



# Welcome to Project ECHO Cancer Patient Navigation

This meeting will begin promptly at 3:00pm

Please mute upon entry

Enter your name, credentials, organization, and email address in the Chat



If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, please type in the Chat or call Maine Cancer Foundation at 207-773-2533 and reference you need Project ECHO assistance



# Ground Rules

- Always MUTE microphone when not speaking – do not put your call on hold because it will play music
- Please show yourself on your video
- Never disclose protected health information
- To speak:
  - Raise hand (physically or click the option in Zoom)
  - Message in Chat
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Please keep questions and comments related to the topic



Maine Cancer Foundation  
Project ECHO  
Cancer Patient Navigation

Financial Toxicity Part 2

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Annabelle Harcourt, Financial Advocate

New England Cancer Specialists

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019



# Learning Objectives

- How familiar are you accessing financial assistance for cost of treatment, or Non-medical grants for patients in treatment?
- How familiar are you accessing medications to under-insured/Non-insured patients?
- Are you aware that there are other non financial resources available to support patients and care givers?



# Financial Toxicity

## **What happens when your income has changed but your bills stay the same?**

Patients face this question everyday and are some times mentally paralyzed by it. Due to their diagnosis they may have to be on short or long term disability, which in turn has them making less money. They have to leave their job all together due to diagnosis and treatment. Though all living expenses stay the same. They still need to pay the mortgage, electricity bill, put gas in their car. Just now they have to do it with limited income, if any.

So the question becomes is there assistance for non medical bills as well as medical?



# Non-Medical Assistance

## Nation Wide Assistance

### Leukemia Lymphoma Society

Not only copay assistance



- Urgent needs program \$500 ( Does have more requirements then others: Be a pediatric (birth to 19 years of age) or young adult (20 to 39 years of age) patient **OR** be an adult (40+ years of age) patient enrolled in a clinical trial.)
- Patient Aid \$100
- Travel Assistance program
- Also check to see if your local chapter has a fund for your state
  - Maine has one that will give \$500



## Travel Assistance through Foundations

### PAN – Patient Access Network Foundation

Some examples:

ITP – Will give \$600

Prostate – Will give \$2100



CancerCare



CANCERcare®



## American Cancer Society

Has a program to help with rides

[Road to Recovery](#) – helps coordinate rides with their volunteers or with local organizations.



## Regional Transportation Program(rtp)

Provides low-cost transportation







## Other Assistance Programs for Non Medical bills(Nation Wide)

### Project Purple



Helps patients with Non Medical and Medical bills with pancreatic cancer.

Have to be in active treatment

### Smiley Wiley



\*Reopening January 2020 with Max of \$5500



## Local Assistance Programs

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### Maine Breast Cancer Coalition



Helps with patients that live in Maine with Non Medical and Medical bills/expenses

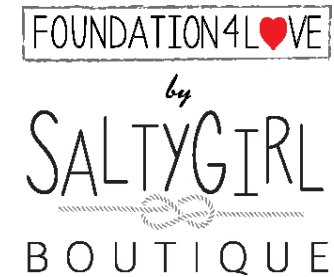
- Gift cards for food
- Pay for oil bills
- Transportation costs

### Bob Smilie Memorial Fund (Pancreatic Cancer)

Helps with non medical bills and gives money for a fun experience unrelated to cancer.



## Local Assistance Programs Continued



### Foundation for Love

Offers time “away” from Cancer by giving experiences to the patient

- Dinner Out
- Spa day
- Sporting event tickets

### Local Social Workers

- A lot of social workers have access to taxi vouchers or bus passes



## Joe Andruzzi Foundation



Helps with non medical bills for patients that live in New England.

Gives a one time grant of up to \$800

- Gas bills
- Car Payments
- Telephone

## Simple Gifts



Offers food cards, gas cards, special occasion gifts and some limited financial help with non medical expenses



## Ones you may not have thought of

### Banks

- Some banks have disability insurance built into loans where you can either defer your loan or even write some off. Ask your loan officer

### Town Halls

- Some town halls have funding to help with utilities

### DHHS

- If a patient has Medicaid they may also qualify for free rides with DHHS

### Utility Companies

- Some utility companies will allow you to defer payment without penalty when you have documented serious illness or a child has documentation of serious illness

### 211 Maine

- Dial (877) 463-6207(for Maine) this provides help with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and utilities. They also can help with health insurance, counseling, transportation, family support and many other programs.



