

Coalition Activities Update



February 2024



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 WORKGROUP

- **Chair:** Lisa Purvis, Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Dartmouth Cancer Center
- Lisa is looking for a co-chair! If you're curious about this role, please reach out to Hanna.
- 2023: Published a new Cancer Screening Guidelines flyer. A downloadable version of the guidelines can be found at: <https://vtaac.org/cancerscreeningguide/>.
- 2024: Recently had a meeting 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. Lauren Ressue and Sharon Mallory presented latest prostate cancer data and prostate cancer goals/objectives in the VT Cancer Plan.
- Next meeting will be in the early spring to further continue the conversation around how this taskforce can work together on a prostate cancer-focused project (i.e. provider education tools)

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 History](#)

[Patient History](#)

[Problem List](#)

Patient PSA [Results Review](#)

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?

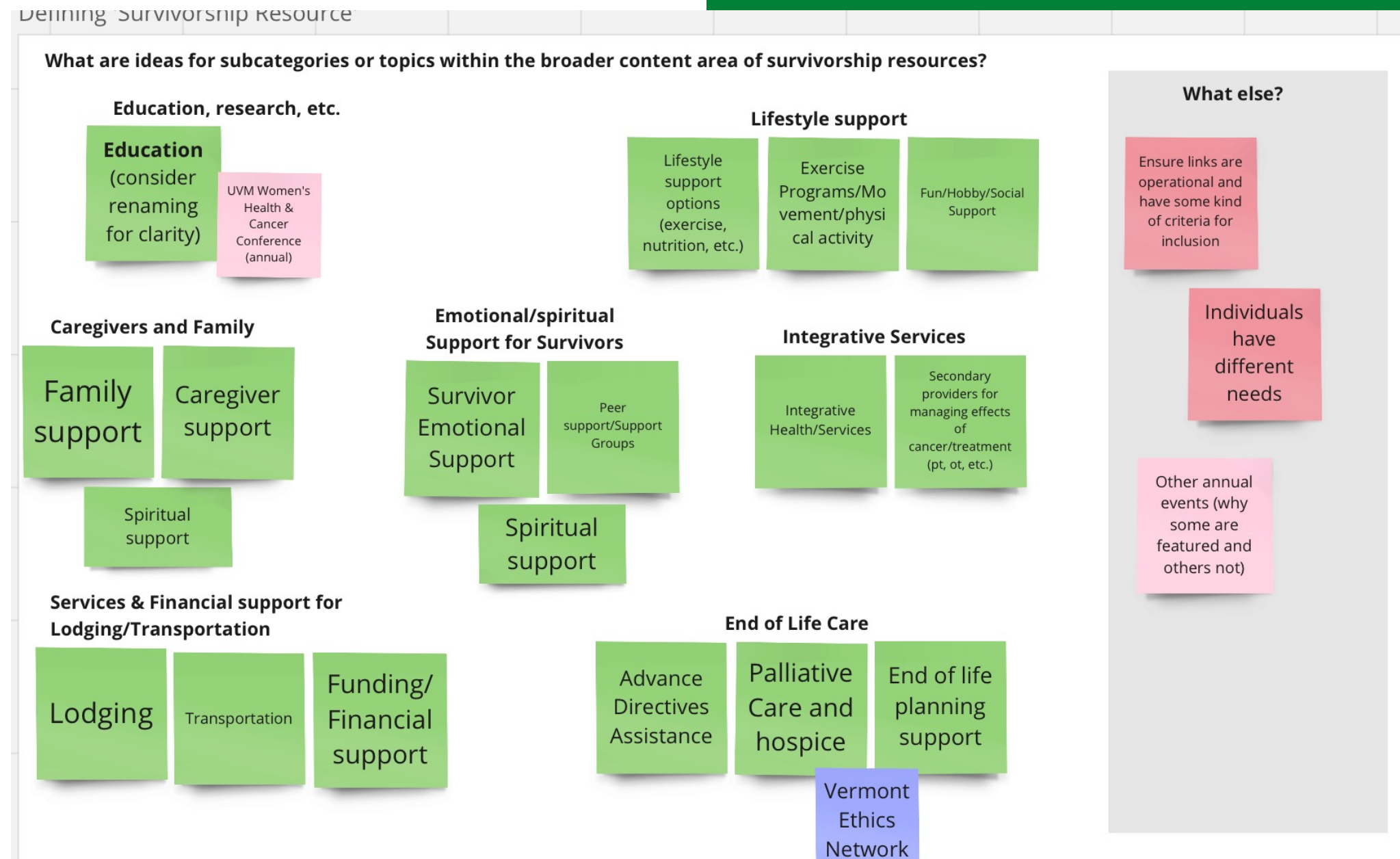
Patient Education Provided

[Prostate Cancer Screening Pathway](#)



