

Mosaic

A PUBLICATION OF THE BREAST CANCER TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Breast Cancer Demonstration Project Publishes Review of Literature And Web Resources

As part of the Breast Cancer Demonstration Project, HANYS' staff has conducted an extensive review of clinical literature and Internet sites for information on breast cancer and integrated health services. The results of that research have been compiled into a literature review, *Building Systems of Breast Cancer Care: A Comprehensive Review of Literature and Web Resources*. This resource is a comprehensive, organized review of literature on the delivery of breast cancer services. This is not a medical guide. Therefore, the document does not include citations for medical interventions or protocols. It is intended as a guide for health care facilities to use in designing a model of integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive breast health services in a network setting.

The document is divided into three main profiles: Integrated Health Care Systems, Patient Characteristics, and Building a Model of Breast Cancer Treatment. Sample topics include: strategies for network integration, patient outreach, building information systems, patient preferences, educational approaches, and information needs. Throughout the document, relevant Internet sites are referenced that provide additional information on breast cancer care. An appendix listing more than 200 organized Web sites pertaining to breast cancer and women's health is also included.

Each HANYS' member hospital will receive complimentary copies of both the bound and CD-ROM versions of this resource. The bound copy will be sent to the director of women's health programs, and the CD-ROM will be sent to the library of each hospital. The CD-ROM version allows users to hyperlink directly from the document to the Internet.

HANYS hopes that health care facilities will find these products useful in supporting their efforts to enhance breast cancer care services. For those who would like to purchase additional copies, an order form is included with this newsletter.

The Breast Cancer
Demonstration Project

HANYS

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

News From The Demonstration Project Sites

St. John's Riverside Hospital has opened its Breast Education Library. Located in the Radiology Department, the library is open to anyone seeking information on breast cancer. Breast models are set up for instruction on what to feel for when doing breast self-examinations. Video instruction on various modalities used for breast imaging and self-examination are available, as well as workout videos for post-operative mastectomy patients. Computers with interactive programs and Internet access allow users to obtain information on specific topics. Books are available for further reference.

The library is part of a larger construction project for St. John's Breast Imaging Center that will consolidate all breast-imaging modalities and breast care into one area. The Breast Imaging Center will make use of mammography, ultrasound, film interpretation, and Advanced Breast Biopsy Instrumentation. It will also have a reception area and, of course, the library.

Breast Cancer Treatment Guidelines for Patients Now Available

A set of breast cancer treatment guidelines, produced collaboratively by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) were recently made available. These guidelines are designed to provide patients and the general public the most current information about treatment options for breast cancer.

Copies of "*Breast Cancer Treatment Guidelines for Patients*" can be obtained free of charge by calling the NCCN at (888) 909-6226 or the ACS at (800)-227-2345. The guidelines are also posted on the groups' Web sites at <http://www.nccn.org> and <http://www.cancer.org>.

The guidelines present flow charts of treatment options for different stages of breast cancer. For each stage, the chart shows how the patient and physician can arrive at choices about treatment. Categories used in the flow charts are cancer stage, work-up, treatment, prevention, and follow-up.

The NCCN is an alliance of 17 of the nation's leading cancer treatment centers. The ACS translated the NCCN breast cancer treatment guidelines, originally developed for use by oncologists, into patient-friendly language and format.

An interdisciplinary group at **EE Thompson Hospital** has implemented a system to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients by reducing complications from lymphedema. As part of the system, breast cancer inpatients who have had lymph nodes removed will wear pink wristbands. The wristbands identify these patients to medical professionals so that needles and blood pressure cuffs will not be used on the affected arm. EE Thompson hopes this new system will reduce the possibility of lymphedema onset for its breast cancer patients.

EE Thompson Hospital also received a \$3,500 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to provide breast health education to the community. The Community Health Outreach Coordinator for EE Thompson Hospital is using the funds to teach breast self-examination (BSE) techniques through schools, colleges, organizations, and physicians' offices in a four-county area. Additionally, grant funds are being used to conduct SBE trainer classes. Sixteen people have been trained to teach breast self-examination through this program.

