

National Cancer Institute



# PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNICATION IN CANCER CARE

Promoting Healing and  
Reducing Suffering

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes  
of Health

# PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNICATION IN CANCER CARE

## Promoting Healing and Reducing Suffering

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This monograph was commissioned by the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to lay the foundation for future research that would help facilitate the delivery of “patient-centered” communication between cancer patients/family and the health care delivery team across the cancer care continuum.

The authors, Ronald Epstein and Richard Street, have produced a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners to inform and stimulate innovative research in the area of patient-centered communication in oncology and other illness settings.

Highlights of the monograph include:

- Conceptualization of patient-centered communication into six key functions
- Emphasis on research that examines the relationship between patient-centered communication and patient health outcomes
- Detailed discussion of potential mediating and moderating mechanisms of the association between communication and patient outcomes
- Identification of specific research priorities that would guide NCI in planning future research initiatives in this important area.

The monograph is available at <http://www.outcomes.cancer.gov/areas/pcc/communication>.

A printed copy can also be obtained by calling **1-800-4-CANCER**.

For more information about the monograph and related NCI research projects in the area of patient-centered communication, contact Neeraj K. Arora, PhD (e-mail: [aroran@mail.nih.gov](mailto:aroran@mail.nih.gov))

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“Understanding how to optimize the communication process between patients/family and the health care delivery team is essential to our goal of reducing the burden of cancer.”

From the Foreword by Robert T. Croyle, PhD, Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute