Return to Work After Cancer: A Key Health Outcome

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“For cancer survivors, employment positively affects their quality of life, self-esteem and personal finances”
Study Summary

This discussion paper describes how improvements in cancer survivorship rates together with an increasing incidence of cancer among working-age people have placed a heightened emphasis on employment outcomes for cancer survivors. Unemployment and long term absenteeism from work are especially harmful to mental health and physical recovery. Since many working-age cancer survivors are both willing and able to return to work, it is important that employers and health care providers properly assess and assist patients with evidence-based programs that support their return to work process.

What does this mean for your organisation?

The CancerAid Coach Program, consisting of evidence-based interventions delivered digitally and remotely, can help address barriers that cancer survivors face when returning to work.

Key Outcomes

- Employment positively affects cancer survivors’ quality of life, self-esteem and personal finances
- Successful return to work is about identifying and removing barriers that may be to do with the individual, health care professionals, or employers.
- A cochrane review showed multidisciplinary interventions improve the rate of cancer survivors returning to work
- Novel models, including the CancerAid Coach Program, which delivers evidence-based interventions digitally and remotely, may address some of these barriers.

Key Demographics

- 40% of cancer survivors fail to return to work at 1-2 years after treatment
- ×1.4 Cancer survivors are 1.4 times more likely to be unemployed