

DECODING CLINICAL PATHWAYS

How They Affect Cancer Care

1 WHAT ARE CLINICAL PATHWAYS?



Roadmaps that help guide doctors in managing care of a patient at each state in the disease process



Protocols influencing the decisions doctors make on the timing of lab tests, types of treatments, and referrals to specialists



Standards that improve the coordination, consistency, and quality of care patients receive

2

WHO DEVELOPS CLINICAL PATHWAYS?

Clinical pathways are developed by a number of entities, which can affect how they are designed and what they cover



3 NOT ALL PATHWAYS ARE THE SAME

Others limit treatment to a pre-determined list of drug regimens to control costs

Patient-focused pathways allow patients and oncologists to weigh treatment options

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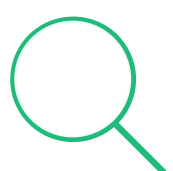
OBSTACLES WITH CLINICAL PATHWAYS

Most insurer pathways are not transparent.

Patients may not know what therapies are covered and if their doctor receives a payment to prescribe specific drugs and not others.

However, the cancer community is working to establish core standards for the design, implementation, and transparency of clinical pathways **so all patients have access to the best treatments** for their disease.

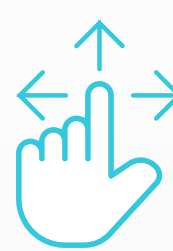
5 WHAT YOU CAN DO



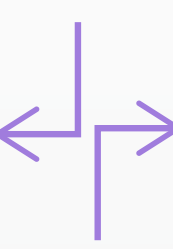
SEARCH the health plan's website for a list of drugs that are covered



ASK the oncologist if treatment is determined by a clinical pathway and what options are available for the diagnosis



FIND out what happens if your doctor prescribes a treatment "off pathway"



DETERMINE whether the insurance plan gives financial incentives to the oncology practice for following the pathway



You have a right to know!



PROJECT INNOVATION