



## Improving Outcomes for Cancer Survivors

### Background

As oncology treatments and outcomes continue to improve, the voices of over 10 million US cancer survivors<sup>1</sup> grow ever louder. Various patient advisory and advocacy groups, including the Institute of Medicine, have developed recommendations for the services and support that survivors require. These recommendations include providing each patient with a forward-looking care plan to deal with the changes to their lifestyle that result from the treatments they received. Even governments are getting involved. In 2007, Bill H.R. 1078, the Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act, was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health, with a goal of amending Medicare to improve cancer survivorship care.

### Key Issues

Faced with the staggering number of existing survivors and ever increasing incidence and survival rates, coupled with the lack of growth in the number of oncologists and nurse practitioners, how can cancer centers provide survivors with the follow-up care they require and deserve? What information and services do cancer centers need to provide to survivors?

### The EQUICARE CS Solution

A proactive managed follow-up care program can result in increased patient satisfaction and earlier detection of recurrence, both of which are key factors that drive improved patient outcomes.

Specifically, the Institute of Medicine released the study “**From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition**”, which defined quality health care for survivors and identified strategies to achieve this. Among the recommendations in this report is the provision for all survivors to be provided with a Record of Care and a Care Plan.

The Record of Care is a summary of the treatments the patient received. The Care Plan is a forward-looking document that identifies for the survivor any side-effects or late-effects they may experience and techniques for managing them, monitoring techniques and assessments, and healthy-living recommendations.

EQUICARE CS is a case management solution that can help cancer centers meet and exceed these recommendations, and ultimately improve survivor outcomes.

First, EQUICARE CS automates the initial generation of these personalized documents and organizes subsequent follow-up activities, freeing physicians and nurses to focus on providing patient care. In particular, EQUICARE CS automatically generates the first draft of the Care Plan based on the established guidelines and best practices of your own physicians. EQUICARE CS eliminates the mountains of paperwork, filing, confusion, and delays that might otherwise result from a manually administered survivorship program.

Second, EQUICARE CS distributes this information to the patient through a personalized portal on the Internet. Providing this critical information empowers the survivor, their families, and their primary care physicians to take charge of the survivor's care, which can lead to improvements in both quality of life and the detection of recurrence.

<sup>1</sup> National Cancer Institute, 2004 figures

Finally, a survivorship program with EQUICARE CS allows cancer centers to monitor and manage outcomes for survivors for years after the initial treatments have concluded, enabling them to evaluate the effectiveness of those treatments. This can help cancer centers to continuously improve both the treatments and their delivery, further improving patient care while addressing pay-for-performance concerns.

EQUICARE CS enables cancer centers with limited resources to meet the needs of a growing number of cancer survivors. Please visit us at [www.cogenths.com](http://www.cogenths.com) or e-mail us at [info@cogenths.com](mailto:info@cogenths.com) to learn more.



Cogent Health Solutions Inc  
Suite 501-321 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8  
Phone: 604-708-9075  
Fax: 604-687-6942  
Email: [info@cogenths.com](mailto:info@cogenths.com)  
Web Address: <http://www.cogenths.com>