

# American Cancer Society®

## Leadership in Oncology Navigation (ACS LION)

### Background

- The 2024 Physician Fee Schedule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) includes reimbursement for professional, non-clinical patient navigation services for patients with a "Principal Illness," including cancer and other high-risk conditions.
- For the first time, there are reliable reimbursement pathways to support the professional patient navigation workforce.
- To date, navigation has been inconsistently available, and types and depth of services have varied.



**1 of 13 organizations  
tapped by the  
White House to commit to  
major initiatives to  
fight cancer**

### Goals

- Build a standardized non-clinical training and credentialing program with a professional knowledge base to positively impact patients, caregivers, and families experiencing cancer.
- Expand access to high-quality navigation programs and services.
- Help reduce barriers and health disparities among various patient groups through non-clinical patient navigation training.
- Ensure the program meets the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) training requirements for "Principal Illness Navigation" reimbursement and is aligned to professional oncology navigation (PONT) standards.

### Program Overview

- The program is completed online and is self-paced (except for the remotely proctored program assessment).
- There is no in-person requirement
- The 10 modules and quizzes do not need to be completed in one sitting; progress will be saved.
- The program's final assessment must be completed in one sitting to demonstrate competency, the assessment is a live, proctored exam (through the computer) with a time limit. To gain the ACS LION credential, learners must complete the final assessment with a score of at least 80%.
- The credential lasts for three years, and annual continuing education will align with CMS requirements.

#### ACS LION Learning Modules

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|---|--|
| 1. Navigation Basics                                | 6. Community Assessment                    |
| 2. Cancer Basics                                    | 7. Patient and Family Communication        |
| 3. Person-centered Assessments                      | 8. Promoting Patient Self-Advocacy         |
| 4. Health System Services Access and Coordination   | 9. Facilitation of Person-centered Support |
| 5. Community-based Services Access and Coordination | 10. Professionalism and Ethical Conduct    |

"The ACS LION program has absolutely realigned my psychosocial and meet the patient where they are skillsets"  
-2024 ACS LION Learner

### Program Activities

In addition to training and credentialing, ACS will continue to serve as a national convener of stakeholders interested in the implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of patient navigation.

#### ACS LION Implementation Support

Educational Live Webinars with Q+A opportunities  
Recorded Sessions for continued review  
Learning Collaboratives  
Virtual Building Sustainable Navigation Bootcamp

### Program Partners

#### ACS LION Anchor Partners:

Duke Cancer Institute  
Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center  
Penn Med Abramson Cancer Center  
Thyme Care  
The US Oncology Network  
University of North Carolina Health Care System

#### ACS LION Implementation Support Partners

AONN+  
ASCO  
Triage Cancer

