Bilingual Navigation in Cancer Care

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**Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA**

**Role of Navigation**
- Conduct nursing assessment of patient and family needs; identification of barriers to care
- Provide education and emotional support
- Facilitate communication through medical interpretation and navigation support between patient, family, and healthcare providers
- Coordination among medical team: Social Worker, Clinical Dietitian, Clinical Trials Nurses, Oncology Nurses, Palliative Medicine, Survivorship, etc.
- Provide supportive care throughout the cancer continuum
- Referrals within network
  - Genetics
  - Cancer Support Services counseling
  - Financial Coordinator
- Link to Community Resources
  - American Cancer Society
  - Cancer Support Community
  - Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
  - Cancer Care
  - Cancer Fund of America, Inc.
  - Latino counseling services

**Benefits of Patient Navigation**
- Increased adherence to plan of care

**Challenges within the Hispanic Population**
- Increased poverty: 26.6% of the Hispanic population (ACS, 2010)
- Underinsured/uninsured: 30.7% of Hispanics had no insurance (ACS, 2010)
- Lack of transportation
- Difficulty paying personal and healthcare related expenses
- Lower education level
  - Decreased literacy rate
  - Difficulty understanding medical terminology and plan of care
  - Increased non-compliance rate
- Cultural barriers
  - Language
  - Medical myths/taboo

**Importance of Bilingual Navigators**
- Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group in the United States, occupying 16.3% of the US population (ACS, 2012)
- Hispanics are more likely to be diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease (ACS, 2012)
- Ability to provide attention to details and understanding of sub-cultures within the Hispanic population, i.e. traditions, taboos/beliefs, customs

**Data Reflecting LVHN Hispanic Patients Navigated During Cancer Treatment**

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