Recommendations for Case Study:

Questions asked:

1. What are the intervals in which community needs assessments are done in your facility?
2. What population do you assess?
3. Who is responsible for data received with the assessment?
4. How do you document the evaluation of barriers to care/needs?

**Clinical Perspective:**

MaineGeneral conducts their community needs assessment every three years. They use the ME Cancer Registry data to look at stages of disease and use the information to help determine where the focus of the navigators should be, focusing on the cancer with the highest burden. They also use the County Health Needs Assessment. Surveys are conducted with primary care providers, oncologists, and nursing staff to help identify patient and provider barriers. Patient barriers are recorded in the EMR. Their Cancer Committee meets four times per year. The focus is looking at their population and what will best serve them.

**Community Perspective:**

Healthy Acadia utilizes focus groups to conduct community needs assessments. They use ACS statistics and data to better understand the nedds of their population. They have a Health and Wellness Network, where many agencies come together and conduct a needs assessment in their community. They use phone assessments with the population in Washington County and analyze the data as a team, including it in the community needs assessment. Their vulnerable populations tend to have the highest rates of cancer. After 3 months of working with the patient, the patient and caregiver are sent a survey, as well as, at 6 months and at end of treatment, when the patient becomes “inactive.” Survivorship plans are similar with surveys (3 months, 6 months, and 1 year). The Steering Committee analyzes to the data to see how things are going. Surveys are also conducted with the physicians.

Data sources:

* [Maine Cancer Registry](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/vital-records/mcr/)
* [Community Health Needs Assessment](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/MaineCHNA/)