

COALITION ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2024 UPDATE





Prostate Cancer in Vermont

VTAAC Prevention and Detection Workgroup

February 13, 2024

Sharon Mallory, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Director

Lauren Ressue, Public Health Analyst



PREVENTION & DETECTION TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Lisa Purvis, Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Dartmouth Cancer Center
- 2023: Published a new Cancer Screening Guidelines flyer. A downloadable version of the guidelines can be found at: <https://vtaac.org/cancerscreeningguide/>.
- 2024: Held a two-part meeting series focused on prostate cancer. Scott Perrapato, Urologic Oncology Director at UVM, presented insights into the latest science and recommendations for prostate cancer screening and shared decision making. UVMCC is working on a prostate cancer screening assessment tool that they hope to role out to other healthcare systems. Lauren Ressue and Sharon Mallory presented latest prostate cancer data and prostate cancer goals/objectives in the VT Cancer Plan.
- **Next meeting:** September 16 @ Noon
 - Justin Pentenrieder will provide the latest program updates for You First and the Colorectal Cancer Screening Program at VDH. The group will discuss overlap and ways to collaborate.

Prostate Cancer Risk Assessment

Baseline Prostate Cancer Risk Assessment

Prostate Cancer Risk Assessment Information

Patient has first degree relative with prostate cancer?

Patient has more than 2 relatives with prostate cancer?

Suspicion of BRCA in the patient's family?

Patient has Lynch Syndrome?

Patient is African American?

Patient PSA

Prostate cancer risk level per MAPS protocol

Recommended periodicity for shared decision making for PSA screening per MAPS protocol.

Ongoing Prostate Cancer Risk Assessment

Baseline Assessment Updated or Confirmed

Recommended periodicity for shared decision making for PSA screening per provider.

Does patient wish to proceed with testing?

Is patient interested in novel biomarker study?

Patient Education Provided

[Prostate Cancer Screening Pathway](#)

[Patient History](#)

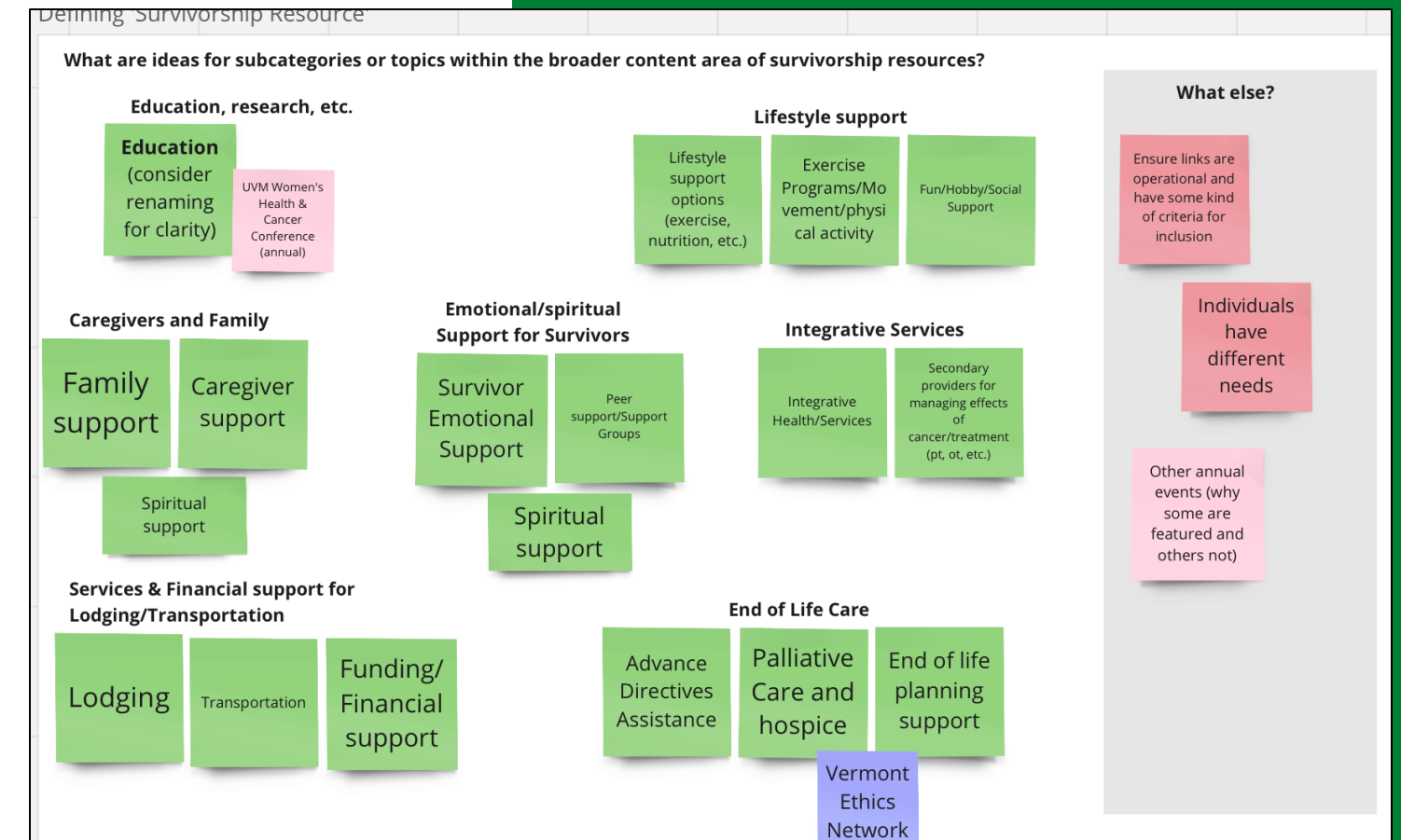
[Patient History](#)