QUALITY OF LIFE WORKGROUP

- **Co-Chairs:** Monica Marshall, Mahana Magic Foundation
- VTAAC applied for a \$25,000 supplemental funding opportunity for Year 2 of the workplan (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024) to go towards a survivorship-focused project. The Quality of Life Workgroup has decided to spend some of the funds on building a Survivorship Resource Center on VTAAC’s website. Some of the funds will be spent on an evaluation team and a web developer.
- Currently, PDA, VTAAC evaluators, are working with the workgroup to create a survey to send out to organizations to gather their information to display on the website. Next steps are to finalize the look/feel of the resource center and launch a test run of the site.



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 PAPILOMAVIRUS (HPV) TASKFORCE

- **Chair:** Leigh Sampson, Associate Director, State Partnerships, American Cancer Society
- Leigh is looking for a Co-Chair! If you're curious about this role, please reach out to Hanna.
- 2023: The group 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 are kicking off an HPV QI project that this taskforce will be a part of. Details TBD. Rebecca Hewson-Steller is leading this project and will be able to provide more details.





NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING DAY



DE Organizations who have endorsed the NLCS Day 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.healthidelaware.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: This group 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 is Saturday, November 11 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.
- 2024: Partners from this taskforce are also collaborating with the Department of Corrections to support their efforts to bring lung cancer screening to incarcerated Vermonters.
- 2024: The group recently met and discussed planning to do another screening day in November (even without the ACS funds), as well as doing another more coordinated communications campaign in November.



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
- Rebecca is looking for a co-chair! If you're curious about this role, please reach out to Hanna.
- 2023: Last March this group created a media campaign for Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with shared messaging and a resource page housed on VTAAC's website. These resources can be found here: <https://vtaac.org/resources-2/crc/>. This was re-shared to the group this week ahead of March.
- This group is looking to meet again in late March to discuss a new project for 2024.



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: Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Dartmouth Cancer Center, IMPACT Melanoma & VTAAC, as part of the Skin Cancer Taskforce, 12 sites across VT were selected to receive free sunscreen dispensers and a start-up supply of sunscreen for their summer programming. To see the list of selected sites, more information on the program and sun safety social media toolkits, visit: www.vtaac.org/free-sunscreen-dispenser-initiative.
- 2024: The group has some funding support from Dartmouth to promote sunscreen dispensers to winter locations. So far, we have reached out to five locations and have one location confirmed and another interested. Winter sun safety programming is very difficult. The group is working out now how to move forward with the remainder of the money, along with some additional communications and funding support from UVM this spring.



Physical Activity and Nutrition in Cancer Survivors

- **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 has 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: Based on recent group conversations, the group will be focusing on provider education and awareness. Members will be doing some work to identify the best type of training for staff (not just providers) and a good time to host these trainings. They will meet again mid-March to further the conversation.



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: Umar Central Vermont Medical
Center Hematology/Oncology Provider

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:

