



# QUALITY OF LIFE

## Goal 12: Increase the proportion of cancer patients receiving services that improve the quality of life from diagnosis onward.

**OBJECTIVE 12.1:** Identify quality of life programs proven to be effective (i.e., best practices).

### Strategies

- Establish quantifiable criteria to determine which programs are among the best practices for addressing cancer survivor needs.
- Identify best practices based on agreed upon criteria and rank programs accordingly.
- Identify gaps in survivorship research and provide funding to test new models and approaches.

**OBJECTIVE 12.2:** Increase quality of life resources available to patients and their families, with special attention to end-of-life resources.

### Strategies

- Increase availability of support groups/

systems, information and counseling services.

- Develop and support multidisciplinary palliative care teams specifically committed to symptom management that begins at diagnosis (inpatient and outpatient).
- Encourage the development and/or use of cancer resource centers as clearinghouses for cancer information. Educate health care providers in the use of these facilities.

**OBJECTIVE 12.3:** Increase utilization of available services that enhance quality of life for cancer patients from diagnosis onward.

### Strategies

- Increase awareness of available services that enhance quality of life for cancer patients from diagnosis onward.
- Work at the community level to increase access to cancer support services, through low-cost transportation and placement of services in rural medical facilities.
- Develop patient navigation or case management programs that improve quality of life.
- Increase human resources/workplace education regarding patient rights.

- Advocate for more appropriate reimbursement of medically necessary psychosocial and palliative care.
- Ensure adequate services and equitable quality of life for specific ethnic groups by focusing outreach efforts where people are, with an emphasis on utilizing outreach in faith-based groups, community centers, workplaces, etc.

**OBJECTIVE 12.4:** Increase health professionals' provision of care that is sensitive to quality-of-life issues from diagnosis onward.

### Strategies

- Refer all patients to existing community support services in a supportive and timely manner.
- Increase referrals to hospice in a timely manner.
- Inform physicians and nurses about the provision of the Americans With Disabilities Act so that they may be able to assist cancer patients in obtaining entitlements under the statute.
- Educate providers regarding resources and referrals on all legal and ethical end-of-life care options and how best to discuss them with their patients.
- Educate providers on effective pain management procedures.
- Increase equitability of prescriptive practices among all Kentucky cancer survivors.

**OBJECTIVE 12.5:** Increase awareness of cancer as a chronic disease.

### Strategies

- Include updated definitions of survivorship in cancer treatment messages.
- Conduct trainings for health profes-

sionals, community health workers and patient navigators on the evolving concept of cancer survivorship.

- Promote and disseminate printed survivorship information for providers and patients to medical facilities across Kentucky.
- Promote and disseminate information on effective pain management, from diagnosis onward.