[Problem List](#)

[Results Review](#)

QUALITY OF LIFE TASKFORCE

- VTAAC applied for the \$25,000 supplemental funding opportunity for Year 2 of the workplan to support a survivorship-focused project. The taskforce determined that some of the funds would be spent on building out a new survivorship resource page on VTAAC's website.
- The Survivorship Resource Center can be found [HERE](#).
- The Organization Submission Form can be found [HERE](#).
- Taskforce has also been involved in the early planning stages of the Rural Survivorship Project ECHO & Patient Navigation (see slide 9).
- **Next meeting:** TBD



Cancer Survivorship Resource Center



Welcome to the VTAAC Cancer Survivorship Resource Center. These resources are for cancer patients and survivors, as well as their caregivers and families. You can either search by category, choosing from the list below, or see the full list of resources farther down on the page. Please click on a resource for a brief description, as well as information on requirements, cost, website and contact information.

Is your resource missing from this list? Please fill out this form to have your resource added:

[Organization Submission Form](#)

Questions? Email Hanna Snyder, Coalition Coordinator:

[Contact Us](#)

Vermont “Start at 9” Campaign
to Prevent HPV Cancers



September 2023

VT organizations that have endorsed starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9:

- American Cancer Society
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
- Central Vermont Medical Center
- Dartmouth Cancer Center
- Northern New England Clinical & Translational Research Network
- People's Health and Wellness Clinic
- Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
- UVM Cancer Center
- UVM Children's Hospital
- UVM Health Network
- Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer
- Vermont Dental Hygienists' Association
- Vermont State Dental Society

Dear Vermont Health Care Provider,

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is estimated to cause about 37,300 new cases of cancer each year in the U.S.¹

We have an opportunity to eradicate HPV-associated cancers, yet too few people get the safe and effective vaccine. HPV can cause six different cancers, and the vaccine prevents most diagnoses of these cancers including 81% of invasive cervical and 66% of oropharyngeal cancers.² In Vermont, oral pharyngeal cancer is now the eighth most diagnosed cancer among males and females; every year about 108 Vermonters are diagnosed with oral pharyngeal cancer, and 23 die from it.³

A nine-valent HPV vaccine (HPV9) is available to protect against multiple strains, including the types that cause most cervical and other anogenital cancers, as well as some oropharyngeal cancers. **The HPV vaccine is approved for ages 9 years through 45 years for ALL GENDERS.** The American Cancer Society and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend vaccination beginning at age 9.

In Vermont, only 62% of adolescents aged 13-17 have completed the HPV vaccine.⁴ In rural communities, HPV vaccination rates are low, yet incidence and mortality rates of HPV-associated cancers are high.⁵ In Vermont, only 59% of rural youth have been vaccinated for HPV, compared to 67% of those living in urban areas.⁶

We must address this preventable public health issue. **You** can make a difference! **Provider recommendation for the HPV vaccine is considered the most effective determinant of vaccine uptake.**

The Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program provides vaccines at no cost to providers for all children and adults. The program is available to all enrolled providers through Vermont Child Vaccine Program (VCVP) and Vermont Adult Vaccine Program (VAVP).