Latest New York State Cancer Data Released

On April 20, 1999, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a two-volume publication, "*Cancer Incidence and Mortality in New York State*." This publication is based on 1996 data from the New York State Cancer Registry, which collects information on all new cancers diagnosed in the state. The information is gathered from hospitals, diagnostic and treatment centers, clinical laboratories, managed care organizations, and private physicians.

In both volumes, information is presented in tables. Volume 1 gives age-adjusted, county-level data by gender for 1992-1996. Volume 2 gives cancer data by year for 1980-1996. It also provides detailed data on age, gender, race, ethnicity, and tumor stage. These publications are available on the Web at the DOH New York State Cancer Registry Web site <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/cancer/cancer.htm>.

Information from these reports is being used to develop cancer maps for county and sub-county levels. The maps, part of the Cancer Surveillance Improvement Initiative, are to be released later this summer.

Institute of Medicine Delivers Report on Quality of Cancer Care

On April 6, 1999, the Institute of Medicine released **Ensuring Quality Cancer Care**, a report of the National Cancer Policy Board (NCPB). The NCPB report examines existing variations in cancer care delivery in the United States, and delivery of cancer care with regard to changes in health care financing and organization. Specific areas of focus are effectiveness of cancer services and delivery systems, quality assurance mechanisms, and barriers impeding access to care. The report concludes that the newest and most advantageous scientific advances in cancer treatment are not reaching consumers equally.

Specific areas that the report identified include:

- ❖ Under-use of mammography for early breast cancer detection
- ❖ Lack of adherence to diagnostic standards
- ❖ Inadequate counseling of patients regarding treatment options
- ❖ Under-use of radiation and adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery

The NCPB report also identified elements associated with excellence in cancer care in two related categories: elements pertaining to individuals and elements pertaining to health care systems. The elements pertaining to individuals reflect a vision of quality cancer care for health care systems working towards excellence.

Elements pertaining to health care systems:

- ❖ Goals consistent with this vision of quality cancer care policies
- ❖ Identification of barriers to practice and receipt of quality care and targeted interventions to overcome these barriers
- ❖ Efforts to coordinate the currently diverse systems of care
- ❖ Appropriate training for cancer care providers
- ❖ Mechanisms to facilitate the translation of research into clinical practice
- ❖ A means to monitor and ensure the quality of cancer care
- ❖ Necessary research to further the understanding of effective cancer care

Elements pertaining to individuals:

- ❖ Access to comprehensive and coordinated services
- ❖ Confidence in the experience and training of their providers
- ❖ A sense that providers respect and advocate for them
- ❖ Opportunities to ask questions and voice opinions comfortably and to be full participants in care decision making
- ❖ A clear understanding of the individual's diagnosis and access to information to aid this understanding
- ❖ Confidence that recommended treatments are appropriate, offering the best chance of good outcomes consistent with personal preferences
- ❖ A prospective plan for treatment and palliation
- ❖ A health care professional responsible and accountable for organizing this plan in partnership with each individual
- ❖ Assurances that agreed-upon national standards of quality care are met at the site of care

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Ensuring Quality Cancer Care cont'd

The findings outlined in *Ensuring Quality Cancer Care* are supported by extensive studies of quality cancer care access, clinical practice guidelines, model cancer care programs, and health services literature. The NCPB report concludes that the overall quality of cancer care could be improved and a series of recommendations designed to meet the above goals.

Ensuring Quality Cancer Care complements the work of the HANYS Breast Cancer Demonstration Project, which seeks to apply this information to a model for breast cancer care in New York State. Additional information on this report is available on the Web site for the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www2.nas.edu/cancerbd>.

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ORDER FORM FOR LITERATURE REVIEW

To order copies of "*Building Models of Breast Cancer Care: A Comprehensive Review of Literature and Web Resources*," complete this form and return to HANYS with payment (make checks payable to HANYS).

	HANYS Member	Non-HANYS Member
Book	\$20	\$40
CD-ROM	\$15	\$30
Book and CD-ROM	\$30	\$60

Please send me _____ books and _____ CD-ROMs.
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Questions? — Contact Virginia Homsy at HANYS at
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