



THE CANCER CARE PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS (CCPC) ACT (H.R. 5160)

BACKGROUND: The complexities of cancer care coordination and limited cancer program resources often results in cancer patients not receiving a care plan for treatment and survivorship. Patient navigation and survivorship care planning have emerged as important cancer program strategies to help advance early integration of supportive care services as part of quality cancer treatment. Integrated supportive care services promote patient-centered care, enhance shared decision-making, and improve the patient and family experience – key markers for delivering high quality and value in cancer care. Cancer care is particularly complex because it is multidisciplinary, requires the coordination of active treatment and management of symptoms and side effects, and encompasses elements of acute and chronic care. The needs of the cancer patient, too, are more than simply medical – patients and their families need psychosocial, financial, and navigation support throughout treatment.

- Cancer programs consistently cite reimbursement limitations, staffing shortages, and resource allocation concerns as major impediments to delivering integrated supportive care services, such as patient navigation and survivorship care planning.
- Most cancer patients still do not receive a written plan that explains their diagnosis, prognosis, treatments, and expected symptoms, leaving them to navigate the complexities of a cancer diagnosis without clear direction or knowing what to expect from their care.
- Research has confirmed that coordinated cancer care outlined in a written care plan—care that integrates active treatment and symptom management—improves patient outcomes, increases patient satisfaction, and reduces utilization of health care resources.
- **The Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act** would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning. The bill will encourage the development of a personalized cancer care plan for Medicare beneficiaries, aligning with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) recent efforts to foster care planning in Medicare.
- The CCPC Act would encourage shared and informed decision-making between patients and their cancer care teams and empower patients with tools to manage their care from active treatment through long-term survivorship.

**Request: In the House, please cosponsor H.R. 5160 to encourage the development of a personalized cancer care plan for Medicare beneficiaries.
In the Senate, please join your House colleagues in introducing this legislation.**

For more information on the bill or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Ethan Van Ness in Representative Mark DeSaulnier's office at ethan.vanness@mail.house.gov or Kristina Thompson in Representative Ted Poe's office at kristina.thompson@mail.house.gov.