

# The Importance of Integrated Services in Oncological Patient Long-term Care †

Carolina Negrei<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Akeso clinic, Bucharest, Romania

\* Correspondence: [carolina.negrei@umfcd.ro](mailto:carolina.negrei@umfcd.ro) (C.N.);

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**Abstract:** As resulting from extensive experience with cancer patient care and based on the varying approach-based success rates, care continuum and integration of various, individual needs-based services are now the best answer to the challenge. Therefore, on ending active treatment, 'patients' work with their care team not only continues but also diversifies. Also, care objectives change and enrich, focusing on monitoring and prognosis of any signs of recurrence, monitoring, evaluation, and reducing potential drug adverse reactions and follow-up of patient's overall health and well-being. In this context, cooperation, and mutual information, on the one hand, between the team and the oncological patient, and within the multi- and inter-disciplinary care team, on the other hand, become an important factor for therapeutic success. The result is developing a personalized care plan providing the framework for long-term patient follow-up. This consists of a schedule of medical assessments related to the specific diagnosis, organized based on individual needs and preferences. Covering all potential associated pathological developments, this approach significantly contributes to maintaining the physical and emotional balance for restoring the 'person's control over their own lives in the new context. However, such aspects as follow-up intensity and the degree of team specialization and their impact on the promptness of recurrence detection and the 'patient's quality of life, as well as the effectiveness of patient education on symptom self-monitoring, require more intensive and rigorous trials and assessments designed for longer follow-ups.

**Keywords:** cancer; follow-up; personalized medicine.

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