Vermont is partnering with NH, CT, VA, WV, DC, PA, OH, MD, and DE, in a multi-state *Call to Action* to increase HPV vaccination through strong and consistent provider recommendations and the initiation of HPV vaccination starting at age 9. *HPV vaccination is cancer prevention!*

Please review the Provider Call to Action steps below as well as the resources and links at the end of the letter. Vermont's Cancer Coalition, Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC), is actively supporting this effort through its HPV Taskforce. For more information on how you can be involved in this initiative, please go to www.vtaac.org or email Coordinator@VTAAC.org.

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of your patients. We appreciate your support for this important effort to prevent cancer by increasing HPV vaccination in Vermont.

Recommend starting HPV Vaccination at age 9!

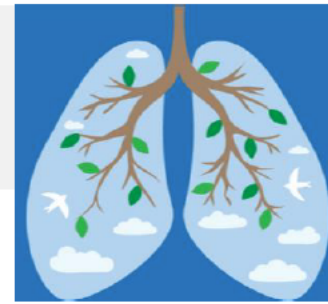
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Leigh Sampson, Associate Director, State Partnerships, American Cancer Society
- **2023:** Collaborated with other states to create two call-to-action letters – one for health care providers and one for dental health care providers. These letters encourage providers to recommend HPV vaccinations starting at age 9. You can view these letters here: <https://vtaac.org/hpv-call-to-action-letters/>.
- **2024:** SVMC and ACS kicked off an HPV QI project that this taskforce is supporting. This group will help promote provider education opportunities and provide expertise, resources, connections throughout their project.
- **Next Meeting:** September 18 @ 11 AM
 - The group will review HPV EBIs and some of the latest VT HPV data. Please share widely! We hope to recruit some new members to this meeting.
 - Future: Kim Daly, MD, Merck Vaccines to give a presentation on “Why Age 9”.

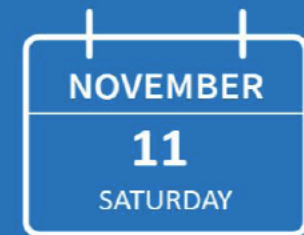
SKIN CANCER TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Lisa Purvis, Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Dartmouth Cancer Center and Sharon Mallory, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Director, Vermont Department of Health
- 2023: 12 sites across VT were selected to receive free sunscreen dispensers and a start-up supply of sunscreen for their summer programming.
- 2024: 16 sites were selected thanks to the collaborative efforts of IMPACT Melanoma, Dartmouth Cancer Center, UVM Cancer Center and VTAAC.
 - VTAAC put out their first press release about the program. Subsequently, all local health offices across the state received dispensers, as well, which will be shared with partners throughout the summer and fall.
- To see the list of free sunscreen sites, sun safety social media toolkits and the VTAAC press release, visit: www.vtaac.org/free-sunscreen-dispenser-initiative.
- **Next Meeting:** October 2nd @ 1 PM





NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING DAY



DE Organizations who have endorsed the NLCSD campaign:

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org/
1-800-227-2345

American Lung Association
www.lung.org
1-800-586-4872

Bayhealth
www.bayhealth.org
302-744-7060 (Kent County) or 302-430-5707 (Sussex County)

Beebe Healthcare
302.645.3178
www.beebehealthcare.org

ChristianaCare
302-623-0552
www.christianacare.org/lung-screenings

Delaware Cancer Consortium, Early Detection & Prevention Committee
www.healthydelaware.org

Delaware Division of Public Health, Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control
Screening for Life
302-744-1040

Delaware Imaging Network
www.delawareimagingnetwork.com
877-990-2121

Tidalhealth
410-543-7006
www.tidalhealth.org

Dear Medical Provider:

The American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable (ACS NLCRT), American College of Radiology® (ACR®), and Radiology Health Equity Coalition (RHEC) have partnered once again for the second annual **National Lung Cancer Screening Day** (“National LCS Day”).

This year’s **National Lung Cancer Screening Day** is on Saturday, November 11. The goal of this event is to reduce disparities, promote access to care, and save lives.

Lung cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer and is estimated to claim the lives of over 127,000 Americans this year. Did you know that even though survival rates can be improved significantly by screening, only a small percentage of eligible individuals get screened for lung cancer. **In Delaware, only 27.9%** of those that are eligible reported having a CT or CAT scan for lung cancer screening within the past 12 months. Most cases continue to be diagnosed at distant stage, which is harder to treat and decreases survival. In 2015-2019, **44%** of new lung cancer cases were diagnosed at the distant stage.

Our purpose for this event is to increase screening access for people who cannot take time off during their weekly schedules to get screened for the early detection of lung cancer.

Support National Lung Cancer Screening Day on 11/11 by **referring your eligible patients for screening**. Show them you care about their health. Refer them to a nearby screening center today.

