

Abstract Form

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Title of abstract:

It takes a village: collaboration can achieve return to life and employment in the community.

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Background:

Cancer diagnosis in working-age people are becoming more common with almost half of adult cancer survivors under the age of 65. Improvements in cancer diagnostic tools and cancer care has reduced the mortality and survival rate. A large proportion of survivors continue to experience medical, cognitive and psychological problems due to the effects of cancer or its treatments, which cause impairments that can lead to a prolonged absence from work, retaining employment and unemployment. Approximately 40% of survivors fail to return to work 2 years after cancer treatment.

Aims:

The aim of this paper is to provide real case scenarios of two patients returning to employment following cancer diagnosis and treatment in the context of life insurance. The paper aims to provide insights regarding some of the obstacles and how navigating those obstacles beyond a medical clearance require a collaborative framework with many stakeholders.

There is an emerging barrier to getting cancer survivors to return to work. GP, oncologists and employers have little information, directive or incentive to facilitate a sustainable return to work. It really takes a village to collaborate to help patients achieve a health outcome - employment, after cancer.

Method:

The case scenarios provide a journey map of how two patients, with the help of their case manager, navigate the complex and often covulated processes of returning to employment. Obstacles range from occupational, medical, employer, organisational, functional (physical, cognitive and psycho-social), and

cultural. The two case studies demonstrate success requires collaboration from the medical circle and extending to employer and family networks.

Results:

The case scenarios showcase the use of technology including apps, tele-health solutions and cancer outcomes focused strategies and in a collaborative approach delivering results for the patient - a sustainable return to employment in complex occupations and regaining one of the key measures of quality of life in cancer recovery.

Implications that impact on your project:

- Demonstrate the art and science of what is required for a successful return to employment after cancer through better awareness and healthy literacy on the importance of employment being a key quality of life measure.
- Formulate collaborative principles in supporting patients to return to employment after cancer.