



Implementation of Support to Survival



A PATIENTS STORY OF THEIR SURVIVORSHIP JOURNEY

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The Pit River Health Services, Inc. (PRHS) clinic has established clinical protocols that provide their newly diagnosed cancer patients with quality care that goes above and beyond. The PRHS clinic is “rural” but is called “frontier” due to the length of time it takes to reach tertiary services or specialized cancer centers. Because of this they have identified a team-based approach that targets the needs of their cancer survivors. Their team-based approach focuses on the patients particular needs whether it be wound care, drug therapy assistance, diabetes management, screening services, case management, or prevention efforts including access to education on healthy eating practices. Nursing staff, providers and medical assistants are actively involved with coordination of a patient's needs for specialty services and follow through by addressing issues of transportation, setting up appointments, and patient progress. As a team they work to reduce the emotional, mental, and financial burden that can come along with a cancer diagnoses.

In one particular case, the PRHS began follow up care with a 59 year old male AIAN patient who had undergone a colonoscopy that resulted in the diagnoses of a large mass in his sigmoid colon. After surgically removing the mass the patient contacted PRHS staff to assist him with follow-up care and support. While establishing a foundation of trust by using the caring paradigm, PRHS staff provided the patient with support to continue to follow through with his diagnosis and treatments that he needed in order to survive as a cancer patient. The patient demonstrated great will power and endurance with the support given to him. His will power to be cared for upon identifying the colon cancer, obtaining a surgeon to remove the mass and contact with the wound care specialist demonstrates that the protocols established early on with nursing staff, medical assistants, and providers were a great impact to his survivorship. The patient has since returned to work while continuing on with his chemotherapy and is living on through his treatment.