



## Bigger and Better!

### Cancer program guidelines for the *entire* multidisciplinary team

by Alan S. Weinstein, MD, FACP

As Chair of ACCC's Guidelines Committee, I am pleased to announce that ACCC's newly revised and updated *Cancer Program Guidelines* are available at [www.acc-cancer.org](http://www.acc-cancer.org). Besides a general updating, you'll find three major changes: the Pharmacy Section has been extensively revised; an Integrative Medicine Section has been added; and each reference has been updated and linked to its source.

Even if you are familiar with ACCC's *Guidelines*, take time to browse through this new edition. From psychosocial oncology care, to nutritional support services, to rehabilitation and palliative care, you are sure to find useful information and detailed listings of optimal characteristics with which to compare and benchmark your own program.

For those who have never accessed this resource, let me take a minute to explain what sets ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* apart.

First, let's start with what ACCC's *Guidelines* are not. Unlike other guidelines, ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* are not intended to act as an accrediting or credentialing mechanism. They are *not* a list of standards, such as those published by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer.

Instead, ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* are designed to fill a unique need. ACCC's *Guidelines* have been created to assist cancer programs that want to develop and/or maintain a comprehensive interdisciplinary program that meets the needs of cancer patients and their families. ACCC's *Guidelines* reflect the *optimal* components for a cancer program.

ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* are meant for the entire

#### ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* Table of Contents

*Chapter 1:* Institutional and Programmatic Resources

*Chapter 2:* Cancer Committee

*Chapter 3:* Cancer Data Management and Registry Operations

*Chapter 4:* Clinical Management and Supportive Care Services

*Chapter 5:* Clinical Research

*Chapter 6:* Community Outreach

*Chapter 7:* Professional Education and Staff Support

*Chapter 8:* Quality Improvement

multidisciplinary cancer care team— medical, radiation, and surgical oncologists; oncology nurses; pharmacists; administrators; radiation therapists; oncology social workers; cancer registrars and data management personnel; and more. Consistent with ACCC's unique membership, ACCC's *Guidelines* Committee members reflect this multidisciplinary team. The ACCC members who developed and approved these guidelines are the same healthcare professionals who *use* these guidelines at their community cancer programs.

ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* are designed as a hands-on, practical resource that provides guidance on what ACCC and its committee believe are the components of an optimal cancer program anywhere in the U.S.

How can you put ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* to use?

- For newly established cancer programs, the *Guidelines* offer a framework for growth toward becoming an optimal cancer program. Each of eight chapters provide clear, concise descriptions of individual programmatic elements—whether it's spiritual care, cancer registry, pharmacy services, integrative medicine, or another component of care.
- For cancer programs that perceive a need to improve, strengthen, or add to a programmatic area,

ACCC's *Guidelines* provide support for proactive development in each of the interdisciplinary areas that comprise an optimal program of cancer care.

- For any oncology program, practice-based or hospital-based, ACCC's practical *Guidelines* are a tool for understanding how each piece fits into the total fabric of today's increasingly complex, interdisciplinary state-of-the-art cancer care program.

Program administrators and medical directors can put these *Guidelines* to use as a practical teaching tool to help integrate new team members into the oncology care matrix. Understanding not only your own role, but the role of your colleagues in the cancer care team is one more way to move the entire team toward optimal care.

I urge you to take a minute and check out ACCC's *Cancer Program Guidelines* at [www.acc-cancer.org](http://www.acc-cancer.org). Put them to use in your program or practice. Look for short highlights from the *Guidelines* in future issues of *Oncology Issues*. ACCC's *Guidelines* Committee invites your comments and suggestions. 📧

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Alan S. Weinstein, MD, FACP, medical and administrative director, Fox Chase Virtua Health Cancer Program, Mt. Holly, N.J., is chair of ACCC's *Guidelines* Committee.