

CancerX Releases New Resources to Empower Health Systems to Improve Access and Reduce Financial Toxicity

Resources support health systems to quantify and maximize the value of digital navigation for patients with cancer

Boston, MA, Aug. 27, 2024 – CancerX, a public-private partnership advancing digital innovation in cancer care and research, announced today the release of new resources that will allow health systems to forecast and maximize the return on their investment in digitally enabled patient navigation. By leveraging these tools, health systems can harness the power of digital innovation to eliminate disparities in cancer care access and reduce financial burden for patients, allowing them to focus on treatment and survivorship.

“More than 50% of patients experience financial distress after a cancer diagnosis. Many of these same patients, and disproportionately, cancer patients from minority groups, face unnecessary hurdles in accessing specialized cancer treatment and disparities in clinical outcomes,” said Sarah Sheehan, Program Lead, Digital Medicine Society (DiMe). “The resources launched today will help health systems across the country implement and scale digital patient navigation programs, alleviating disparities and driving toward more equitable access and cost outcomes for all cancer patients.”

By quantifying and optimizing return on investment (ROI) in digitally enabled patient navigation, the new Digitally Enabled Patient Navigation Blueprint and Digital Navigation ROI Calculator will enable health systems to deliver equitable cancer care by reducing disparities in access and minimizing out-of-pocket costs, delivering whole-person care, in alignment with the CancerX mission.

“I’ve watched patients forego treatment and contemplate suicide because of their fear of the costs of cancer care,” said Grace Cordovano, PhD, BCPA, CancerX Fellow and Patient-In-Residence, Digital Medicine Society (DiMe). “Financial toxicity associated with cancer treatment should be recognized as a grade 4 treatment side effect. We have proof that patient navigation programs effectively improve access to equitable care, reduce financial toxicity, and improve outcomes and quality of life. We are proud and excited to share these resources to help alleviate constraints in widespread implementation of patient navigation programs.”

“Digital tools and automation are pivotal to overcoming the resource constraints, both in dollars and in staff, that often hinder health system ability to offer patient navigation programming to those who will benefit most from it. Securing the right tools is often expensive, time intensive, and complicated, risking further digital divide for patients not able to be seen at health systems that have patient navigation

resources in place. Having data coming from evidence-derived ROI calculators to justify future investment in digitally enabled patient navigation is a game changer,” said Corinne Leach, PhD, Director of Digital Ventures, Moffitt Cancer Center and co-lead of the CancerX Equity and Financial Toxicity project. “The resources released today will help patient navigation teams and their partners in leadership calculate value to their health systems, allowing for confident decisions about their investment in digital solutions. In turn, this value is returned to patients by enhancing equal access to care, diminishing financial toxicity, and improving health and quality of life outcomes through patient navigation services.”

CancerX is launching a new pilot project to scalably equip patient navigators with a digital resource toolkit that connects diverse patients with clinical trials. With only [7% of cancer patients](#) participating in clinical trials—and a [20% trial failure rate](#) due to insufficient enrollment—there’s an urgent need for innovative solutions. This project will equip patient navigators with the tools to dramatically improve clinical trial matching, enrollment, and retention. To join us as a partner on this project, [click here](#).

About CancerX: Announced by The White House Cancer Moonshot in February 2023, [CancerX](#) is a public-private partnership to boost innovation in the fight against cancer. Co-hosted by the [Digital Medicine Society \(DiMe\)](#) and [Moffitt Cancer Center](#), alongside the Office for the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), it convenes the many diverse stakeholders needed to unleash the power of innovation to create a future that’s free of cancer burden. To learn more or participate in CancerX’s pre-competitive, evidence-generating efforts; Accelerator cohort, or demonstration projects, visit www.cancerx.health.

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