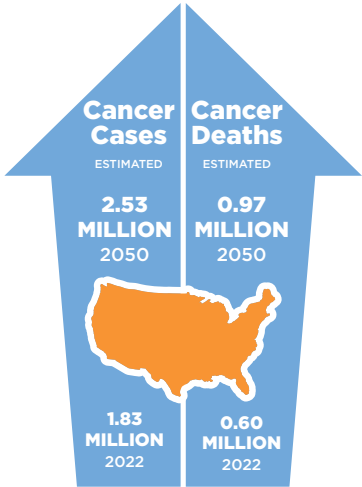


# Patient-Centered Cancer Care




## Employer Actions to Ensure Personalized Oncology Care

**THE CHALLENGE:** Cancer care poses one of the most complex and costly challenges for employers, driven by rising drug prices, longer treatment durations, more younger people being diagnosed with advanced-stage cancers, and a growing incidence across populations. This guide offers strategies to enhance coverage, communication, and education while embedding patient-centered models into benefit design and long-term investment planning.

Details about these four action steps are found on side two of this document.



Source: AACR Cancer Progress Report 2024

	Oncology Care Model (OCM) 2016–2022	Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) 2023–2030
<b>Purpose</b> 	Launched by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) as an early effort to transform cancer care through value-based payment and delivery reform.	Builds on OCM lessons with a stronger focus on patient-centered, equitable, and accountable care, reflecting CMMI’s updated strategy to promote equity, provider accountability, and sustainable care models.
<b>Patient Focus</b> 	Emphasized care coordination, navigation, and documented care plans.	Expands patient-centered goals with focus on addressing health disparities, patient-reported outcomes, and data-driven improvements.
<b>Cost</b> 	Combined fee-for-service payments for established services, monthly payments for additional care under a structured guideline, and performance-based payments weighed against quality metrics and benchmarks.	Uses a two-part payment structure that holds providers accountable for the total cost of care during a six-month episode while incentivizing quality and the provision of Enhanced Services. Depending on expenditures and performance, providers can earn performance-based payment.



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### PCORI® Research Study *Evaluating a New Patient-Centered Approach for Cancer Care in Oncology Offices*

**The Study:**  
The study was an early effort to test NCQA’s patient-centered oncology standards in community oncology practices and evaluated utilization, quality, and patient experience.

**The Results:**  
It helped identify key elements to incorporate through a consensus-based approach across primary care and oncology. Encouraged follow-up research to better understand the need to:

- ▶ Focus on patient and caregiver goals.
- ▶ Develop new systems within a practice.
- ▶ Offer reimbursement that supports new care models.
- ▶ Optimize the high value of primary care and patient-centered medical homes.

# Patient-Centered Oncology Care Action Plan for Employers

## 1. Review Current Employer Cancer-Related Health Spending Costs



- ▶ Use claims data to understand cost trends in oncology care for medical and pharmacy spending.
- ▶ Assess overuse of emergency department and hospital care.

## 3. Embed Patient-Centered Models Into Benefit Strategy



- ▶ Promote Centers of Excellence: Work with health plans to include patient-centered oncology programs and advanced primary care medical homes in your network.
- ▶ Support Care Navigation: Make employees and caregivers aware of tools and services that help guide them through cancer care, from appointments to treatment decisions.
- ▶ Regularly review utilization management rules and medical policies to ensure they encourage high-quality, patient-centered care and avoid unnecessary costs.

## 2. Enhance Touchpoints Across the Patient Journey



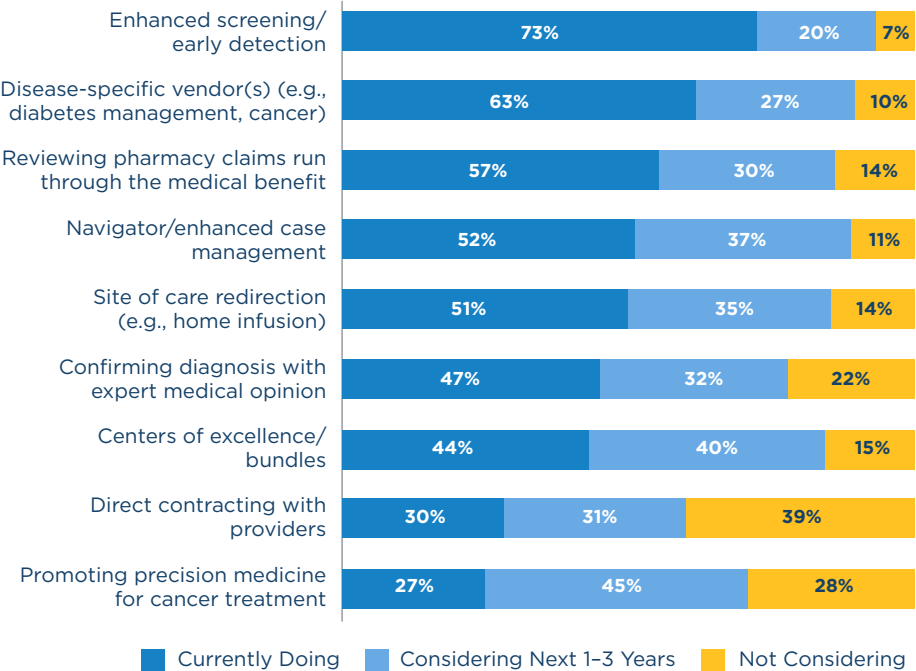
- ▶ Encourage early detection by promoting cancer screening guidelines to reach as many employees as possible and offer wellness education.
- ▶ Support employees throughout care by providing resources for care navigation, mental health, and palliative support.
- ▶ Partner with health plans to ensure coverage for FDA-approved and evidence-based genomic tests and other innovative tools that enable oncologists to personalize treatment based on each patient's unique cancer profile.

## 4. Develop Long-Term Investment Models



- ▶ Partner with specialized vendors and health plans that focus on patient-centered oncology programs, care coordination, and value-based outcomes to support high-quality, efficient care over time.
- ▶ Negotiate value-based contracts linking payments to measurable patient outcomes, such as faster return-to-work rates, to align incentives between employers, providers, and patients.
- ▶ Work with health plans and pharmacy benefit managers to ensure biosimilars are included in formularies with favorable tier placement and lower out-of-pocket costs to encourage their use over higher-cost biologics.

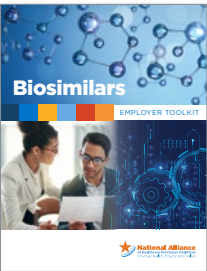
## Where Employers are Headed and Top Strategies Being Considered



Source: [2025 National Alliance Pulse of the Purchaser Survey](#)

## FOR FURTHER READING:

- [“Come Home:” A Medicare Innovation Project](#) (Limiting the use of expensive sites of care such hospitals and emergency departments)
- [2024 State of Cancer Survivorship Survey](#) (Cancer Nation)
- [Supporting Women’s Health in the Workplace Guide](#) (National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions)
- [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#) (MBGH and Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value)



These and other National Alliance tools and resources offer guidance to employers developing cancer care strategies. Click on the images to view. View the most-recent National Alliance [here](#).