WHAT IS WHOLE PERSON CARE?

Whole person care is the patient-centered optimal use of diverse healthcare resources to deliver the physical, behavioral, emotional, and social services required to improve care coordination, well-being, and health outcomes. Culturally competent whole-person care is foundational in reducing structural health inequities. The standard of care is not enough, treating the whole patient is imperative, in tandem with existing care.

Whole person care is critical for improving health outcomes because human wellness depends on multi-dimensional, multi-systemic care coordination. For people with cancer, social, emotional, economic, and environmental conditions affect their health. Understanding this importance, Patient Empowerment Network developed the Rx for Community Wellness program.

ABOUT RX FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS

The Rx for Community Wellness program focuses on moving toward culturally competent whole person healthcare. Designed to create space for equitable conversations, the program aims to gain actionable insights into how best to improve cancer care, encourage self-agency, and equip cancer communities with support that cultivates habits conducive to health and vitality.

What is culturally competent whole person cancer care, and why is it important? How can patients maximize their well-being for the best possible cancer treatment outcome? In this replay, a cancer survivor, naturopathic doctor, and public health scientist weigh in.

Watch the Replay

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"I have a hard time admitting there is significant conflict at home. I need to work on being more open, because that conflict could be a barrier to me achieving remission." (Anonymous) Patient
### Is whole person care important? **YES 77%**

### Asked care team about whole person care **YES 16%**

### Facing social determinant(s) of health **YES 21%**

### No health insurance **YES 9%**

### Are more programs around whole person cancer care needed? **YES 62%**
CROWDSOURCED SOLUTIONS

- Develop tools that promote trust between a patient, provider, and healthcare system
- Ensure patients are evaluated for social determinants of health
- Provide resources for relatives to understand my disease burden
- Provide de-stressing tools that help break down complex medical paperwork
- Prescribe specific wellness activities for immediate family along with cancer treatment
- Create a network for primary care and specialty care dialogue; connect experts to better serve their patients

“I actually think it starts with how we build our systems in many ways, as a very sort of system that doesn’t really work to encourage thinking about the patient in the whole way, and that means the primary care physician being part of the care team with specialty care.

- Aswita Tan-McGory, MBA, MSPH