

Chapter 21

Navigating Cancer Care: The Crucial Role of Educators and Healthcare Providers in Supporting Patients of Color

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines the various strategies required to enhance cancer care for marginalized populations. It explores how people of colour are disproportionately affected by cancer highlighting the notable differences in incidence prognosis and treatment. Through customized support systems and culturally sensitive care the chapter emphasizes the critical roles that educators and healthcare professionals must play in reversing these disparities. It explores the ways in which educators can impact cancer prevention and awareness in schools and communities highlighting effective educational initiatives created for a range of student demographics. The chapter also discusses the particular difficulties that healthcare professionals encounter such as miscommunication and cultural misunderstandings and it offers solutions for improving patient-provider relationships.

INTRODUCTION

The metaverse is the global augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) environment coupled with artificial digital interactions that could radically transform many all industries and sectors, including the retail sector. It describes virtual environments where persons conduct operations in real time as well as interact with others. It is established that cancer is not evenly distributed and there are higher rates of incidence, more frequent diagnosis at higher stages of the disease, and the worst survival rates among minorities as compared to White patients (Ghazal et al., 2022). This puts emphasis on the fact that race is subjected to interaction of various factors such as economic status, health care services and culture. For instance, chronic diseases research has revealed that, African Americans suffer from inequalities including being diagnosed at later stage, and increased mortality rates among cancer patients by delayed treatment (Weaver, 2023). Likewise, Latinx and other POC receive minority stress that worsens their

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health inequities (Burdick & Nicholus, 2024). Knowledge of such differences is important as a spring for coming up with well suited strategies and required resources.

Special care facilities in learning institutions and health sectors play the key role in catering for the patient of colour need. Education is vital in filling gaps in knowledge and resources hence important in management of these patients. For instance, culturally appropriate informative sessions and teachings can minimize the impact of the lack of trusted or accurate information and negative perceptions about health care systems that are evident among persons of colour (Pinem, 2023). Use of culturally appropriate knowledge and working on health problems common among such patients helps an educator to ensure that patients make better choices on their treatment. The above strategy does not only promote health literacy but also increases the chances of cancers early detection and management (Cooke-Jackson et al., 2021).

Healthcare providers also have a crucial role of providing individualized support for people with a mental disorder. It is therefore important for the providers to be prepared and able to deal with issues of cancer a culturally sensitive manner. This implies admission of racism and discriminate in the current health disparities within the minority patient's demographic such as, language barriers, restricted access to care facilities, and cultural taboos of cancer (Gunther et al., 2022). For instance, one of the study conducted with paediatric clinician-scientists in Canada underscored the significance of equity, diversity, and inclusion EDI in more identified healthcare organizations and underlined the fact that EDI can lead to better patients' experiences and outcomes (Dimitropoulos et al., 2022). Culturally competent care providers have a greater chance of developing care plans that will be suitable for the patient by considering the patients' cultural beliefs. Further, ensuring that cultural competence is infused in training the healthcare professions in the future is critical in ensuring that existing patients of color are well supported. With this knowledge, the following social principles can go a long way to be upheld: Educators could facilitate in upholding these principles through use of curriculum. As a result, this approach ensures new healthcare providers not only know about the disparity but also ways of dealing with them (Lin et al., p. 1024). For example, training programs oriented towards the social determinants of health and, in particular, the outcomes of systematic racism can help equip a practitioner for being more compassionate and efficient (Johnson & D'Abundo, 2022).

Besides personal practice implementation, it is required to conduct more extensive system improvements for better patient of colour support. On this basis, policies that may encourage equal distribution of health care resources and supporting services are essential. For instance, the insurance services and preventive care deficiency as well as improvement can narrow the cancer outcome disparity (Aviles, 2022). In addition, CBOs programmes that provide education and support with relation to particular cultures can also a big help when it comes to improving health (Ruderman et al., 2023). Such programs can assist with lack of effective connection between patients and the existing health care systems when giving resources and support, which could be culturally appropriate. Thus, I would like to stress the importance of the educators and the healthcare providers in guidance through cancer care with regard to the patients of colour. Thus, by identifying these dreams as well as the related challenges and obstacles encountered by these communities, both educators, and providers will be in a better position to work toward a more just healthcare system. It also means providing client specific services and services alongside the active crusade for positive and necessary changes at the structural level. The increase and advancement of multicultural patients will continue to require an ongoing emphasis on cultural competence and health and healthcare disparities that will be paramount in providing quality care to all patients.

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