

Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

A Richard Pratt Legacy



Cancer survivorship and general practice

The increase in the number of Victorians living with cancer or who have had a diagnosis of cancer has placed increased pressure on oncology services and led to proposals for shared care practice. There is evidence that general practice is well positioned to provide post-treatment follow up care.

In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funded the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre – A Richard Pratt legacy (ACSC) to develop a suite of [videos](#) for general practice based health professionals, hospital based health professionals and cancer survivors.

The [videos](#) were developed to illustrate the role of generalists in shared cancer care after treatment (survivorship care).

Suggested discussion points for health professional educators

1. Discuss the key messages conveyed by the video

Examples

- a. *Shared care provides better care*
 - i. *is better because patients receive holistic, coordinated care*
 - ii. *requires quality information from specialist*
- b. *There needs to be clarity around roles and responsibilities*
- c. *Patients appreciate and accept shared care*
- d. *Optimal Care Pathways (best practice care pathways) are a useful resource*

2. Describe what general practice can do during cancer survivorship.

Examples:

- a. *Provide coordinated comprehensive care including managing existing conditions*
- b. *Discuss lifestyle factors with survivors and identify healthy lifestyle goals*
- c. *Create a chronic disease management plan*
- d. *Link survivors to community services and allied health*
- e. *Discuss psychosocial issues*
- f. *Assist patients to self-manage side effects and symptoms*
- g. *Two-way communication with the acute/hospital team*
- h. *Access additional education or resources regarding cancer survivorship*

3. Describe what hospital based health professionals can do to help general practice staff during cancer survivorship.

Examples:

- a. *Provide a survivorship care plan*
- b. *Provide an explicit shared care plan outlining roles and responsibilities and expectations*
- c. *Communicate the valuable role of general practice to survivors*
- d. *Provide clear information regarding likely side effects and late effects*
- e. *Provide links to the Optimal Care Pathways*
- f. *Provide one key contact name and number for questions*

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4. What is one action will you take after watching the video?

Examples:

- a. *develop a survivorship care plan (hospital staff) or chronic disease management plan (general practice staff)*
- b. *review the optimal care pathways*
- c. *provide my patients with links to the consumer GP video*
- d. *provide my patients with links to the Optimal Care pathways resource*

What did you think?

We invite you to provide feedback by completing this brief survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPLG8N8>

Useful resources

- Optimal care pathways
 - For survivors: <http://www.cancerpathways.org.au/>
 - For health professionals: www.cancer.org.au/OCP
- Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre: www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship
- Better Health Channel: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Further reading

- [Emery, J. \(2014\) "Cancer survivorship - the role of the GP". Australian Family Physician, 43\(8\), 521-5.](#)
- [Rubin, Greg, et al. \(2015\) "The expanding role of primary care in cancer control". The Lancet Oncology 16: 1231-1272.](#)
- [Hitchens, R. \(2014\) "How to treat cancer survivors". Australian Doctor:19-26](#)

For more information:

www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship

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Version: December 2016

Whilst appreciable care has been taken in the preparation of these videos, Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre – A Richard Pratt legacy, Department of Health and Human Services, and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre provide these as an educational tool only.