Together, we can make a difference and create a nation where lung cancer is screened for, detected early, treated effectively, not stigmatized, and conquered!

Let’s work together to save lives!

To easily find a lung screening site near you, click on, [Lung Cancer Screening Locator Tool | American College of Radiology \(acr.org\)](#)

For more information visit the **National Lung Cancer Roundtable** at [Lung Cancer Screening Day - National Lung Cancer Roundtable](#)

LUNG CANCER SCREENING TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Dana Bourne, Tobacco Cessation Specialist, Tobacco Control Program, Vermont Department of Health
- **2023:** Worked with ACS on a media and education campaign around Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November) using a \$15,500 grant awarded to ACS VT to work with VTAAC. National Lung Cancer Screening Day was 11/11/23 and with support from VTAAC and ACS, sites across the state hosted Saturday screening clinics. Dartmouth Cancer Center, UVM Medical Center, Northwestern Medical Center and all VT VA locations are among those who participated.
- **2023-4:** Collaborating with the Department of Corrections to support their efforts to bring lung cancer screening to incarcerated Vermonters. Details have been provided to VT CDC Project Officer and highlighted in a NCCCP newsletter.
- **2024:** Screening sites across the state are again planning to participate in the National Lung Cancer Screening Day this November and have discussed next steps and resources as part of this taskforce. If you’re interested in participating, email Hanna for details.
- **Next Meeting:** October 10 @ Noon

Coverage for a Follow-up Colonoscopy

Summary Guide for Providers and Medical Offices

! IMPORTANT COVERAGE CHANGE:

Starting in 2023, Medicare, ACA and commercial plans will now cover, as part of preventive care and screening, a follow-up colonoscopy after a non-invasive stool-based test returns a positive or abnormal result for patients 45 years of age and older.

This change recognizes that a follow-up colonoscopy is a key part of the colorectal screening process, due to the need for visual confirmation of a positive or abnormal result, and means that beneficiaries aged 45 and older will not have out-of-pocket costs for both a non-invasive stool-based test and, if needed, the follow up colonoscopy.

This resource from Fight Colorectal Cancer (Fight CRC) provides information about the critical regulatory change, what it means for providers, and how to code the change correctly.



COLORECTAL CANCER TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Rebecca Hewson-Steller, Nurse Navigator, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
- 2023: Partners collaborated with FIGHT Colorectal Cancer to co-brand summary guides around coverage for follow-up colonoscopies. Toolkits are for payors, providers and patients. They can also be found on VTAAC's website: <https://vtaac.org/colonoscopy-toolkits/>.
- 2024: Updated colorectal cancer screening shared messaging and resources housed on VTAAC's website: <https://vtaac.org/resources-2/crc/>. These were shared ahead of March (Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month).
- **Next Meeting:** TBD

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION IN CANCER SURVIVORS PROJECT

- **Chair:** Sharon Mallory, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Director, Vermont Department of Health
- 2023: With support from CVMC new patient navigator, Kara Dudman and Kim Dittus at UVM, this group re-started this project to encourage training around physical activity and nutrition in cancer survivors and the promotion of their educational tools (physical activity “prescriptions”).
- 2024: There is interest to continue this project and encourage provider education and awareness efforts but with changes in staffing at both CVMC and UVM, details are still being worked out. This group will continue to support the Rural Survivorship Project ECHO and Patient Navigation efforts (see slide 9).

Exercise is Medicine

R_x FOR: you

PRESCRIPTION:

- RESISTANCE TRAINING
Weights, Pilates, Bodyweight Exercise
- MOBILITY AND BALANCE
Yoga, Stretches, Calisthenics
- AEROBIC
(Walk) Run, Bike, Hike, Swim, Dance

FREQUENCY: 4x per week

NOTES: Use a pedometer,
10,000 steps per day.

SIGNATURE: Sharon Mallory, MD
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Director

DATE: 6/1/2022

Research shows that exercise can improve fatigue, quality of life, and pain levels in cancer survivors.

Exercise can thoroughly enhance your strength, flexibility and balance, as well as:

- Decrease fatigue
- Improve sleep
- Improve function
- Decrease risk of cancer coming back
- Decrease likelihood and severity of other chronic diseases

Ask your provider for a prescription and resources.

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK
Central Vermont Medical Center

RURAL SURVIVORSHIP PROJECT ECHO & PATIENT NAVIGATION

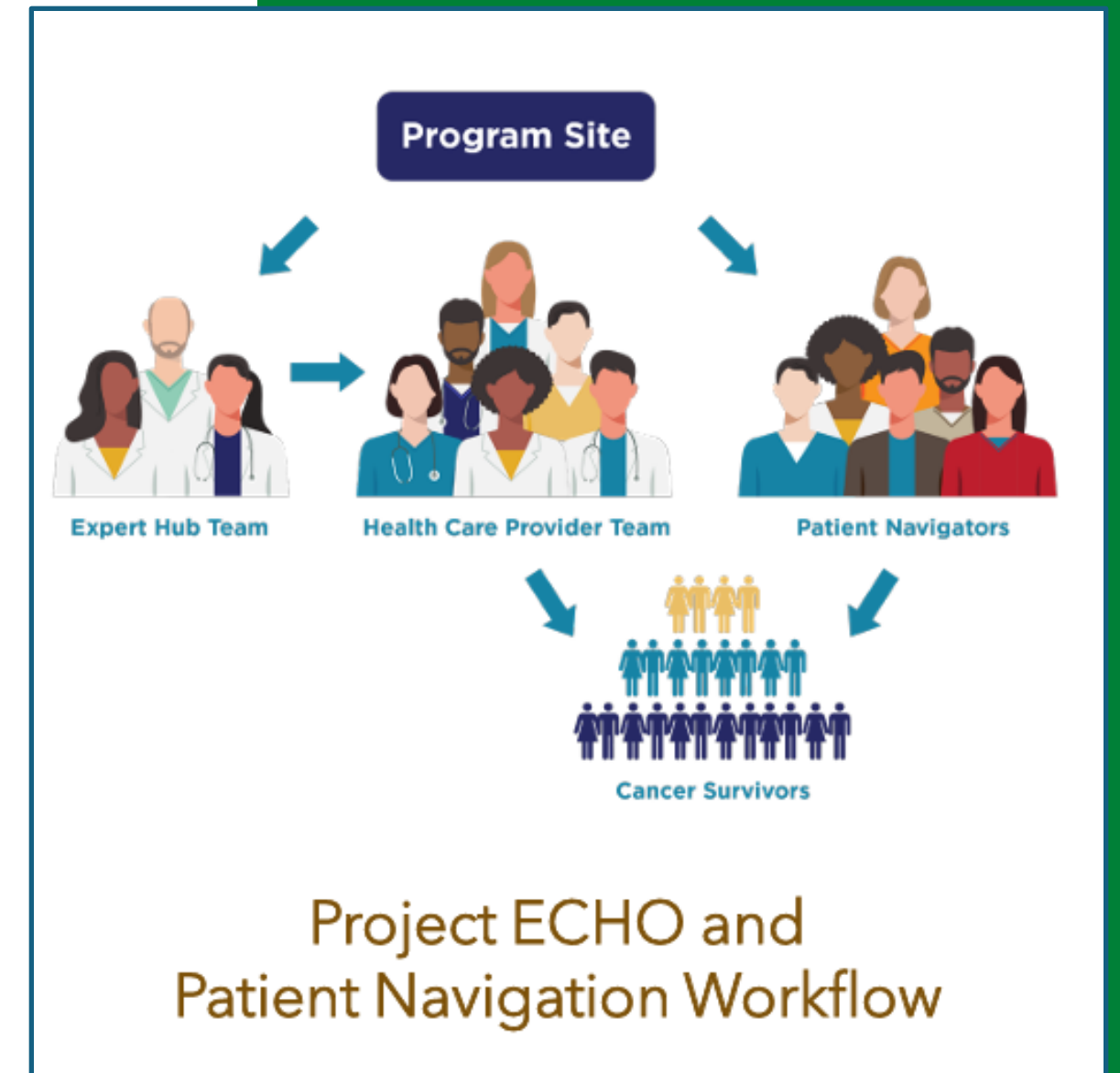
Using Project ECHO and Patient Navigation to Improve the Health and Wellness of Cancer Survivors in Rural Communities

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)

- Goal to improve and increase medical and social support to survivors in rural areas.
- Work with UVM AHEC to plan & conduct telementoring sessions with provider teams (primary care).
- Provide education on the needs and issues faced by rural cancer survivors. Planning team is working to identify topics & speakers.
- Tentative - Four to six sessions in Spring 2025.

Patient Navigation

- Goal to remove barriers to physical and emotional health care for survivors.
- Working with SVMC on replicating a RN-Driven Survivorship Program – creating a follow-up protocol with patients once they have transitioned out of treatment and are not seeing their oncology team as often.
- Support/promote survivorship patient navigators to refer cancer survivors to wellness supports and programs



STRUCTURE OF VTAAC

