

# New Mexico Cancer Patient Navigation Network



## OUR HISTORY

The New Mexico Cancer Patient Navigation Network (NMCPNN) arose out of the need for patient navigators of all types, from clinic and community settings, to implement Dr. Harold Freeman's Patient Navigation Model in our state. Initially coming together in 2009, it reconvened in 2012, as a result of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) Cancer Program Standards 2012: 3.1 Patient Navigation Process, as the integral standard in cancer care delivery for cancer programs seeking CoC accreditation. In 2013, the NMCPNN officially became one of the active work groups of the New Mexico Cancer Council (NMCC) whose mission is to gather public and private partners to develop and implement the New Mexico Cancer Plan 2012-2017.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The New Mexico Cancer Patient Navigation Network (NMCPNN) seeks to improve cancer outcomes and remove barriers for patients across the cancer care continuum. We strive to bring together different types of navigators from various backgrounds from throughout New Mexico to make a positive difference in the lives of cancer patients. The NMCPNN also seeks to provide opportunities for navigators to network, share resources, educate and create navigation standards in New Mexico in an effort to best assist patients experiencing the burden of cancer.

## OUR GOAL

Reduce disparities and inequities in access to appropriate and effective cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, care and survivor services. (Goal 8 New Mexico Cancer Plan 2012- 2017)

## OUR OBJECTIVE

Improve access to cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, care and survivor services Complementary and Alternative (CAM) services and clinical trials, especially among minority and rural populations, and among low-income, underinsured, and uninsured populations, by 2017, through expanding patient navigation services. (Objective 2 New Mexico Cancer Plan 2012-2017)



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- In 2005, the Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act was established. This amended the “Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration grant program to provide patient navigator services to reduce barriers and improve health care outcomes, and for other purposes.” (<https://www.congress.gov/109/plaws/publ18/PLAW-109publ18.pdf>)
- In 2012, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons published their most recent revisions of “Patient-centered areas”, to include the provision of patient navigation programs. (Fashoyin-Aje, Martinez & Dy, 2012)
- The 2016 STANDARD 3.1 Patient Navigation Process is included in the Cancer Program Standards 2016 Edition as a process to address health care disparities and barriers to cancer care. ([https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/coc/2016%20coc%20standards%20manual\\_interactive%20pdf.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/coc/2016%20coc%20standards%20manual_interactive%20pdf.ashx))

For more Information on Patient Navigation, Training and Certification visit the following websites.

- <http://www.hpfreemanpni.org/>
- <https://smhs.gwu.edu/gwci/patient-care/patient-navigation>
- <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/coc/standards>
- <http://www2.breastcare.org/>
- [https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/coc/2016%20coc%20standards%20manual\\_interactive%20pdf.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/coc/2016%20coc%20standards%20manual_interactive%20pdf.ashx)
- For more information on the NMCPNN, please email us at [nmcpnn@gmail.com](mailto:nmcpnn@gmail.com)

### Acknowledgements:

We want to posthumously acknowledge Jahaan Martin, Executive Director, of the Breast Cancer Resource Center, for her early contributions for what later became the network, and for her strong commitment to the application of Dr. Harold Freeman’s Patient Navigation Model in our state.

## WHAT IS THE **ORIGIN** OF PATIENT NAVIGATION?

The concept of patient navigation was Founded and pioneered by Dr. Harold P. Freeman in 1990 for the purpose of eliminating barriers to timely cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and supportive care. (<http://www.hpfreemanpni.org/>)

## WHAT IS THE **ROLE** OF THE PATIENT NAVIGATOR?

Patient Navigators work in collaboration with clinical and community-based organizations to provide cancer screening and, in the event of a suspicious finding, assist and support individuals and their loved ones through treatment, survivorship, as well as end of life care. Navigators help individuals and families access resources to help with issues such as health insurance, financial assistance, transportation, housing during out of town treatment, and many others.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT **TYPES** OF PATIENT NAVIGATORS?

Patient Navigators can be licensed, medical professionals who work in clinical settings. These individuals may be nurses, case workers or social workers. Patient navigators may also be lay people, many of them cancer survivors, who work for community-based organizations and focus on addressing and resolving the non-medical needs of cancer patients and their families.