PATIENT-CENTRIC ADVOCACY

Problem: Complexities in medical terms, treatment options, & uncertainties increases medical errors and negatively impact mental health. 1,4,7

Professional Advocates:

- Empower patients and family with personalized Knowledge & counseling
- Effectively explain diagnosis/treatment plan
- Demystify jargon and fostering informed decision-making



FINANCIAL TOXICITY

Problem: Financial burden can affect physical & emotional health, possibly leading to less successful Tx & negative effect on long-term health. 1

Professional Advocates:

- Connect patients with financial resources, copay assistance programs, and grants.
- By lifting the burden of financial stress, we empower patients to focus on healing.



HEALTHCARE NAVIGATION

Problem: Implicit biases, lack of coordination, poor patient-provider communication, lack of a holistic therapeutic approach, & limited consultation time etc. can lead to anxiety, stress, and other negative effects. 2,7,8

Professional Advocates:

- Streamline processes, ensuring timely access to specialists, imaging, and treatments.
- Become the bridge between patients and their multidisciplinary care teams.



HEALTH ADVOCATES

HOLISTICALLY WEAVING TOGETHER STRATEGIES THAT ILLUMINATE THE PATH TOWARD BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES.

INTERPROFESSIONAL DISCORD

Problem: Leads to lack of critical information being shared, miscommunication, misinterpretation, misunderstanding, poor job satisfaction. 3

Professional Advocates:

- Partner w/pharmacists, nurses, physicians, social workers, etc.
- Compose personalized treatment plans, address side effects, and optimize drug regimens.
- Encourage shared decision-making. with Patients
- Provide decision aids, discuss risks and benefits, and honor individual preferences.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Problem: Lower patient engagement and health literacy was associated with worse physical health and depression. 2

Professional Advocates:

- Never stop learning. Attend conferences, read research, and stay informed about breakthroughs.
- Sow seeds of knowledge into patient education sessions, workshops, and support groups.
- Simplify complex concepts



ADVOCATES BENEFITS

Problem: Suboptimal understanding of the roles of Independent health advocates.

Professional Advocates:

- Patients adhere to treatments, ask questions, and regain hope. 4,6
- Ease the burden patients experience while navigating the healthcare system. 4,5,9
- Improve patient outcomes. 4,6,9
- Facilitate communications and trust.
 4,5,6
- Enables informed decision making. 4,6
- Providers witness empowered patients, leading to job satisfaction and improved care delivery. 6



Kafilat Salawu, DNP, FNP-C, AOCNP, BCPA

Founder & Independent Health Advocates|

404-389-3144 Info@FidesHealthAdvocates.co www.FidesHealthAdvocates.co



References

- American Cancer Society. (2023) Financial Hardship. https://www.cancer.org/cancer/financial-insurance-matters/managing-costs/financial-hardship.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Patient Engagement. https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/researchevaluate/patient-engage.html
- Hancock, K. (2016). How to Build Strong Interprofessional Relationships. https://consultqd.clevelandclinic.org/build-strong-interprofessional-relationships/
- Maryville University. (2021). The Importance of Health Advocacy to Improve Healthcare. https://online.maryville.edu/blog/importance-of-health-advocacy/
- McBrien et. al. (2018). Patient navigators for people with chronic disease: A systematic review. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191980
 Morris, G. (2023). How Nurses Can Advocate for Patients. https://nursejournal.org/articles/how-to-advocate-for-patients/
- National Institute of Mental Health. (2021). https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/chronic-illness-mental-health
- Rose, J. A. (2021). The Role of Implicit Bias and Culture in Managing or Navigating Healthcare. https://www.hss.edu/conditions_role-implicit
 - bias-culture-managing-navigating-healthcare.asp
 Tulane University. (2021). Why Healthcare Advocacy Is Important. https://publichealth.tulane.edu/blog/healthcare-advocacy/