

CRF CPEST Program Guidance on Patient Navigation

Goal/Objective: In efforts to address significant barriers individuals face accessing and completing cancer screening and diagnostic services, Patient Navigation services will be implemented within the Cigarette Restitution Fund - Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment Program (CRF-CPEST). The objective of this service is to reduce disparities related to accessing preventative screening services for all individuals, insured and uninsured.

Definition of Patient Navigation: Individualized assistance offered to clients to help overcome healthcare system barriers and facilitate timely access to quality cancer screening and diagnostic services as well as initiation of treatment services for persons diagnosed with cancer.

Required Scope and Activities of Patient Navigation:

- Written assessment of individual client barriers to cancer screening, diagnostic services, and initiation of cancer treatment
- Resolution of client barriers (e.g. transportation, translation services, health insurance access)
- Client tracking and monitoring of client progress in completing cancer screening, diagnostic services, and initiating cancer treatment
- Provide education and support
- Collection of data to evaluate the primary outcomes of patient navigation -- client completion of cancer screening, diagnostic services, and treatment initiation. Data on clients lost to follow-up are also tracked.
- Patient Navigation is completed when:
 - Client completes screening and has a normal result
 - Client with abnormal result completes diagnostic testing and recommended follow-up
 - Client diagnosed with cancer *initiates* cancer treatment

Eligibility for Patient Navigation Only Services: In alignment with the goal of reducing disparities, programs should focus on providing Patient Navigation services to:

- Low-income populations at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level
 - Insured clients, OR clients that *become insured* during a screening cycle
- Individuals of appropriate age and risk related to targeted cancers

DHMH Next Steps:

- Creation of a Consent Form that incorporates Patient Navigation services
- Development of guidelines and tools for client tracking and data collection
- Training for staff on outreach that focuses on recruitment of low income, insured Patient Navigation clients
- Development of guidelines for working with providers who work with Patient Navigation only clients