A Proposal to Fund a Nurse Investigator to Conduct Outcomes Research with Cancer Patients and their Families

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Funding Agency: Walther Cancer Foundation

Abstract

This proposal’s objective is to hire a Nurse Investigator at Indiana University School of Nursing to study how to best support cancer patients and their families. Research will include: the impact of cancer patient interventions on health care systems; identifying the gaps in understanding how to prevent re-hospitalization, emergency room visits, and other costly issues. A better understanding of how these interventions can decrease untoward symptoms and improve their management at home; decrease unexpected utilization of emergency department or re-hospitalizations; and increase compliance with expected treatment regimens. Cancer patients and their caregivers will be the beneficiaries of the work conducted by the Nurse Investigator at the IU School of Nursing hired with the funds obtained through this grant. Working as a member of an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the IU Simon Cancer Center, the IU Schools of Medicine and Nursing, and Indiana University Health, the Nurse Investigator, in collaboration with a graduate of Purdue’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, will work directly with oncology patients and their families focusing on transition care models from hospital to home to improve the following outcomes: self-care management; length of hospital stay; emergency department use and unnecessary re-hospitalizations; and patient and caregiver satisfaction with care.

Expected outcomes would include:

- Improved patient care across settings: from hospital to clinic to home
- A demonstration project to support outcomes research with patients from a variety of populations at IU Health
- Mentoring of other junior investigators in outcomes research
- Grant submissions for further funding to:
  - NIH
  - Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.