, patients can complete a 25-item screening tool on any computer or tablet (at home or in office) with a standard browser. CancerSupportSource provides the patient with a Personal Support Care Plan with information and referrals for support services which can be emailed or printed. Providers receive a Clinician Report – a summary score of a patient's results, including actionable clinical alerts to help staff triage a response.

Why is CSS different?

CancerSupportSource enables patients to not only rate their concerns but to identify what specific assistance is needed. Reports are instantly generated including resource fact sheets that can be customized for any institution. CSS is HIPAA compliant and can be linked to the EHR using HL7 and web services interface.

What is the long-term impact of coordinated cancer care?

Early identification and treatment of psychosocial distress through counseling and support services yields cost-savings to the health care system. A recent study indicated that patients with general distress who participated in psychotherapeutic interventions experienced:

- Decrease in average length of hospital stay
- Decrease in hospitalization frequency
- Decrease in physician office visits
- Decrease in emergency room visits
- Decrease in number of prescriptions received*

Where can I learn more?

For more information about bringing CancerSupportSource personalized psychosocial distress screening to your area, visit www.cancersupportsource.org or contact Vicki Kennedy, LCSW at 202.650.5379 or vicki@cancersupportcommunity.org.



*Sobel, D.S. (2000). "The Cost-Effectiveness of Mind-Body Medicine Interventions." *Prog Brain Res* 122: 393-412