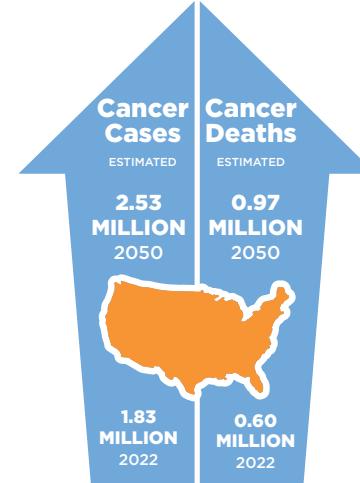


# Patient-Centered Cancer Care

## Employer Actions to Ensure Personalized Oncology Care

**THE CHALLENGE:** Cancer care poses one of the most complex and costly challenges for employers, driven by rising drug prices, longer treatment durations, more younger people being diagnosed with advanced-stage cancers, and a growing incidence across populations. This guide offers strategies to enhance coverage, communication, and education while embedding patient-centered models into benefit design and long-term investment planning.

**Details about these four action steps are found on side two of this document.**



Source: [AACR Cancer Progress Report 2024](#)

### Oncology Care Model (OCM) 2016-2022

### Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) 2023-2030

#### Purpose



Launched by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) as an early effort to transform cancer care through value-based payment and delivery reform.

#### Patient Focus



Emphasized care coordination, navigation, and documented care plans.

#### Cost



Combined fee-for-service payments for established services, monthly payments for additional care under a structured guideline, and performance-based payments weighed against quality metrics and benchmarks.

Builds on OCM lessons with a stronger focus on patient-centered, equitable, and accountable care, reflecting CMMI's updated strategy to promote equity, provider accountability, and sustainable care models.

Expands patient-centered goals with focus on addressing health disparities, patient-reported outcomes, and data-driven improvements.

Uses a two-part payment structure that holds providers accountable for the total cost of care during a six-month episode while incentivizing quality and the provision of Enhanced Services. Depending on expenditures and performance, providers can earn performance-based payment.



## PCORI® Research Study

### Evaluating a New Patient-Centered Approach for Cancer Care in Oncology Offices

#### The Study:

The study was an early effort to test NCQA's patient-centered oncology standards in community oncology practices and evaluated utilization, quality, and patient experience.

#### The Results:

It helped identify key elements to incorporate through a consensus-based approach across primary care and oncology. Encouraged follow-up research to better understand the need to:

- ▶ Focus on patient and caregiver goals.
- ▶ Develop new systems within a practice.
- ▶ Offer reimbursement that supports new care models.
- ▶ Optimize the high value of primary care and patient-centered medical homes.

# Patient-Centered Oncology Care Action Plan for Employers



## 1. Review Current Employer Cancer-Related Health Spending Costs



- ▶ Use claims data to understand cost trends in oncology care for medical and pharmacy spending.
- ▶ Assess overuse of emergency department and hospital care.

## 3. Embed Patient-Centered Models Into Benefit Strategy



- ▶ Promote Centers of Excellence: Work with health plans to include patient-centered oncology programs and advanced primary care medical homes in your network.
- ▶ Support Care Navigation: Make employees and caregivers aware of tools and services that help guide them through cancer care, from appointments to treatment decisions.
- ▶ Regularly review utilization management rules and medical policies to ensure they encourage high-quality, patient-centered care and avoid unnecessary costs.

## 2. Enhance Touchpoints Across the Patient Journey



- ▶ Encourage early detection by promoting cancer screening guidelines to reach as many employees as possible and offer wellness education.
- ▶ Support employees throughout care by providing resources for care navigation, mental health, and palliative support.
- ▶ Partner with health plans to ensure coverage for FDA-approved and evidence-based genomic tests and other innovative tools that enable oncologists to personalize treatment based on each patient's unique cancer profile.

## 4. Develop Long-Term Investment Models

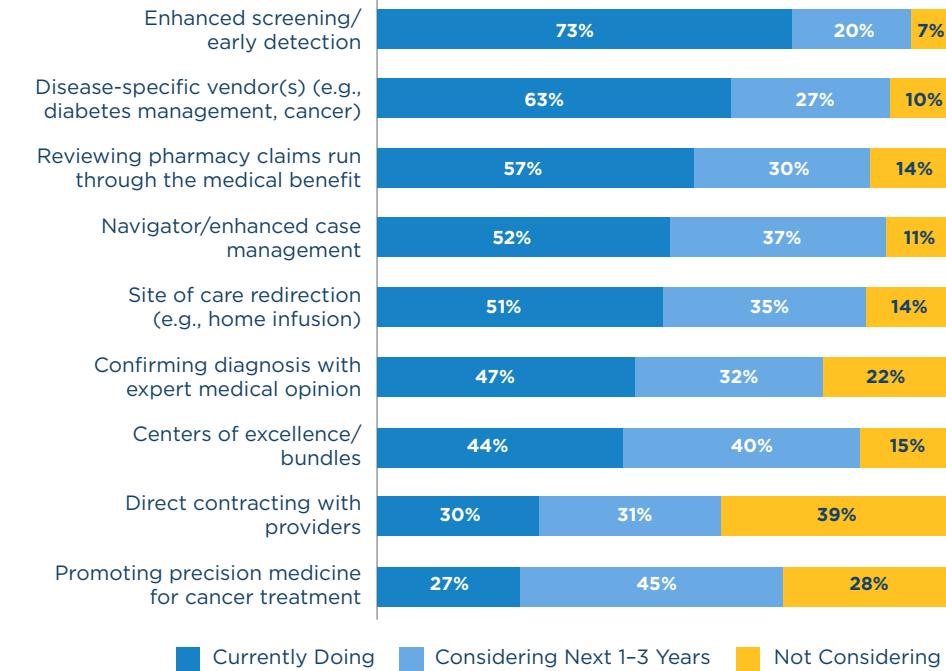


- ▶ Partner with specialized vendors and health plans that focus on patient-centered oncology programs, care coordination, and value-based outcomes to support high-quality, efficient care over time.
- ▶ Negotiate value-based contracts linking payments to measurable patient outcomes, such as faster return-to-work rates, to align incentives between employers, providers, and patients.
- ▶ Work with health plans and pharmacy benefit managers to ensure biosimilars are included in formularies with favorable tier placement and lower out-of-pocket costs to encourage their use over higher-cost biologics.

## FOR FURTHER READING:

- ["Come Home:" A Medicare Innovation Project](#) (Limiting the use of expensive sites of care such hospitals and emergency departments)
- [2024 State of Cancer Survivorship Survey](#) (Cancer Nation)
- [Supporting Women's Health in the Workplace Guide](#) (National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions)
- [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#) (MBGH and Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value)

## Where Employers are Headed and Top Strategies Being Considered



■ Currently Doing

■ Considering Next 1-3 Years

■ Not Considering

Source: [2025 National Alliance Pulse of the Purchaser Survey](#)



These and other National Alliance tools and resources offer guidance to employers developing cancer care strategies. Click on the images to view. View the most-recent National Alliance [here](#).