



Oncology Nursing Society

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October 11, 2016

Jeffrey M. Zirger
Information Collection Review Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE.
MS-D74
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

RE: National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) [Docket No. CDC-2016- 0075]

Dear Mr. Zirger,

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the proposed collection, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP).

Health care disparities remain formidable barriers to appropriate access to all healthcare resources. As it relates to cancer care, the inability to identify and overcome barriers may mean the literal difference between life and death.

The global cancer burden will only increase, and includes a rapidly expanding population of survivors who experience disparities as care consumers. In fact, the risk for development of breast cancer has increased since the 1970s (now 1 in 8, vs 1 in 11 women in the 1970s). Although screening recommendations exist for this disease, disparities in race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, discrimination, communication, cultural and patient/provider assumptions remain elements that contribute to disparate care in this population. Unfortunately, there currently is no screening test that is sufficiently accurate for ovarian cancer.

The etiologies of disparities are complex and interrelated, and include socioeconomic, demographic, cultural, environmental, and healthcare systems factors. While elimination of cancer disparities in the US remains a challenge, data supporting identification of disparity burden would inform solutions.

Oncology nurses routinely identify issues associated with disparities as part of each nursing assessment, and therefore are key players in identification of those at risk for experiencing disparity burden.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed collection and support efforts to collect data that would promote early detection. ONS looks forward to continuing dialogue on these important issues. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society

About ONS

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.