Outcomes of Cancer Survivorship Care Provided by Advanced Practice RNs Compared to Other Models of Care: A Systematic Review

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Survivorship care for patients with cancer has become an essential part of the treatment process. Because of improvements in cancer treatment, about 15.5 million cancer survivors are currently living in the United States, and this is predicted to increase to an estimated 20.3 million by 2026 (American Cancer Society, 2016). This growing population will require ongoing health care because cancer treatments can produce physical and psychological late effects that may not be apparent for years. As a new standard of care in oncology, survivorship care is vital to the cancer treatment process to promote recognition and management of comorbid chronic conditions that may be caused or exacerbated by cancer treatment and to monitor for signs of recurrence. The Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (HMD) recommends the provision of a survivorship care plan (SCP) at the completion of cancer treatment to facilitate communication between providers (Hewitt, Greenfield, & Stovall, 2006). The SCP also documents cancer treatments delivered, follow-up guidelines, and recommended screening, and it lists symptoms of late effects from treatment.