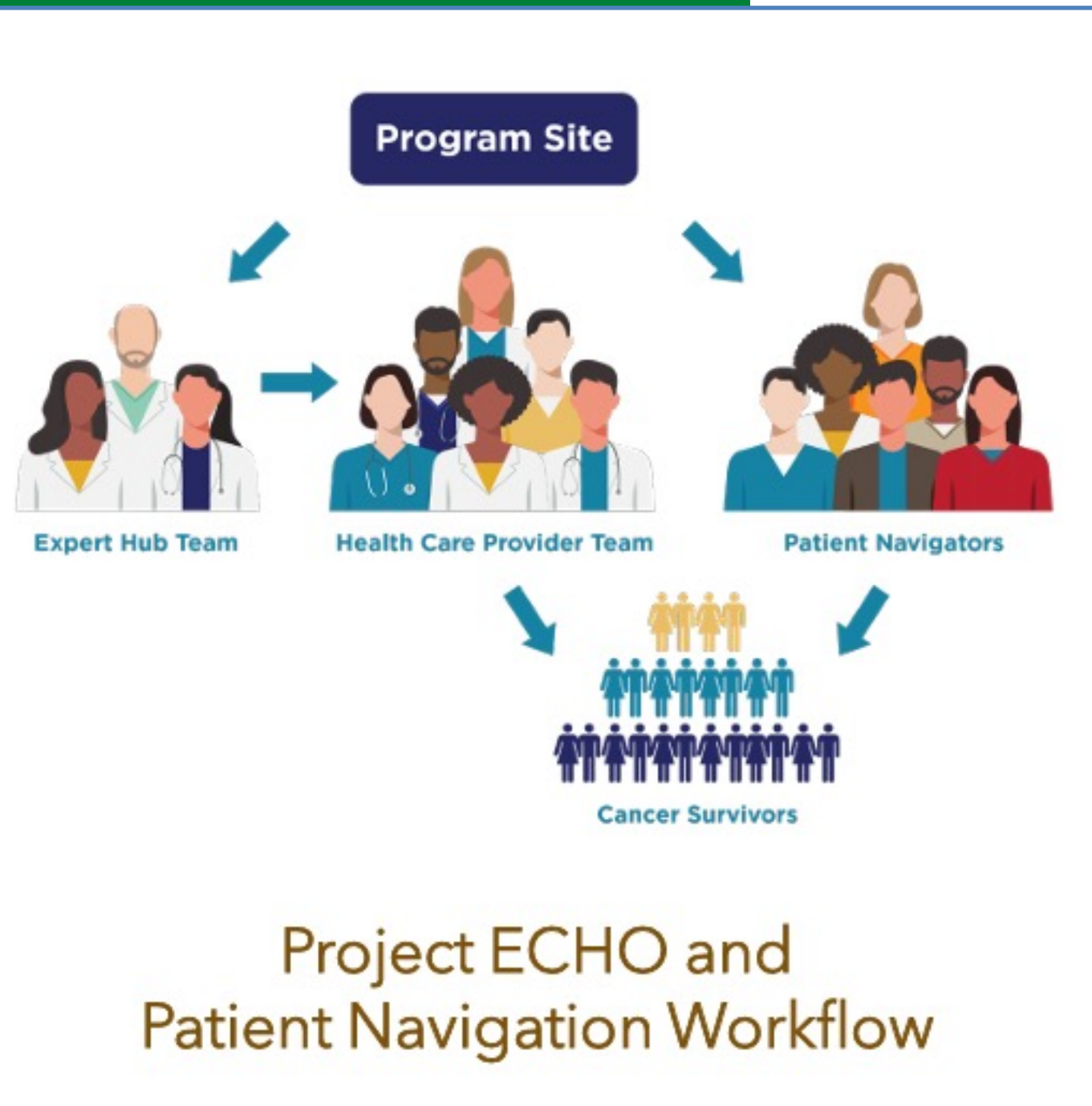
- Decrease fatigue
- Improve sleep
- Improve function
- Decrease risk of cancer coming back
- Decrease likelihood and severity of other chronic diseases

Ask your provider for a prescription and resources.

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK
Central Vermont Medical Center

Survivorship Supplemental Project

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.
- Tentative - Four to six sessions in Spring 2025.

Patient Navigation

- Goal to remove barriers to physical and emotional health care for survivors.
- Work with rural clinics (FQHCs, PCP, etc.) to connect survivors with survivor patient navigators.
- Support/promote survivorship patient navigators to refer cancer survivors to wellness supports and programs.
- Planning in very initial stages



Project ECHO Survivorship Example



Survivorship ECHO Series: January 11 – June 13, 2024
FREE Educational Series, CME Credits
NYS Cancer Consortium, NYS Survivorship Action Team
Supported by CDC Grant and SUNY Upstate for CME Credits

WHO CAN JOIN?

Primary care teams providing care to rural and underserved/under-resourced populations in NYS

Any multi-disciplinary teams who care for cancer survivors in NYS

All sessions in this series will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month

Session 1: Introduction and Survivorship 101	
January 11, 2024 12-1:00pm	Maureen Killackey, MD, FACS, FACOG Tessa Flores, MD Sylvia K. Wood PhD, DNP, ANP-BC, AOCNP Facilitator: Christina Crabtree-Ide, PhD, MPH
Session 2: Survivorship Teams	
February 8, 2024 12-1:00pm	Tessa Flores, MD Gregory P. Rys, NP Maura Abbott, PhD, AOCNP, CPNP-PC, RN Facilitator: Maureen Killackey, M.D.
Session 3: Medical Issues in Survivorship	
March 14, 2024 12-1:00pm	Craig D Hametz, MD, FACC, FASE, FASNC Tessa Flores, MD Facilitator: Maureen Killackey, M.D.

Session 4: Survivorship Lifestyle Behaviors	
April 11, 2024 12-1:00pm	Mara Ginsberg, Esq. Timothy Korytko, MD Facilitator: Christina Crabtree-Ide, PhD, MPH
Session 5: Survivorship and Sexual Health	
May 9, 2024 12-1:00pm	Kristin Sobieraj, PA Facilitator: Tessa Flores, M.D.
Session 6: Supportive Care in Survivorship	
June 13, 2024 12-1:00pm	Anne Moyer, PhD Robin Eggeling Facilitator: Christina Crabtree-Ide, PhD, MPH