## Amtrak

Some doctor offices are able to get discounted tickets.

Here in Maine we have a train that runs from Maine to Boston called the DownEaster that we are able to give passes for.



## Dempsey Center

The Dempsey Center offers free classes for patients and care givers.

- Healthy Eating classes
- Yoga
- Support Groups

Look to see if you may have one in your state or something like it.





# Copay assistance cards

- **Amgen copay**
  - Xgeva, Prolia, Neulsta, N-Plate, Neupogen, Kyprolis, Vectibix, Blincyto, Imlygic
- **Celgene**
  - Revlimid, Pomalyst, Abraxane
- **Genentech**
  - Herceptin, Perjeta, Avastin, Rituxam, Kadcyra, Gazyva, Tecentriq, Venclexta
- **Heron**
  - Sustol, Cinvanti
- **AztraZeneca**
  - Imfinzi, Faslodex, Tagrisso
- **Eisai**
  - Halaven, Lenvima
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb**
  - Opdivo, Yervoy, Sprycel
- **Ipsen Cares**
  - Lanreotide
- **Novartis**
  - Sandostatin, Tasigna, Afinator
- **Lilly Patient One**
  - Alimta, Cyramza Erbitux
- **Merck Access**
  - Keytruda
- **Janssen**
  - Remicade, Darzalex



# Foundations

- [Cancer Care](#)
- [HealthWell Foundation](#)
- [Leukemia & Lymphoma Society](#)
- [Patient Access Network](#)
- [Patient Advocate Foundation](#)
- [The Assistance Fund](#)
- [Maine Breast Cancer Coalition](#)
- [Good Days](#)
- [Mission 4 Maureen](#)
- [Musella Foundation](#)





Last but not least

New England Cancer Specialists



NEW ENGLAND  
Cancer Specialists

Here at New England Cancer Specialists we have a program that helps provide patients with gift cards. On Fridays employees are allowed to wear jeans if they donate \$2. Those \$2 are then turned into gas gift cards, grocery store gift cards, etc.



Thank you,

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Case Study Presentation

Patricio Massanga, Patient Navigator

Greater Portland Public Health

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019



# Case Study: Background Information

- Many uninsured New Mainers come to me with bills for cancer screenings that have been recommended by their doctors. Patients may receive information on free cancer screening programs, but they may not understand the application process or they may have literacy barriers to understanding the information.
- One uninsured patient was given information on the Breast and Cervical Health Program; however, she was not aware she had to complete an application and was subsequently sent a bill for her mammogram.



# Case Study: Background Information

- In other instances, New Mainers may have employer-based health insurance, but they get bypassed as needing financial help by our financial department because they have health insurance.
- However, these patients still need help interpreting their insurance benefits and knowing how/when to use it, because it is a different system than their home country.



## Case Study: Interventions

- In some instances I have worked with family members to explain the patient's insurance benefits and/or to submit applications for free care.



# Case Study: Barriers

- Cultural Barriers
  - Many of our patients come from countries where the health system is only used when you are sick and not for prevention
  - Health Literacy
  - Patients are wary of invasive cancer prevention screenings for colorectal cancer screening, breast cancer screening, and cervical cancer screening
- Health System Barriers
  - Provers/health systems don't always let patients know they can set-up payment plans if they are unable to pay a bill all at once
  - It would be helpful to know where information on free screening programs are provided, so we can track which patients receive them and follow-up with them



## Case Study: Questions

- How do you educate your patients about insurance, specifically co-pays and deductibles and when this varies by insurance provider and by what your employer offers?
- How do we set up systems with our financial department to work better together to address insurance questions among New Mainers?
- How do we monitor who takes information on free cancer screening programs from our office/waiting room/other locations to address literacy issues and follow through with completing applications?