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Calling All Oncology Nurses

Since publication of “From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition” and “Cancer Care for the Whole Patient,” the unmet needs of cancer survivors have become unmistakable (Hewitt, Greenfield, & Stovall, 2006; Institute of Medicine, 2007). Oncology nurses across all settings are beginning to address those needs. Recently, the Oncology Nursing Society organized a task force to identify the organization’s role in the survivorship movement.

From large academic settings to small oncology office practices, opportunities to help cancer survivors now are possible. How can each oncology nurse participate? The first step is to do an assessment for what survivorship resources are already available in your setting and what ones are needed (Grant & Economou, 2007). An assessment guide was developed from participant experiences in our National Cancer Institute–supported course Survivorship Education for Quality Cancer Care; it is available at <http://prc.coh.org/researchinstruments/resources>. Answers to the questions can illustrate current resources and areas to be developed.

A next step after assessing your setting might be to provide the Cancer Survivor

Toolbox, available for free from the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, to each patient who completes surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy (National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, n.d.). Instead of a cake and balloons, provide the survivorship kit. In addition, direct survivors to other resources already available in your community, such as The Wellness Community: www.thewellnesscommunity.org.

We have gathered publications, guides, and other resources for your use in the City of Hope Resource Center under Survivorship (visit <http://prc.coh.org>).

Take a step toward meeting survivors’ needs. Let’s help each other by starting a dialogue about what you have been able to implement. We look forward to your comments and reports.

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Nurse Jackie Soprano, RN

I loved the HBO series “The Sopranos.” Heck, growing up just two states away and sharing the northern corridor of I-95, I knew those characters. Disregarding her two flings with a priest and a visitor from the “old country,” Carmela was my favorite. Carmela was the ultimate matron, exhibiting skills as communicator of the family legacy and the primary choreographer of kindred chaos. She was a caregiver, responsive to those in need, and routinely attended funerals. What a perfect choice to play Nurse Jackie.

On the new Showtime series, “Nurse Jackie” (played by Edie Falco, the actress who brought us Carmela) makes no bones about who’s in charge. She runs a tight ship, delegates effectively, and is well versed in

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